



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

From the Chair

BY ERIK HOLLAND

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe it is the Holiday season already! Hopefully, one gift we will receive from Mother Nature this year is more rain and snow. We are off to a promising start -- indeed, it was only last weekend that I had to dig a trench around a friend's house to keep her backyard from washing under the house! It was actually kind of fun to play in the mud!

New blood. I am proud to report that I was able to recruit a new candidate for both the ExCom and Treasurer position. You may have already seen the ballot. One of our major issues as an organization, and it is not a gray area, is that we are all too gray. I am 54, and yet am one of the youngest members on the ExCom.

At a recent ExCom meeting, I was challenged by the Membership Chair to find one candidate for the ExCom. I tried within the the organization, but the truth is those of us who have been with the Sierra Club for any time are likely doing all we can. So I looked outside the organization. She was thrilled to be able to help!

So, I pass on the Membership Chair's challenge to all involved members . . . let's bring new people into the organization. I'd love to see every ExCom member find one person under 50 to step up by the time it is time to have a new election.

Elections. On other election-related issues, I am sorry to report it didn't go

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 5.



Looking at Sand Mountain from the recovering habitat of the unique blue butterfly. Please see article on page 6. Photo : Tina Nappe.

Too warm for wildlife, wild horses, & cattle?

BY TINA NAPPE

THE HEADLINES SAY IT ALL: Hurricane Sandy along the Eastern Coast, Warmest Year on Record, Near Record Wildfire Season in U.S., and Winter Recreation Starts to Warm Up. We, as humans, can see the implications for us. What does a warming climate portend for wildlife, livestock, and wild horses and burros?

Impacts on plants. In an article recently published in *Environmental Management*,* Dr. Robert L. Beshta, et al., point out that the abundance of cattle, horses, burros, and wildlife such as elk and deer, can add additional stress on the ability of plants to thrive as the climate warms.

Increases in carbon dioxide, expansion of deserts, and decrease in soil moisture will impact soil stability, cause increase in winds, and alter vegetation composition. The fire season is longer, resulting in expansion of annual grasses, such as cheat grass. Reduction in sage brush habitat affects the vulnerable sage grouse and other sage brush dependent species.

Can these problems be solved? The article argues for reduction and, in some cases, elimination of livestock, wild horses, and burros. Also recommended are reducing numbers of wildlife such as elk and deer and promoting an increase of predators like wolves and mountain lions to reduce and distribute herbivores.

* "Adapting to Climate Change on Western Public Lands: Addressing the Ecological Effects of Domestic, Wild, & Feral Ungulates"

RUBY PIPELINE: Sierra Club & partners win court case!

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Toiyabe Chapter has been involved with the Ruby natural gas pipeline since 2009 (previously reported in the Trails). The Toiyabe Chapter formed a Ruby Pipeline Task Force in early 2010 to address the many concerns of building a 670-mile pipeline from Wyoming to Oregon, including 360 miles of nearly pristine high desert country in northern Nevada.

During the entire NEPA process, our concerns were not adequately addressed, so Sierra Club joined with partners in an appeal of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the pipeline. Our case was filed in May 2011 under Defenders of Wildlife (DoW) lead at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. This case was later combined with a Center of Biological Diversity (CBD) case of similar nature and with a native American case, largely focused on cultural resources.

Court agrees groundwater analysis. On October 12, 2012, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the case, saying this: "We vacate the FWS's Biological Opinion and remand for the agency to formulate a revised Biological Opinion . . . We otherwise deny the petition as to the issues discussed in this opinion. We also vacate and remand the

BLM's Record of Decision."

This was a partial victory for the Sierra Club and its partners, but did not provide relief on some of the issues important to the Toiyabe Chapter. However, the stringency of the ruling in regards to the ROD was an important victory in itself, having wide repercussions.

The court agreed with the appellants that the Biological Opinion was flawed and that the analysis of groundwater withdrawal was inadequate. BLM and USF&WS responded to the decision on December 6, 2012, saying: "The Federal Respondents do not seek rehearing on the merits of the petition for review. We do, however, seek reconsideration of this remedy."

Will pipeline defenders improve

Please see RUBY PIPELINE, page 7.

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In Memoriam

James D. Yoakum
1926-2012

"Pronghorns Are My Life"

The pronghorn antelope, emblematic of North America's prairies and rangelands, have lost a valued guardian, advocate, and friend in Jim D. Yoakum. Yoakum devoted his professional life, including 25 years of his retirement, to researching, writing, speaking, and occasionally hunting, the spritely pronghorn. A Sierra Club member, Yoakum was always willing to share his extensive knowledge with anyone who asked, including responding to Sierra Club requests.

Yoakum used the GI Bill to obtain a master's degree in wildlife management in 1957; his master's degree from Oregon State University was based on pronghorn research at Hart Mountain. He was hired as BLM's first wildlife biologist and based in Ely, Nevada. As a result of his articles and photographs in the local Ely newspaper, he eventually met with Secretary of Interior Udall and prevailed upon him to publish the first brochure featuring wildlife on BLM



lands using color photographs, unheard of in those years.

Though he retired from BLM in 1986, his pronghorn advocacy did not cease. Jim put in another 25 years, authored papers, researched, taught, and consulted. His focus was pronghorn habitat and food habits. In 2004 he co-authored (with Bart O'Gara) a 6.13-lb, 903-page book: *PRONGHORN, Ecology & Management*, published by the Wildlife Society. The book required over 30 years because, as Jim used to say, he had to do the research before he could complete the book!

While a member of many conservation organizations, Jim also supported professional organizations and helped to promote scientific research. In his retirement, using the best science, he continued to author publications (his estimate was 50), photograph, consult, attend Pronghorn Antelope Workshops, and hassle any bureaucrat who did not stand up for pronghorn antelope. A good friend to many, he will be missed.

If you would like to carry on Jim Yoakum's campaign for pronghorn and sagebrush steppe, Friends of Nevada Wilderness is accepting donations in honor of his work.

— Tina Nappe

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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.

Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Committee NEWS

FEB 16-17 (SAT-SUN)

Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Committee Meeting. Annual joint meeting with Desert Committee in Shoshone, CA. Guaranteed to be the most enjoyable gathering of the year. Hikes, lively and timely presentations, networking, agency and SCA contacts, social scene. Updates on Wilderness50, energy issues, legislation, stewardship, outings, and ? Don't miss out. From about noon Saturday to noon Sunday, potluck dinner Saturday. Info: contact Vicky Hoover (Vicky.Hoover@sierraclub.org) or Terry Frewin (terrylf@cox.net).

FEB 18-20 (MON-WED)

Gold Butte, NV, Car Camp. Join Vicky Hoover after Shoshone Wilderness Committee meeting to enjoy car camping in a remote corner of public lands in SE Nevada, 3 hrs NE of Las Vegas. Info: contact Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

Nevada Survey shows support for Gold Butte

For years, Sierra Club has joined the local advocacy organizations, Friends of Gold Butte and Friends of Nevada Wilderness, in seeking protection for this valuable area of public land in southeast Nevada. Gold Butte is a classic Mojave desert ecosystem, adorned with significant rock art. We have led outings and written letters; the Southern Nevada Group has spoken up at public meetings.

Both the Clark County Board of Commissioners and the Mesquite City Council have endorsed a national conservation area with wilderness.

In spring of 2012, the Opinion Research company, Moore Information, conducted a telephone survey of some 325 likely voters in southern Nevada's Clark County and found that majorities in all subgroups surveyed (by political party, by age, and by frequency of public land use) favored a national conservation area for Gold Butte with wilderness designation for the most pristine sections, leaving the non-wilderness lands available for a wide range of recreational activities such as off-road vehicles and mountain bikes.

Younger voters, (18- 54) supported the proposal more widely than voters age 55 and older.

—from Words of the Wild, Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, December 2012

Winter 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

JAN 18-20 (FRI-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on restoration activities in Park, picking up debris in Panamint Valley area. Requires hiking in about 1.5 mi and carrying out what we pick up. Camping will be at either Panamint Springs or Wild Rose Campground. Arrive Friday afternoon and start work on project. Work will continue on Saturday, with a potluck Saturday night. Sunday may be a work day or perhaps recreational. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 2-3 (SAT-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY TOUR

Meet in Shoshone, S of Death Valley, 8a Saturday morning. Tour includes Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, and Artists' Drive. Short hikes and lunch stop along way. Camp Saturday night at Texas Springs (fee). Sunday, drive to Zabriskie Point, then stop at newly renovated visitor center

before heading on to Salt Creek, home of rare Salt Creek Pupfish. Then on to hike Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes. Monday



Death Valley dunes. Photo: Anon.

(optional) includes camping in park and morning hike up Mosaic Canyon. Friday (optional) includes camping near Tecopa and an afternoon hike at China Ranch. Info: www.desertreport.org (outings) or

contact leader for questions and reservations. Leader: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 15-17 (FRI-SUN)

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE OUTING

Meet Friday, 1p at Sunrise Rock primitive campground. Hike that afternoon to Teutonia Peak (4 mi RT). Saturday includes trip to Hole-in-Wall Visitor Center and 6-mi hike on Barber Peak Loop Trail. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Sunday, enjoy hiking Kelso Dunes. For those staying for Monday, we'll camp at Granite Pass (primitive) and visit Amboy Crater on Monday morning (optional). Info & reservations: contact leader, Carol

Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 16-17 (SAT-SUN)

GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Spend St. Patrick's Day weekend in this beautiful desert landscape near Death Valley visiting ghosts and leprechauns of California's colorful past. Camp at historic ghost town of O'Ballarat (flush toilets). Saturday, take challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal O'Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Afterwards, a special St. Patty's Day Happy Hour and potluck, followed by a midnight visit to O'Ballarat's graveyard where we'll hope we don't get pinched by a ghost. Sunday, a quick visit to infamous O'Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Info: contact leader, Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 20-24 (WED-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK: SPRING WEEKEND

Visit DVNP when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. Explore areas outside and inside park with hikes to visit waterfalls and stunning desert canyons. Also tour Scotty's Castle. Hiking may be over rough ground and rocks. High clearance vehicles recommended; there will be car pooling options. Camp in a developed private campground (flush toilets, showers, campfire rings, picnic tables). Fee: \$60/person (includes 4 nights camping, tour of Scotty's Castle). Deposit: \$25. Group size limit 19. Info & Reservations: contact leader, Rich Juricich (raj082806@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

Delta Sierra Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 29-31 (FRI-SUN)

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY WITH NEEDLES BLM

Join us for annual Sierra Club service trip with Needles BLM Field Office to help wilderness. Document wilderness characteristics of area adjacent to wilderness not recently studied. Exact location TBA. We enjoyed similar work last spring just west of Old Woman Mountains. Car camping with optional central commissary, usual exorbitant fee. Info: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

APR 13-14 (SAT-SUN)

JUNIPER FLATS AREA TOUR (SAN BERNARDINO MTS)

Join us to explore this beautiful area. Camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). On Friday (optional) there is a 3-mi RT hike to boulder gardens. Saturday, a driving and hiking tour of area (4WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring ACEC, and an oak glen area. Saturday evening campfire and dinner provided by Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, a 6-mi hike to Deep Creek, a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Info & Reservations: contact leader, Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734). For more details of area: contact co-leader, Jenny Wilder (JensOasis@aol.com, 760-220-0730).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, less than an hour from Reno, an hour and a half from Lee Vining, two hours from Mammoth Lakes, and two and a half hours from Bishop. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, friendly staff, and a casual atmosphere.

The Lodge has an extensive program of WINTER activities. Quick, easy access to the backcountry!



For more info on lodge activities, to receive a schedule, or to make a reservation, please go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/cl or call 800-679-6775.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Group News

Letter from the Chair

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

ExCom. Next meeting: January 13, 2013, 3pm, Malcolm Clark's home.

Monthly Program Meetings. In September, Brian Adkins, Environmental Director, Bishop Paiute Tribe, spoke about environmental concerns on the Reservation. In October, Stephen Kalish kindly filled in at the last moment with a program on the Mammoth airport when our scheduled speaker cancelled. The November program was a film and update on Mono Lake.

Outings. Winter outings begin in January. We need Outings Chair(s) for winter, summer, Sunday, and summer fun and fitness outings. Please see article on this page for more information.

Facebook Page. Remember we

Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is January 13, 2013, 3 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome, but please confirm date, place and time (Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639 or wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), as meeting dates frequently change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

If you have a conservation matter for action by the ExCom, it should first be submitted to the ROL Group Conservation Chair, Mary Kay Prentice (mkp@npgcable.com) for consideration and recommendation by the ROL ConsCom before action by the Group ExCom.

now have a Facebook page - search "Range of Light Group" (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>).

Conservation Committee. Contact Mary Kay Prentice with items for committee consideration and for information on next meeting (mkp@npgcable.com).

CONSERVATION UPDATE

- ROLG co-sponsored a **Mammoth Lakes Basin clean-up** with MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo on September 15.

- ROLG signed a comment letter on the proposed **reactivation of the Bishop Mill**. The comments contended that certain important environmental effects had not been considered in the environmental review.

- Finalization of **Owens Lake Bed Master Plan** has been further

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 5.

Outings Chair urgently needed!!!

FOR THE PAST YEAR, ROL Group has had no Outings Chair. If you believe, as I do, that outings are an essential activity of our group, please consider volunteering to serve as our Outings Chair. Outings

Please see OUTINGS CHAIR NEEDED, page 5.

Range of Light Group now 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 Calendar

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE CONDITIONING & EXPLORATION TOURS

BY RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP OUTINGS LEADERS

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.

Get out your snow dances and invoke your favorite snow gods. We hope to have more snow than last year.



Basic winter outing schedule. This will be the same as the last few years:

- short conditioning trips on Thursdays (through April) with everybody welcome regardless of skill level
- longer, more demanding trips on Sunday (switching tentatively to Saturdays in May) requiring at least strong beginner skills

When & where to meet. Unless otherwise noted, Thursday and Sunday trips will meet at 10a at the parking lot behind the Union Bank in Mammoth. There may be a secondary meeting area closer to the trailhead, so check your ROL e-mail newsletter, the ROL website, or call a leader. Remember, Abominable Weather Automatically Cancels.

Tour itineraries & announcements. We'll pick final itineraries and leaders depending on snow conditions and leader availability as the winter progresses. Tours will be published in the local media, in

the ROL e-newsletter, on the ROL web site (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>), and on the Range of Light Group page on Facebook.

For more information (including whether dogs are allowed), call the leader listed or any of the following:

- John Walter (salt1143@gmail.com, 760-934-1767)
- Jean Dillingham (dillinghamjean@gmail.com, 760-648-7109)
- Mary Kay Prentice (mkp@npgcable.com, 760-934-0355).

Thursday morning outings. These generally cover 3-5 miles and last about 2.5 hours, but are flexible depending on the strength and desires of the group. We concentrate on conditioning, technique, and learning about our local natural history and conservation issues. All skill levels welcome. We like to help beginners get started. Bring water, snack, ski equipment or snow shoes,

Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own *non-disposable* table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program. NO food allowed when we meet at Mammoth Lakes Community Library.

Jan 15 (Tuesday)

Social & Announcements, 615 pm
 Mammoth Lakes Community Library
 Program: 630 pm
 Movie: "Blue Gold:
 World Water Wars"

There will be a discussion after this 90-minute movie. No food during social time, please.

February 19 (Tuesday)

Social & Announcements, 615 pm
 Mammoth Lakes Community Library
 Program: 630 pm
 "The People of Kyrgyzstan:
 Photos & Stories from Two Years
 in Darkhan Village"

Local snowboarder, Brandon Sheaffer, will tell of his Peace Corps cultural experiences in Kyrgyzstan and talk about the needs of the Kyrgyz people.

March 19 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 615 pm
 New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
 (next to Crowley Lake Store)
 Program: 7 pm

"Ichthyosaurus Fossils" with Brigitte Berman

Sierra Club member and geologist, Brigitte Berman, will speak about Ichthyosaurus fossils. Brigitte will also give details of possible followup field trip to Ichthyosaurus State Park, Nevada.



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

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

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* Voting ExCom member

Range of Light Calendar

continued from page 4

sunscreen, sun glasses, hat, gloves, and layered clothing.

Sunday Outings. These generally cover 5-7 miles and are back about 3p. Intermediate or advanced beginner skill levels and endurance required. Snowshoers must be able to keep up, but based on past experience this is usually not a problem, particularly uphill. Most of these trips will spend some or most of their time off groomed trails. If you are unsure of your abilities try a Thursday morning trip first. Dress in layered clothing and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves, lunch, water, and ski or snowshoe equipment.

You Can Help. If you have a favorite trip you would like us to schedule call one of the contacts listed above as soon as practical and we'll do our best to try and work it in, particularly if you are one of the many who have taken some of our leadership training and can help lead the outing. The Thursday conditioning outings are a great chance to hone your leadership skills teaming up with one of our old timers.

General Information

Dogs. Check with leader or above contact information if you are bringing a dog, as some of the trips will be No Dogs.

Equipment. Most track or touring cross-country skis will do fine, but waxless pattern skis seem to be easiest. The new lightweight snowshoes are generally preferred. Rental equipment is available all over Mammoth if you can't find the pine tar for those old boards.

Conservation. All trips give the participants a chance to familiarize themselves with the natural history of the area and the local conservation issues. We can judge the impacts of global warming by the depth and duration of the snow, while mitigating the impacts by converting snowmobilers to the quiet sports.

Wildlife. Because many of our local wild critters, like the elusive pine marten, are nocturnal, winter snow tracks are often the only evidence of their presence. The first set of weasel tracks spotted on a trip will earn the sighter a Sierra Club t-shirt.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1
FOR
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OUTINGS CHAIR NEEDED...

continued from page 4

are the main avenue through which potential new members first become involved in our group.

You need **not** be a currently certified leader to be Outings Chair, as the tasks are mainly administrative and organizational. These tasks include:

(1) Convening meetings of outings leaders to plan the upcoming outings (3 times a year). Leaders determine their own outing destination.

(2) Compiling and submitting the outings schedule to the Trails editor, the webmaster, the group newsletter editor, and the Publicity Chair.

(3) Keeping records of outing leaders' certification (leader and first aid) and notifying leaders when certification is about to expire. A currently certified leader with first aid training must be present on all Sierra Club outings.

(4) As needed, organize Outings Leader Training (this can be taken via the internet) and First Aid Training. These duties may be delegated or shared with members of the Outings Committee (i.e., current outings leaders).

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

National Forest Plan revision is underway for the Inyo

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

On April 9, 2012, the National Forest Service published the revised Forest Planning Rule, revising the 1982 Rule. The Rule provides direction for revising the Plans of the individual National Forests. The last Forest Plan for the Inyo National Forest (INF) was completed in 1988. The Forest Service selected eight Forests as early adaptor forests, including the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests. If the new 2012 Rule is enjoined by the court, INF Plan revision will continue under the 1982 Rule.

The Planning Rule provides a 3-step framework

- assessment of resource conditions and trends (social, ecological, and economic)
- revising the plan
- monitoring

The INF began work on the assessment phase last fall. This included a series of interviews with almost 50 stakeholders, including environmental groups. Subsequently, public workshops were held in mid-November, resulting in a Collaboration & Communication Plan in December. The assessment phase is to be completed by September, 2013, with completion of the revised plan by December, 2016 (including required NEPA review).

A national committee is charged with issuing directives for implementing the Rule. At the Region 5 level, a series of Sierra Cascade dialogues has been held, each dealing with a specific topic. The last two dialogs included satellite participation in Bishop.

The session topic for January 24, 2013, is the Science Synthesis Report (due for completion in December, 2012). Bioregional Assessment is the topic of the January 25 session. Background documents and summaries of these sessions (along with other relevant materials for the planning process) are posted on the National Forest web site. In

addition, environmental groups are meeting on their own to plan and coordinate their participation in the Plan revision process.

Note that, as with the national Rule, the Plan of an individual National Forest is a series of broad directives, assessments, objectives, and principles. It does not address site specific issues such as which OHV routes to close. Also the INF will be taking an "all-lands" approach, extending beyond the INF boundaries.

What you can do. Consider attending the January sessions noted above and public workshops to be announced for February.

FROM THE ROL CHAIR ...

continued from page 4

delayed. The Nov 28 meeting of the planning committee is postponed until next year.

- On Nov 15 BLM released the EIR for Mammoth Pacific's **geothermal expansion**. There will be two public explanatory meetings in early December. Deadline for formal comments is January 15.

- Inyo National Forest has begun revising its Forest Plan, one of the first eight forests to do so under the new 2012 National Forest Planning Rule. At Region 5 level, the next two Sierra Cascades **dialog**

FROM THE CHAIR ...

continued from page 1

Sheila Leslie . . . she lost by only about 200 votes! She is a hero to me, both for her environmental work and her social legislation.

Kitty Jung, whom I actually walked with, did not win her bid for City Council, however, she remains on the County Commission.

Jenny Brekus, another of our endorsed candidates, did win, and I do look forward to a more balanced Reno City Council in the future.

One of the outgoing Council members, **Dave Aiazzi**, was responsible for stringing together ranches to bring Reno's border to Verdi, and was the deciding vote in favor of Winnemucca Ranch. Normally, I am leery of term limits, but in Aiazzi's case... I liked them!

On one last electoral issue, I am very upset with President Obama for signing a law called the NDAA, which allows the President to approve the arrest of anyone he or she deems a terrorist – and detain them without trial. Though Obama won re-election, the issue still concerns me. I intend to do something about it.

I applaud everyone who is working so hard on Lake Tahoe issues, sage grouse, sprawl, water, and clean energy, among others! We have built some great alliances!

One issue I wish would get more attention is **Sierra Nevada clearcutting**. Unfortunately, the entire northern half of the Sierra now looks like a checkerboard. There are people on the ground working on the issue, but I think the Sierra Club should find resources to hire an organizer in every major California city. If clearcutting continues at this pace, John Muir is going to roll over in his grave and cause the 'big one' California is waiting for.

Thank you everyone for your hard work! Together, we can make a difference!

sessions are on January 24-25, with a satellite location in Bishop. (See this page for article.)

- In cooperation with the Forest Service, ROL members hope to **restore some Blue Diamond cross-country trail markings** this year.

- At its November meeting, Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group completed ranking the 12 submitted **water projects** for submission to the upcoming second round of state funding

- Recent **theft of significant petroglyphs** north of Bishop has received international attention.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*Let nature be
Your teacher.*
— William Wordsworth

Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Forest Service News

New Superintendent. Bill Dunkelberger is the new Superintendent of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, as of Nov. 18. Bill was District Manager of the Bureau of Land Management's Bishop office for several years and was highly regarded by the public and his staff. We welcome him to Nevada, where he will be in charge of the largest national forest outside Alaska.

Forest Plan revisions. Three Sierra Nevada forests will be among the first to prepare Forest Plan revisions under the new regulations: Sequoia, Sierra, and our own Inyo. Work has already started on the Inyo with meetings and conference calls that involve all stakeholders. Nancy Upham, Public Affairs officer for the Inyo, who has done an excellent job of contacting all interested citizens, will be retiring in January, but we

are assured that her outreach will be continued in the coming year.

Lake Tahoe Final EIS. The Final Environmental Impact Statement & Revised Management Plan for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is scheduled to be released in April or May of 2013. All comments submitted on the Draft Plan will be carefully scrutinized by Forest Service personnel, and changes from the Draft Plan will undoubtedly be put in place.

BLM News

Winnemucca District. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Management Plan is scheduled to be released to the public in early 2013.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness. A team has been surveying lands in the Battle Mountain District which were not Wilderness Study Areas for wilderness characteristics. This team

has examined over 500,000 acres and has found over 200,000 acres that qualify under provisions of the Wilderness Act. A report is being prepared on these findings.

Wilderness News

Death Valley National Park. The park has issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement on management of wilderness lands in the park. This document is available from the Park Superintendent.

Toiyabe Chapter. The Chapter has 8,168,760 acres of wilderness, probably the largest amount of any chapter outside of Alaska. This includes 3,372,494 acres in Nevada and 4,796,266 acres in Eastern CA. We are hoping for some new Nevada wilderness in 2013 or possibly by the end of this year. Obviously, we'll have a lot to celebrate in 2014 with the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

It's winter . . . Are you comfortable indoors?

BY CHARLOTTE COX

CATHY SCHMIDT AND HER husband, Ted Polon, of Reno, live in a 3650-square-foot home. Every winter, they were always freezing and even felt drafts inside. Their house just never warmed up. When Cathy heard about a special deal for an energy audit (\$199) through Energy Fit Nevada, she decided to see what could be done.

The folks at Energy Fit recommended a local contractor who came out and did the audit. Cathy was sure an energy audit would tell them to change out the windows and doors. However, as she watched the infrared camera used in the audit, Cathy could see the real culprits: gaps around the canned lights, fireplace, and attic entrance.

It took 3 days to do the retrofit. Cathy's and Ted's contractor worked with them to get a rebate through Energy Fit Nevada. The total cost of the retrofit and audit was \$1400 after the rebates.

Mary Winston of Energy Masters, the contractor, came back to do the post test, which showed a 21% savings in energy (not going out the roof, literally).



A happy Cathy Schmidt and her low energy bill! Photo: Charlotte Cox.

Cathy now reports her lowest energy bill ever -- \$47 last month -- but, best of all, the house is warmer, it stays warm overnight, and there are no cold breezes inside! Cathy and Ted have lived in the house 18 years and say "we should have done this a long time ago!"

Want to be more energy efficient? Go to EnergyFitNevada.org to see the latest rebates or contact the Energy Efficiency Committee at ccox@tmcc.edu. Cathy Schmidt can be reached at cathsch256@aol.com.

Naughty or nice?

Will BLM protect public lands from the groundwater mining scheme?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Will the Bureau of Land Management play Santa Claus for Las Vegas developers, or instead step up to its statutory responsibility and protect the Great Basin from the predatory schemes of the Southern Nevada Water Authority?

BLM right-of-way decision is key. Conservationists, scientists, Native Americans, ranching families, and residents of both urban and rural Nevada are awaiting the Bureau of Land Management's decision on the right-of-way demanded by SNWA for its 300-mile, \$15.7-billion water pipeline, which would carry water from ecologically stressed Great Basin valleys to Las Vegas. The BLM's Record of Decision is due in December 2012.

While the BLM is responsible, under its multiple use authority, for issuing rights-of-way across public lands for utilities and roads, the agency is also responsible for managing public lands and resources in such a way as to prevent "undue and unnecessary degradation" by development proposals.

What happens if right-of-way is granted to SNWA? The agency documented significant harm that would occur to rural Nevada and Utah in its 5000-plus-page Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). According to the analysis, Eastern Nevada would

see water-table drawdowns of 10 to 200 feet; drying up of environmentally significant meadows, wetlands, and springs; land subsidence over a 4000-square-mile area; and social and economic harm to numerous rural communities and tribes.

Further, Las Vegas residents and businesses, already hammered by large increases in their water bills, are concerned about the huge price-tag for an unsustainable and unproven project and are questioning why SNWA refuses to pursue alternatives -- such as conservation -- which are cheaper and environmentally sound.

Downwind, Salt Lake City residents are worried about health impacts of 30 million tons (EIS estimate) of windborne dust that could come their way from soils no longer anchored by native vegetation destroyed by groundwater pumping.

BLM can avoid environmental disaster. Will BLM depend on SNWA's promises of voluntary "mitigation" measures as well as a federal mitigation plan (yet to be developed) to reduce these impacts,

Tahoe license plate grants

BY TINA NAPPE

NEVADA DIVISION OF STATE LANDS offers grants for projects which will preserve and restore the natural environment of Lake Tahoe Basin. This year, about \$350,000 generated from the purchase of Nevada Lake Tahoe License Plates will be available to public agencies seeking funding.

Proposals are due January 31st ; grants will be available in May. Proposals including implementation of capital improvement projects helping attain Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Environmental Thresholds will be prioritized in this funding cycle.

Since the first license plate was purchased in 1998, the Tahoe License Plate Program has generated more than \$6 million and funded over 100 projects. Funds have been used to improve water quality, conduct invasive species research, facilitate storm water management, provide state park improvements, etc.

What you can do. For information on grants, go to <http://lands.nv.gov/>.

or will it choose to avoid this environmental disaster on public lands and resources by refusing to issue a right of way?

What you can do. Stay tuned and check the Toiyabe Chapter's website for the latest update on the BLM's pipeline decision at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>.

**Don't forget
to visit the
Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

*The mountains
are calling and
I must go.*
— John Muir

Managing goshawks & other raptors

BY TINA NAPPE



FALCONRY REGULATIONS for 2013 were approved by the Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners on December 8. Under the regulations, a falconer is entitled to two permits and can capture a raptor – including prairie falcon, merlin, red-tail hawk, and Cooper’s hawk -- throughout the year. The exception is permit closure for goshawks in Elko County. There is no limit on the number of permits or captured animals. Staff indicated that next year, some changes are proposed based on analysis of data.

Goshawk habitat

The goshawk, for instance, is dependent on aspen stands for nesting and foraging in open sagebrush nearby. This is according to the Nevada Department of Wildlife’s (NDOW) newly updated Nevada Wildlife Action Plan, which can be seen at www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/cwacs/.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lists the goshawk as sensitive. Goshawks may be affected by lack of fire in some areas and too much fire in others. In Nevada goshawks are affected by aging or loss of aspen habitats. Grazing and tree diseases may also impact aspen habitat.

Available resources?

What resources are available to inventory goshawk and other raptor populations? In 1969 Nevada passed its first falconry regulations. As a large public land state with no regulations, Nevada raptors were subject to unregulated take. Passage of the legislation forced falconers to report and limit their captures.

When the Legislature, using general funds, approved a nongame position in 1973, the priority was inventorying raptors. The nongame staff hitched a ride with staff inventorying deer and bighorn sheep populations. With the availability of federal funds, under State Wildlife Grants the falconry management of raptors had secure funding. Occasional funds such as from mining are also used.

Unfortunately, federal funding under the “fiscal cliff” remains uncertain. The state-required matches of 25-35% are less than \$500,000. Securing general funds during the upcoming legislative session is essential.

Blue butterfly habitat recovers at Sand Mountain

DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)



To review on site the status of the blue butterfly’s habitat at Sand Mountain (south of Fallon, Nevada), Tina Nappe and David von Seggern met with Dan Westermeyer (Recreation Planning Director, Nevada BLM) and Dave Mensing (Great Basin Institute, GBI, contractor) on November 20, 2012.

OHV use is a threat

The blue butterfly had been caught in the site’s intense off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. The OHVs spilled over from Sand Mountain itself into the fragile habitat surrounding it. When usage increased considerably during the early 2000s, it threatened the blue butterfly to the point that the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to list it as threatened or endangered. (Both Nappe and von Seggern represented the Sierra Club on a local working group to address the plight of the blue butterfly.)

The blue butterfly at Sand Mountain is a unique subspecies of blue butterfly and exists only at that one location. It lives symbiotically with a single plant species: the Kearney buckwheat. Dennis Murphy, professor and biologist at UNR, surveyed this butterfly and its habitat intensely in the summer of 2006. He found that the butterfly still existed in large numbers but that the protection of its habitat was crucial to keeping these numbers.

Habitat restoration history

Several restoration efforts were already underway under a grant funded by the so-called “Question 1” state ballot vote in 2001. However, by 2006 the efforts, although showing benefits, were somewhat stalled. Dave Mensing came in 2007 to restart them under a GBI contract with BLM. On our trip around the area, we saw the positive effects of Mensing’s restoration work at the site.

Numerous Americorps volunteers were employed to undertake restoration of many routes carved by OHV drivers. Before and after photos show that previous trails have been obliterated by the restoration work, in as little as two years. In addition, some areas were totally closed by the BLM; and a very thorough staking of designated routes was completed, although the constant shifting of sand makes maintenance of these markers a continuous chore.

A parallel effort of educating visitors to the area was undertaken, which apparently resulted in fairly widespread acceptance of the new restrictions. Kiosks around the area explain the ecosystem and give visitors a chance to appreciate the area for more than just a recreational riding venue. Visitors using Sand Mountain are charged a fee and are given a map of designated routes and of open and closed areas.

Restoration efforts a success

Due to restoration efforts, route restriction, and education, the Kearney buckwheat has rebounded. This should enable the blue butterfly to continue to exist in large numbers at the site and avoid any listing by USF&WS. All in all, the species protection efforts have been successful -- at this time. However, it will take continuous application of funds to ensure long-term success.

Will Nevada continue supporting wildlife?

Although state funds from voter initiatives were available in the past at crucial times for the blue butterfly, these funds no longer exist. Will Nevada voters support wildlife and its habitat in the future? Without this continuous input, the Sand Mountain protective markers will be victims of the sand and of contrary OHV users. Heavy use of trails will fragment the Kearney buckwheat range, and visitors may not be given information and guidance to appreciate the fragile habitat of the blue butterfly.

RUBY PIPELINE ...

continued from page 1

point out the administrative problem of having an operational pipeline with no ROD in effect. It remains now for the court to solicit the appellants’ input and to rule on the defenders’ requests. We do not wish to see the gas pipeline shut down, only that the defenders quickly remediate the flaws in their approach, firm up the mitigation and restoration efforts, and reissue a ROD that will satisfy the appellants.

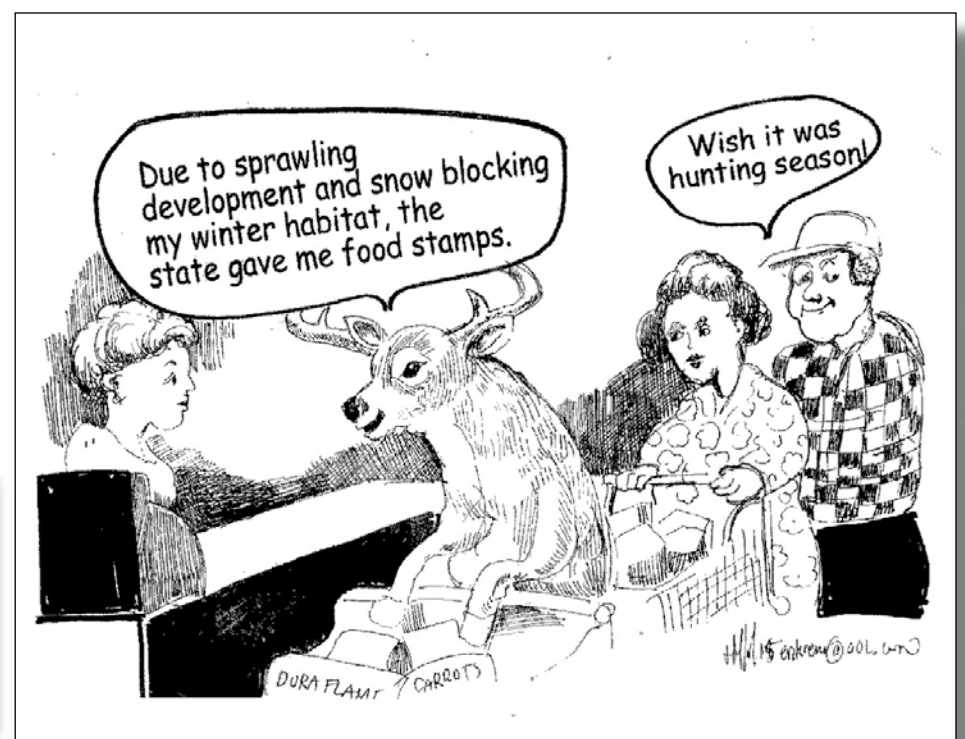
Some interesting media highlights have occurred in the past quarter. On October 29, 2012, the *Las Vegas Review Journal* (LVRJ) published an editorial, “War on fossil fuel: 9th Circuit hands greens another victory,” in which they insinuated that the Sierra Club went after Ruby Pipeline only to stop natural gas development. They took the recently developing policy at national Sierra Club on gas fracking to be the reason.

Club stresses wildlife habitat is the major concern. We countered with a Letter-to-the-Editor, published by the LVRJ on November 12, 2012. In our counter, we pointed out that, at the time of the Ruby Pipeline NEPA process, the new SC natural gas policy was not even on the table and that our main focus was the wildlife and their habitat in northern Nevada.

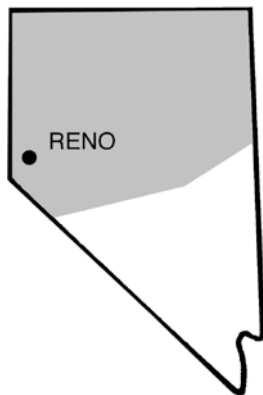
Subsequent developments, especially in regard to the sage grouse, have shown that our arguments against cutting a ROW swath through northern Nevada were sound and compelling. We had argued for moving the pipeline corridor away from known sage grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat and away from streams having endangered and threatened fish species.

In another media highlight, the author was featured in a November 8, 2012, story in the *Reno News & Review* about the Ruby Pipeline (www.newsreview.com/reno/through-the-pipeline/content?oid=8291895), after the court decision had been issued.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1
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Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Chair's Report

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

Good news, bad news

THE LAST QUARTER of 2012 brought us several bits of **good news** related to conservation.

Recycling. The City of Reno has adopted a new contract with the waste disposal company to bring single-stream recycling to Reno. This provides one cart for recyclables and one cart for regular waste. Citizens should find recycling much easier, and an expanded list of waste products acceptable for recycling should boost volumes of recycled materials greatly. The GBG worked

on this issue through a special group committee.

Ruby Pipeline victory! The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals gave the Sierra Club and its partners in the suit a favorable ruling on the Ruby Pipeline case. The judgement effectively cancels the Record of Decision on the pipeline and requires the EIS to be amended before another ROD can be issued. The chapter's task force on the Ruby Pipeline largely consisted of

Please see CHAIR'S REPORT, page 9.

Great Basin Peak Section News

We made a list & some are checking it twice

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

WHY IS *THAT* PEAK ON the Great Basin Peak list? Why isn't *THIS* peak on the list? Compiling a peak list might be more challenging than climbing the peaks themselves!

The GBPS list was selected with uniqueness and variety in mind. The goal was a peak section that had something for everyone. To avoid too much overlap with other peak lists, the expanded definition of the Great Basin was used, with some overstep of those boundaries creating abundant peak choices.

Dilemma No. 1, "how to select 100 peaks" transitioned to dilemma No. 2, "now we have too many." The possibilities lead to difficult decisions and the realization that you can't please everyone. Each person has a different idea of what defines a "worthy" peak. I challenge you to answer my initial questions by taking this multiple choice quiz as you summit each listed Great Basin Peak: (hint: all peaks have more than one answer) (a) it is a Nevada county high point (b) it is in a wilderness area



- (c) it has interesting geology, archeology, wildlife, or history
(d) it is easy enough to take the kids or grandparents
(e) it is a challenge to summit
(f) it is on a prominence list
(g) it has superior views
(h) it is located in a Great Basin state outside of Nevada
(i) it has other worthy points not on this quiz

Please have fun with this quiz and the adventures you experience as you complete the Great Basin Peak list.

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

Great Basin Group ExCom Meetings

JANUARY 7 (TUESDAY)

Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet at 6p at TBA to plan events and dis-

cuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend these meetings. For more information, contact David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net or 775-303-8461).

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.

JANUARY 1 (TUESDAY) 10A Annual New Year's Day Mexican Ditch Trail. Let's get started on those New Year's Eve Resolutions. Meet at Riverview Park, E end of Fifth Street, Carson City. Follow Mexican Ditch Trail S to Dam, back. About 8 mi, no gain. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, donnanv1@gmail.com). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 1 (TUESDAY) 10A New Year's Day Annual Recovery Hike. After weeks of overindulgence, it's time to greet new year with healthy, vigorous walk. Start at 10a to accommodate late-night revelers, finish before sunset. Exact location depends on conditions. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 5 (SATURDAY) 8A El Dorado Canyon Day Hike. Near

Dayton. About 12 mi RT, mostly on jeep road, under 600 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Also small slot canyon to hike on way out. Learn some history of area. High clearance vehicle needed or ride share. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 12 (SATURDAY) 8A Martis Peak Snowshoe. Vistas of Tahoe, Truckee area. About 10 mi, 2000 ft gain. Possible chickadees. Learn about peaks surrounding area from fire hut sitting on top of peak. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (233-3186). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (750-1293). Mod. Strenuous.

JANUARY 13 (SUNDAY) 10A Beginners' Cross-Country Ski, Mt. Rose Meadows. Learn basics from other Sierra Club x-c skiers:

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

Benefit @ Ben's for kids

Friday • February 22 • 4:30-7 pm

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

THE SIERRA CLUB BELIEVES IN every kid's inalienable right to watch bugs, climb rocks, get muddy, and fall in love with nature. We can help raise funds to introduce kids to the outdoors with donations for drinks and appetizers at Ben's Fine Wine & Spirits at Moana & Lakeside, Reno, on Friday, February 22, 4:30-7 pm.

One hundred percent (100%) of your \$10 donation will support science and nature camps on the shore of Lake Tahoe for local kids, with Great Basin Outdoor School. Children hike, snowshoe, learn local ecology, and volunteer on stewardship projects, becoming our next wave of planet guardians. Scholarships are always needed for children who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Ben's will provide wines, beers, and



spirits to sample. Party platters are being requested from Whole Foods and local restaurants. Enjoy a Friday evening with friends while contributing to connect kids with nature. It's a Win-Win! Leave your kids home this Friday night, but promise to take them outdoors on Saturday. See more about Great Basin Outdoor School at www.greatbasin-os.org/.

GREAT BASIN GROUP

OFFICERS

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Political	Open		
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Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.johnson@charter.net

* ExCom member

Don't forget to visit the

Great Basin Group website

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

& the Chapter website

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

Please see GB EXCOM MEETINGS, page 9.

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

How to fall down, how to get up, how to ski on flats. Must provide own equipment. Half-day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (853-1863), Valerie Andersen (853-4769). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 19 (SATURDAY) 8A

The John C Two Enigma Hike, near Dayton. Discover some history

of area, visit two features possibly associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of about 8 mi with vehicle shuttle. Elevation gain of about 1,200 ft for day. Scenic views. Return paralleling

part of Carson River. Steep, loose material on descent so sturdy boots are necessary. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

JANUARY 27 (SUNDAY) 9A

Chickadee Ridge Snowshoe. Join us for trek in snow across meadow, up to ridge, with great vistas of Lake Tahoe. About 4-5 mi, 800-1000 ft gain. Learn about local chickadees which inhabit area. A trip for

folks with some experience. Bring plenty of water, gear, clothing for conditions. Bad weather conditions cancel for day, but will reschedule. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (853-1863). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 2 (SATURDAY) 8A

Churchill Butte, near Silver Springs. Celebrate Ground Hog

Day by scaling butte overlooking historic Ft. Churchill, portions of emigrant wagon route, ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail,

Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history of area. About 9.5 mi, at least 1800 ft gain for day, all in first 4 mi Parts of hike are off-trail with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 17 (SUNDAY) 9A

Coldstream Valley Cross-Country Ski. Mod. easy ski up U-shaped Coldstream Valley behind Donner

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

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

Great Basin Peak Section News

Diamond Peak: Another Nevada Gem

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

TO WRAP UP A FEW DAYS of hiking in Great Basin National Park with Great Basin Peak Section, part of the group – Bob Ralston, Larry Grant, and myself – decided to hike Diamond Peak on our return to Reno. Diamond Peak (10,614 ft) claims title to high point of both Eureka County and the Diamond Range. The crest of this classic block-faulted range is the boundary for Eureka and White Pine Counties.

To reach the trailhead, our route wound along Highway 50 (known as “The Loneliest Road in America”). From Eureka, Bob Sumner’s directions in Hiking Nevada County High Points guided us to our destination. We camped before hiking Newark Summit under a lone pinyon pine. Obviously, cattle had used this location on many an evening.

The morning’s clear, sunny sky provided a nice contrast to the week of gray, wet weather in GBNP. We drove past Sumner’s starting point until the jeep road became extremely steep and rocky. We parked near a trough at a spring and began our hike.

At the saddle (8800 ft), we turned north towards a metal post that marked a clearing through the brush. A shepherd with his horse and dogs also

took advantage of this path. Braided use trails led us up the peak. A green metal sign marks the summit and an ammo box contains the register.

We lingered at the top enjoying the solitude, views, and a leisurely lunch.

Eureka had once been called “Pittsburg of the West,” with two dozen smelters pouring out a constant stream of smoke. Fortunately, this is no longer true. However, smoke from numerous wildfires to the north obscured our northern view.

On our descent, clouds rapidly filled the surrounding skies. Setting foot in camp, we jumped at a loud “Kaboom!” followed by a downpour that had us scrambling into the van. The downpour stopped in fifteen minutes, allowing us to finish breaking camp.

A stop in Fallon at Bob Ralston’s favorite Mexican restaurant, Julio’s, topped off another great trip to a Great Basin Peak.

GB EXCOM MEETINGS . . .

continued from page 8

discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend these meetings. For more information, contact David von Seggern (vonsel1@sbcglobal.net or 775-303-8461).

CHAIR’S REPORT . . .

continued from page 8

GBG people. (See article, page 1, this issue.)

Blue butterfly habitat improves. The habitat of the blue butterfly in Churchill County at Sand Mountain has rebounded under BLM programs which include restoration of habitat, closure of most of the habitat to OHV’s, and a many-faceted public education effort. (See our story on page 7.)

As always the good news is offset by **bad news**, but I want to focus on the **good** for a change.

MeetUp. The Great Basin ended the summer evening hiking weekday schedule in October, and our continued high participation is partly due to our utilization of MeetUp on the web.

Holiday party. Scheduled for December 8, our party will be old news by the time you read this. A feature of the party was a review of past Great Basin Group outings chairs, leading up to our current outings chair, Holly Coughlin. Holly won a Sierra Club national award this past summer.

Reno area hiking. The number of entities conducting hikes in the Reno area has greatly grown in the past ten years, and Sierra Club is not the only “game in town”. However, we feel that we have more quantity and quality to offer than any other entity and will continue to provide a varied schedule for our members and to sell our “brand” of hikes to the public at large.

Now, the bad news. We were saddened by the passing in November

Tahoe Area Report

Tahoe’s perfect storm

BY BOB ANDERSON, CHAIR, TAHOE
GROUP (bob-a@sbcglobal.net)

LAKE TAHOE HAS LONG BEEN one of those special places. An enormous amount of love, money, literature, abuse, and capital, both political and financial, have been showered on the Lake.

About 80% of the Basin is owned by us and managed by the Forest Service. Most of the rest (except for state parks) is privately owned and subject to a 1969 bi-state compact, signed by republican governors Laxalt and Reagan, which regulates land use.

And, wouldn’t you know it, both the Forest Service and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency are revising their long-range plans at the same time?

First, the Forest Service. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is different from other national forests because it doesn’t have logging (except for “forest health”),

Please see TAHOE REPORT, page 11.

of **Jim Yoakum**, one of the world’s top authorities on the pronghorn antelope. Jim’s advocacy of habitat protection for the pronghorn antelope was important across the state, and he published several books on the species. See *In Memoriam*, page 2.

GB GROUP 2ND FRIDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

All programs open to the public

On the 2nd Friday of each month (September - May), come and enjoy fun socializing and informative programs with the Great Basin Group. All programs are free and open to the public.

Great Basin Group changes in meeting location & start time. The Great Basin Group is returning to Bartley Ranch for its program meetings, starting January 2013 and continuing through May. Although it is much more expensive than our last location, it is a lovely facility. A number of members have also requested that we begin our meetings earlier so the new start time will be 630p for socializing and 7p for our program meeting.

For more information, contact the program chair, Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org).

“Alaskan & Canadian backpacking adventure”

(slide show)

**Date: Friday, January 10,
2013**

**Time: 630p, social
7p, program**

**Location: Bartley Ranch
Regional Park, Reno**

Join Steve Wathen as he shares breathtaking slides and stories of his three-&-a-half-month backpacking adventures in Alaska and Western

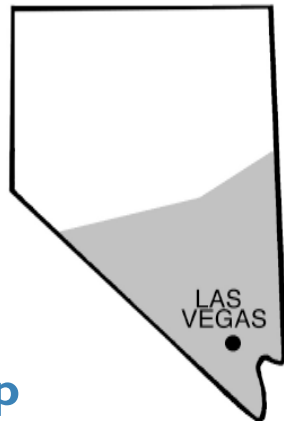


Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Photo: Steve Wathen.

Canada last summer. His Alaskan
Please see GB PROGRAM MEETINGS, page 12.

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group



Group News

Monthly ExCom meetings

January 17, February 25, and March 25, 2013

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, our Executive Committee usually meets on the **last Monday** of the month from 6-8:30p at the Sierra Club Office. We are 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 January 17 (Thursday), February 25 (Monday), and March 25 (Monday).

General Program Meetings

January 14, February 11, & March 11, 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 January 14, February 11, or March 11. See below for program details and times. All welcome!

All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted.

JANUARY 14 (MONDAY)

Program meeting: "Environmental Issues Facing the 2013 Legislature." Time & place: 7p, Sierra Club Office. The new Executive Director of ProgressNow, Brian Fadie, who is also a member of the SNG Executive Committee, will lead a discussion of the many pieces of legislation and issues to be taken up in Carson City during the coming state legislative session. Info: Brian Fadie (265-2644). All welcome.

FEBRUARY 11 (MONDAY)

Program meeting: "Beyond Coal." Time & place: 7p, Sierra Club Office. Great progress has been made in raising awareness of the problems caused in Moapa by the coal-fired Reid Gardner Power Station. Come learn more about how the Sierra Club is working to shut the polluting plant down as part of our national effort to move beyond coal. Info: Elspeth Cordua (659-2811). All welcome.

MARCH 11 (MONDAY)

Program meeting: "How Wildlife Contributes to Conservation." Time & place: 7p, Sierra Club Office. A presentation by Executive Committee member

Gecko Benjamin on the many ways in which wildlife contributes to our environment, including some unique Native American perspectives on natural order. Info: Gecko Benjamin (505-0000). All welcome.

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
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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, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

OUTINGS FOR JAN - FEB - MAR 2013

JANUARY 6 (SUNDAY)

Calico Tanks Overlook, RRCNCA. Start our 3 mile RT trek at second pullout on Scenic Drive. Here, we'll boulder up chute over saddle and up to "boy scout overlook" then scramble to upper tanks for lunch. After lunch, go down back side past pictographs to trail. How can you tell a pictograph from a petroglyph? Why is some sandstone red and some tan? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

JANUARY 19 (SATURDAY)

Raven's Balcony, N. Bowl of Fire, LMNRA. One of best hikes in N. Bowl of Fire. Along 3.3 mi we see "Ant Eater Rock," pass under "Darth Vader," then hike on to "Raven's Balcony," with an awesome overlook of Lake Mead. After lunch, we'll go through "Rabbits Hole," cross "Little Grand Canyon," then stop at 15,000-year-old camel and bird tracks. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

JANUARY 19 (SATURDAY)

Saturday Walk & Waffles: Pittman Wash Trail (Level 2). This is the first in our revived monthly series of Saturday walks along the Valley's award-winning urban trails, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Pittman Wash in Henderson is a remarkable urban recreational resource. Leaders: Nick Saines (896-4049) and Sasson Jahan (499-9218).

JANUARY 19 (SATURDAY)

Goldstrike Canyon Hotsprings. Take a look at remaining hot spring pools, plan on lunch at river. What are "extremophiles", why does NASA care? From parking area to Colorado is a 700-ft loss. Return, after a soak (bring a suit), is about 4 mi RT. Some rock scrambling over big boulders. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857, lvsawyer@hotmail.com).

JANUARY 20 (SUNDAY)

McCullough Hills Trail. A brand new trail just completed in December. Hike 8.2 mi from Anthem East Trail to Amargosa Trail on a wide equestrian trail over rolling terrain. Short car shuttle involved. Meet 8a at Albertson's lot, Stephanie & Horizon Ridge, Henderson. Level 2-3. Info: call Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net)

FEBRUARY 2 (SATURDAY)

Red Cap RRCNCA. One of my favorite 3-mi RT hikes at Red Rock Canyon. It's short, challenging, and, most of all, it's fun. From Sandstone Quarry, trek up to E side of Calico Hills. We'll scramble up to 3 tanks, then to an overlook into Calico Basin. Then fun begins scrambling the summit of Red Cap. After lunch descend N side, then back to parking lot. What aquatic beast lies hidden in the mud of these tanks? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 2-3 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

Death Valley, California Hiking Weekend (Level 3). We leave early Saturday morning and visit the new Visitor Center. In the afternoon and Sunday hiking and exploring. Choice of camping or motel on Saturday night. Leaders: Nick Saines (896-4049) and Sasson Jahan (499-9218).

FEBRUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

Raven's Balcony, N. Bowl of Fire, LMNRA. One of best hikes in north Bowl of Fire, along these 3.3 mi we see "Ant Eater Rock," pass under "Darth Vader," then hike on to "Raven's Balcony" with an awesome overlook of Lake Mead. After lunch, we'll go through "Rabbit's Hole," cross "Little Grand Canyon," then stop at 15000-year-old camel, bird tracks. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 10 (SUNDAY)

Bristlecone Trail snowshoe/ski hike. Beautiful winter trail for 'shoe/ski. About 2-4 mi maximum depending on conditions, group wishes. Hot cocoa provided at lunch stop. Two pair snowshoes and poles available on first-come-first-serve basis. Level 3-4. Meet at LVSSR ski area top parking lot at 8:30a. Info: call Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net)

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

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

S. Nevada Group Calendar

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FEBRUARY 16 (SATURDAY)
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up: Red Rock Canyon Highway 159. We'll sweep through from Pahrump highway intersection for 2 mi to make entry from S to Red Rock more inviting. Bring water bottle, hat, sunscreen. Lunch stop afterwards. Meet 830a at Dunkin' Donuts in Albertson's plaza, on Charleston W of I-215. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857, lvsawyer@hotmail.com).

FEBRUARY 16 (SATURDAY)
Saturday Walk & Waffles: Pueblo Park (Level 1). This is the second in our revived monthly series of Saturday walks along the Valley's award-winning urban trails, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Pueblo Park is a beautiful park along a wash in Summerlin. Leaders: Nick Saines (896-4049) and Sasson Jahan (499-9218).

MARCH 9 (SATURDAY)
North Peak via Rocky Gap Road, RRCNCA. From Rocky Gap Summit, hike to limestone North Peak, then down to a breathtaking view overlooking Ice Box Canyon. After lunch, cross escarpment and overlook Pine Creek. Which is older, limestone or sandstone? About 6 mi RT, 1000+ ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 3-4.

MARCH 16 (SATURDAY)
Bridge Mountain via Rocky Gap Road Summit, RRCNCA. One of best scrambling hikes at Red Rock.

From Rocky Gap Summit, hike to escarpment with a great view, overlooking Pine Creek. Here's where fun begins as we climb up a chute to bridge, then pass by hidden forest, on up to summit. At summit of Bridge Mt., view of Red Rock, Las Vegas is breathtaking, you'll never forget this hike. Which are older: limestone or sandstone formations? 5 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 5.

MARCH 16 (SATURDAY)
Saturday Walk & Waffles: Sunset Park (Level 1). This is the third in our revived monthly series of Saturday walks along the Valley's award-winning urban trails, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Sunset Park in SE Las Vegas has miles of trails and the last dune field in the city. Leaders: Nick Saines (896-4049) and Sasson Jahan (499-9218).

MARCH 30 (SATURDAY)
Oak Creek Canyon, RRCNRA. Start at new "South Oak Creek Canyon" trailhead, swing past Potato Knoll, come back along creek. About 200 ft gain over 5 mi. Could be early signs of spring flowers, desert bighorn sheep, frogs. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857, lvsawyer@hotmail.com).

MARCH 30 (SATURDAY)
Boy Scout Overlook, Calico Tanks, RRCNCA. Adventure starts on Scenic

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 12.

Tahoe Area Report

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grazing, or mining. Its focus is on three things: recreation, water quality, and forest health, which includes fire management.

The draft plan was released last year. Supported by the national Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats campaign, the Tahoe Area Sierra Club (TASC) mounted a grassroots campaign that included submitting substantive comments (in partnership with allies) and organizing people to care, engage, attend meetings, and testify for a plan that protects wild lands and streams and manages the Forest for its ecological health.

We filed over 12,000 signatures on a petition to protect wilderness and the Upper Truckee River and manage the forest with sound principles and practices! A decision is expected to be announced early in 2013.

Now, the **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)**.

The TRPA was once a warrior against development, successfully

defending the Lake all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, the TRPA believes the pathway to environmental improvement is through economic development. It wants to incentivize development that would retire old, polluting buildings and parking lots.

But this seems like a pretty risky



Great Basin Group Calendar

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Memorial State Park in Truckee. Most of route is fairly flat on roads. Probably make it up to Horseshoe Bend and beyond. Geared for "experienced" beginner and intermediate x-c skiers. About 4-6 mi RT, depending on conditions; 200 ft gain. Learn about Emigrant Trail, rigors of Donner Party. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 23 (SATURDAY) 8A
Lahontan Petroglyphs Day Hike. Visit rock panels on shores of Lake Lahontan near Silver Springs. Learn some history of area. High clearance/4WD vehicles recommended or ride share. About 4 mi RT, no significant gain. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

FEBRUARY 23 (SATURDAY) 9A
Sagehen Creek Snowshoe. Trek to back side of Stampede Reservoir. About 6-7 mi, 800 ft total gain. Numerous stream crossings over ice bridges, if there are good snow conditions. Lunch under large Ponderosa pine. Observe animal tracks in snow. Bad weather will postpone trip to different weekend. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 25 (MONDAY)
6:30P

Outings Meeting. If you are interested in outings or would like more information, coming to an Outings Meeting is great place to start. We will have potluck style dinner, then discuss upcoming outings, other related issues. The location will be available on-line at future date or you can call Holly for details. We'll be planning trips for April, May, June. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

MARCH 9 (SATURDAY) 8A
Sawmill in Desert Day Hike.

Near Buckland Station, S of Silver Springs, along lower Carson River (going upstream). About 9 mi RT in loop, mostly flat. See, ponder, learn about remains of sawmill in desert. Then see current route of railroad, which services Hawthorn, hike on part of route of Carson & Colorado Railroad, circa early 1880s. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

MARCH 20 (WEDNESDAY)
5:30P

Spring Fling River Walk. Welcome spring with our first evening conditioning hike. After work, easy hike along Truckee River Walk. About 4 mi, 50 ft gain. Opportunity to see early-blooming cottonwoods, hawks, falcons, other wildlife, learn about riparian environment. DL. Leader: River Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Easy.

MARCH 23 (SATURDAY) 8A
Two Ladies, Two Gents Peaks Day Hike. These are three peaks in 6000-foot range: Rose, Kate Sutro, and Grosch brothers -- all near Virginia City. About 1000 ft gain, 3 mi, in sort of a loop. Mostly off-trail, some rock scrambling. Of course there's an enigma. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 24 (SUNDAY) 8:45A
Incandescent Rocks Day Hike. Fantastic hike in desert mountains near Pyramid Lake. Witness balancing rocks, other interesting rock formations. Views of Pyramid Lake from top of ridge in Virginia Mountains. About 7-8 mi, 1200 ft gain. Moderate to mod. fast pace. Some x-c, so good boots are a must. Bad weather postpones trip for another weekend. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker@att.net). Co-Leader: Dale Mericle (828-4941). Mod. Strenuous.

approach. How will we know if it's working? Sadly, the plan is weak on the need to monitor progress and take corrective action if falls short.

On December 12, 2012, the TRPA Governing Board was scheduled to approve the proposed pro-development plan. We'll report on the result later.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom at Lake Tahoe, discussing how to respond to a deficient draft Lake Tahoe Regional Plan Update. From L: David Von Seggern, Bill Bowers, Bob Anderson, Joe Johnson, and Malcolm Clark. Photo: Tina Nappe.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1



FOR
APR - MAY - JUNE ISSUE

Bookshelf

THE ORDINARY TRUTH

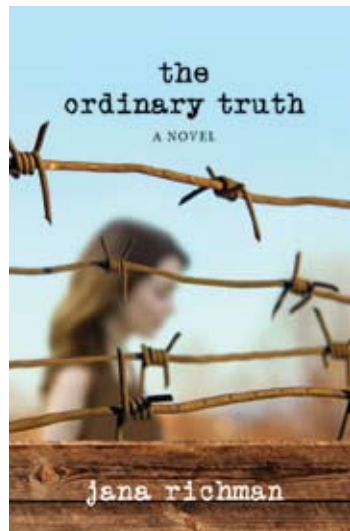
By Jana Richman
Torrey House Press, 2012.

The 1989-2012 water wars in Nevada have been covered in innumerable newspaper articles, television programs and documentaries. At last, our water conflicts have generated a novel.

Jana Richman, the Utah author of this book, is a very good storyteller. The story is about a ranching family whose communications and relationships have been dysfunctional for decades. The granddaughter, a UNLV student, was raised by her grandmother and uncle and aunt on the family ranch in Spring Valley. She takes a summer job at a Carson City brothel in a screwy plan to force her mother and grandmother to talk. There are a lot of family secrets.

The mother, who lives in Las Vegas, works for the Nevada Water Authority which is pushing a water pipeline project all the way north into Spring Valley. The mother describes herself as a cold-hearted businesswoman whose job creates more loathing than a mafia hitman in Las Vegas.

The descriptions of the proposed water grab strongly resemble the actual plans of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. The devastating impacts



which the ranchers fear have been corroborated by the Bureau of Land Management in a 5000-page Environmental Impact Statement on the groundwater mining proposal. The author clearly understands the problems of water scarcity, municipal needs, already drought-stressed rural water and, especially, how the threats of the water grab are taking a huge human toll on the

targeted families and communities.

The story is told in the first person with chapters by the granddaughter, her mother, her grandmother, and her aunt. Her ranching characters are amazed that their views of enemies have been drastically changed. The water conflicts squarely align ranchers and environmentalists "on the same side of the barbed wire."

The lyrical descriptions of Spring Valley landscapes and the Schell Creek Mountains match most Nevadans' perceptions of this beautiful valley, rather than SNWA's vision of a bathtub with a spigot at the south end.

The conclusion . . . well, I won't give it away.

— by Rose Strickland, Toiyabe Chapter Water Campaign coordinator

GB PROGRAM MEETINGS . . .

continued from page 9

sojourns included Denali NP and Wrangell-St. Elias NP. His Canadian travels covered Tombstone Territorial Park (in the Yukon), Stone Mountain and Mount Robson Provincial Parks (in British Columbia), and Jasper NP (in Alberta). With an extensive background as an scientist, environmentalist, educator, and professional photographer, his lecture promises to be insightful and entertaining.

"How green is your ski resort?"

(slide show)

Date: Friday, February 14, 2013

Time: 630p, social & 7p, program

Location: Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno

Are you an environmentalist who loves to ski? Would you like to learn more about the environmental practices (good, bad, and ugly) of the ski resorts you frequent? Representatives from the Sierra Nevada Alliance (www.sierranevadaalliance.org) will discuss the Ski Area Citizens' Coalition (www.skiareacitizens.com) ski area report card. This assessment rates resorts on habitat protection, protecting watersheds, addressing global climate change, and their environmental practices. The Ski Area Citizens' Coalition works to

ensure that ski area management decisions, either by the Forest Service, ski companies, or local governments, are responsive to the needs of real environmental protection, local communities, and the skiing public. Learn how you can help and get involved in protecting the areas you love.

"Green Fire"

(Aldo Leopold film)

Date: Friday, March 14, 2013

Time: 630p, social & 7p, program

Location: Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno

For this meeting, Sierra Club will screen the inspirational, Emmy Award-winning film, "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold & a land ethic for our time" (www.greenfiremovie.com). The film explores the life and legacy of famed conservationist, Aldo Leopold, and the many ways his land ethic has influenced conservation today. After the film, Brian Beffort, Associate Director for Friends of Nevada Wilderness, will lead a discussion about how Leopold's legacy can fire our own passion for conservation. Since this film is longer (74 minutes) than our usual program, be prepared to stay a later than usual. We'll provide the popcorn.

S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 11

Drive at second pullout. On this bouldering and scrambling endeavor your heart will be singing with every step. This awesome view of Red Rock canyon is a must. Cross over to 3 tanks on top of Calico Hills for lunch. Then fun will start: scramble down front side toward Sandstone Quarry, past pictographs, to our cars. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

JUNE 21-27

(FRIDAY-THURSDAY)

Coyote Gulch Backpack. A trip into some of Utah's best red rock, with sheer, high-walled canyons and cathedral-like campsites. Water is abundant, includes springs. First day, leave Las Vegas; around noon arrive at Escalante visitor center to obtain our permit (no reservations required). Once at trailhead, hike in 4 mi and camp. Next day, move another 5 mi to next camp. Third day, hike another 4-5 mi to lowest campsite, where we can stay 1-2 nights before backtracking to a previous campsite. Probably hike out June

26 but can have 27th available if needed. Most of hike is fairly easy, but requires wading back and forth across creek. Near end is a short, steep, dry trail bypassing some waterfalls. (We'll camp next to one.) This is definitely summer warm season. I've done this trip many times at this time of year and usually find it quite pleasant as a rule here. At this time of year we should see some bright lights moving around at night – some kind of fire flies. Limit 12. DavidHardy 702 875-4826. hardyhikers@embarqmail.com



Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, January 26, 2013
Las Vegas, NV

For details,
contact the Chair,
ERIK HOLLAND
erikreno@aol.com
775-322-3582



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



You don't need a resolution to make a big change.

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

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