



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

TOIYABE TRAILS

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2019

SUMMER EVENTS Issue

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

From the Chair

Question: What is the primary source of greenhouse emissions in Nevada?

BY ANNE MACQUARIE
(ANNEMACQUARIE@GMAIL.COM)

THE NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL Protection reports that mobile source/vehicle emissions* are now the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, surpassing those from electrical generation.

We want to do something about that! The Southern Nevada Group now has a Transportation Committee, and members have been showing up at Clark County RTC meeting to support public transportation and light rail.

At the Chapter level, we recently were notified that we won a grant from the Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All campaign. The grant will allow us to organize our Chapter-level transportation committee to advocate for the electrification of school bus fleets in Nevada and for other strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Let me know if you'd like to serve on the Chapter's Transportation Committee (annemacquarie@gmail.com).

* Mobile source air pollution includes any air pollution emitted by motor vehicles, airplanes, locomotives, and other engines and equipment that can be moved from one location to another.

In the Nevada legislature. A diverse array of Nevadans turned up at the Nevada Legislature on March 5 and 6 to support SJR 3 and AJR 3, resolutions opposing the proposed Air Force expansion into the Desert National Wildlife

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.



In January, a Great Basin Group snowshoe outing used the Club's Claire Tappaan Lodge as a base. The climb to the top of Boreal Ridge and view of Lake Donner was outstanding. (See snowshoeing article on page 3.)

Thanks for showing up!

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Sitting at my keyboard in early March to write this article, my brain is occupied by issues whose outcomes are hard to predict: the US Forest Service still has not issued a decision on whether to allow oil and gas exploration in Nevada's Ruby Mountains; the Department of Defense's proposal to expand into 75 % of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is heading to Congress; and renewable energy legislation has not yet been introduced into the Nevada Legislature.

Will corporate, polluting interests win yet again over the health and integrity of our communities, wildlife populations, and the ecosystems on which we all depend?

Of course, I don't have the answer, but the increased engagement by people like you gives me hope that reason, restraint and ecological awareness are asserting greater influence on policy decisions like these. And it's because more people like you are getting involved.

After the 2018 elections, I expected civic engagement to decrease back to historically tepid levels. But that hasn't been the case. Just two weeks after the election, when post-election burnout is usually strongest, Reno's local Ready for 100 committee (which is asking the city to commit to 100% renewable energy) had more participants join than ever before, and they were all ready to get to work.

Time and time again since November, I have seen more people volunteer to help, join committees and commit to take action of one kind or another. This has been true for the Chapter Executive Committee election, (which saw a wealth of exceptional candidates), the Legislative Committee, and efforts to engage with Washoe and Clark counties around growth and planning, with the state around transportation issues, and especially at the Nevada Legislature.

Hundreds of people braved harsh winter weather to attend public meetings in

Reno, Las Vegas and Elko in January to support the Ruby Mountains against drilling. Two weeks later, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto introduced S. 258, the Ruby Mountains Protection Act, which would permanently remove the Rubies from all liquid mineral entry. More than 10,000 people submitted comments opposing drilling in the Rubies. More than 13,000 people have submitted comments opposing the military take-over of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Our partnerships with like-minded organizations have grown around shared commitments to public lands, wildlife, water, renewable energy, and climate-resilient, sustainable communities.
Please see DIRECTOR'S ESSAY, page 5.

2019 Chapter ExCom

IN CASE ANYONE IS WONDERING who is on the Chapter ExCom for 2019, here's the list. The ballots were counted on Jan. 2 and the Trails production schedule closed on Dec. 15, 2018, when we went to press. So, alas, there was no way to put the info in the Jan-Feb-Mar 19 newsletter (though, of course, all the info was/is online).

Chair, Anne Macquarie
Vice-Chair, Cathy Schmidt
Secretary, Janet Carter
Treasurer, Bobby Mahendra
Range of Light Group Rep, Lynn Boulton

Please see CHAPTER EXCOM 2019, page 5.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 8a-5p
June 22, 2019

Claire Tappaan Lodge,
19940 Donner Pass Rd,
Norden, CA

For details,
contact the Chair,

ANNE MACQUARIE

chair@toiyabe.sierraclub.org

Details forthcoming for this in-person meeting. Email the chair for firm date and time. All members may attend ExCom meetings, in person or via Zoom meeting for e-meetings. Next meeting is April 18, 7-9p. Please arrange participation with the Chapter Chair, Anne Macquarie (775-303-2562) or email (see above). Members are also encouraged to contact the Chair or any ExCom members with requests to bring certain matters before the ExCom.

BEQUESTS are a way to support Toiyabe Chapter's mission

AFTER YOU ARE NO LONGER WALKING THOSE TRAILS, would you like to keep furthering the goals of the Toiyabe Chapter?

Toiyabe Chapter members can arrange a bequest in their will to the Chapter rather than the national Sierra Club. By doing this, you will be assured that *your gift stays in the Chapter* to continue supporting the protections you want for Nevada or eastern California.

Because the language must be stated exactly to avoid misinterpretation, please contact the Chapter Director, Brian Beffort (brian.beffort@sierraclub.org) or the Fundraising Committee Chair, Anne Macquarie (annemacquarie@gmail.com), to make sure it is correct.

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Great Basin Gatherings

Great Basin Group

Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON, GREAT BASIN GROUP CHAIR

GREETINGS to all our friends in the Great Basin! The Great Basin Group continues to host monthly program meetings during 2019 at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park Western Heritage Interpretive Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Please note that there will not be any scheduled programs during the summer: June, July, and August. Mark your calendars now for the following planned programs:

Programs

April 11, 2019: Arborglyphs. Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin, former National Park Service interpreters, share their labor of love: 15 years of documenting arborglyphs, the carvings left by Basque sheepherders in the Eastern Sierra and Eastern Nevada. Their presentation will touch on the historical and artistic significance the arborglyphs convey. It seeks to shed light on the lives of the Basque herders, who were but a footnote in the western historical record. Nancy and Richard will chronicle their efforts to preserve this rapidly disappearing history as aspens, a short-lived species, age and die.

May 9, 2019: Planting for Pollinators. Pamela Van Hoozer has been volunteering with the Washoe County Master Gardener Program since 2012. Coming from a long line of farmers, landscapers and gardeners in Tennessee, she moved to Northern Nevada, only to have to relearn how to grow food for her family in the high desert climate. Her volunteer work includes local community and school gardens, teaching others how to grow their own, greenhouse growing for plant sales, presentations, assisting the public in the Master Gardener office,

and various other functions throughout Northern Nevada. Passions include all things tomato and heirlooms, planting for pollinators, teaching kids in the garden, and experimenting in her own garden. The presentation, Planting for Pollinators, will include an introduction to local pollinators, how to attract pollinators, and planning and plant selection.

Activism

Interested in renewable energy, public lands, especially protecting the Ruby Mountains, water resources, conservation, and many more issues? Please go to www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe for several links to local activism events, legislative hearings, outings, and much more!

New Outings Chair

The Great Basin Group wishes to extend a big outdoor THANK YOU to Daniel Ellsworth for his service as Outings Chair and wishes him and his family much good fortune! A big welcome to Patrick Lujan who has agreed to take over as the GBG's Outings Chair. We look forward to his leadership enhanced by the great experience and expertise that he brings with him.

Great Basin Group Outings

The GBG motto is "We Get YOU Outdoors." GBG adventures meet all abilities and interests. Join us by checking these websites: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno and www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin.

GREAT BASIN GROUP OFFICERS

Chair	Katy Christensen*	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair	David von Seggern*	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Lori Bellis*	loriann.bellis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Roleigh Martin*	roleigh@pobox.com

FROM THE CHAIR...

continued from page 1

refuge. It was standing room only at the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Comments supporting the resolutions came from hunting groups, conservation groups including the Sierra Club, photographers, biologists, the outdoor recreation industry, students, small businesspeople, and a resident of Gabbs – a fourth-generation Nevadan and downwinder who described what it is like to live underneath a sky full of military training sorties and to have friends and relatives pass away too early from cancers brought on by fallout from above-ground nuclear bomb testing.

Many Sierra Club members showed up, both north and south. Someone

joked that it's got to be a good bill if both the Sierra Club and Ira Hanson (one of our most conservative state senators) support it – drawing a big laugh from the crowd.

How to keep up with Nevada legislative happenings. Sign up for our legislative alert list. HERE'S where to sign up: <https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Toiyabe?actionId=AR0136893>.

Don't frack the Rubies – art in Elko. Noted Reno painter and former Toiyabe Chapter ExCom member, **Erik Holland**, has a show opening at the Duncan Littlecreek Gallery in Elko on March 16. The show, consisting of the work of Erik and other local artists, celebrates the stunning landscape of the Ruby Mountains. Erik told the *Elko Daily Free Press* that at least 20-25 %

GB Group OUTINGS NEWS

New outings chair

BY DANIEL ELLSWORTH

(Outgoing Outings Chair)

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE the Great Basin Group's new outings chair: Patrick Lujan. After an extensive search amongst the outings leaders of the group, Patrick has graciously agreed to assume the responsibility of the position -- bringing with him the talent, experience, and expertise to lead the Toiyabe Chapter's fine outings program.

The real force behind the Great Basin Group outings program is the group of more than 30 outings leaders who are dedicated to bringing the outdoors to the people of Northern Nevada. In 2018, the Great Basin Group provided 341 outings and outings related events (almost one event a day for the entire year!). This gave more than 3500 Northern Nevadans the confidence to experience the natural environments of the region last year.

As I move on to the opportunity to spend more time with my family, I am confident to leave the Great Basin Group outings program in Patrick's capable hands with the full support of the Great Basin Group Excom. Please don't forget our motto: "We Get You Outdoors".

The Great Basin Group publishes all of its outings online. The majority of outings are posted on our Meetup site: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>.

Some additional outings are posted exclusively on the Great Basin Group website calendar here: <http://www.>

Please see NEW OUTINGS CHAIR, page 3.

of the sale price of each piece of art will go to support the Sierra Club's fight against oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains. Be sure to visit the show if you live in eastern NV or are passing through Elko.

Monthly donations can really help. What is a message from the Chair without a fundraising pitch? I know. You get them every time you turn around. Right now the Chapter's development committee is working hard to stabilize our income so we can keep up with all the conservation opportunities and challenges we face. Brian, our Chapter Director, is now going into his third year with us. He hit the ground running and hasn't stopped. We would like him to stay – but we need to pay his salary.

A healthy foundation of monthly donations would really help. Last year my husband Chas and I doubled our monthly donation. We like giving monthly, directly to the Chapter, because we are contributing to an income stream that stays right here in Nevada and eastern California. Please consider starting a monthly donation or upping your current one. It's easy to do – just go to the red donate button on the website, choose your donation amount, and check the "make my donation monthly" box. HERE'S a link: <https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/get-involved>.



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 (805-239-3829); LFoster@schat.net.)

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. (See Chapter address in first paragraph, above.)

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 a Group Membership Chair (see directories on pages 4, 8, and 10) 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 online at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

In Memoriam

Celebrating the Life of John W. Ide (1947-2018)

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



John Ide.

WITH HEAVY HEARTS, we struggle to understand John's decision to end his life. His decision will remain a mystery to all but him, leaving us grasping at scenarios to explain how this could happen. In our frustration to understand John's

decision, we need to remember he would be the last person to want us to feel guilty or second guess ourselves trying to summon the solutions of what we could have done to prevent this end.

As we wrestle with our anguished thoughts over the "What ifs" or "What did I miss?", we must comfort ourselves with the answer of "Nothing". We all have mysteries in our lives that others are not able to understand and in John's case his decision defies prediction. Consequently, we need to slowly process our grief and move forward embracing the essence of how John touched our lives.

Composing thoughts regarding John has challenged me. Both sadness and tears get in the way and impede my progress. In order to complete this task, I remind myself of his sunny smile and focus on many fond memories of shared experiences. It was difficult to think of a favorite John story as I reviewed years of photos. I know many of us have endless memorable peak climbs with John, though two of my favorite outings with John were non-peak bagging trips.

I first met John when he joined a Sierra Club hike that I led in the Painted Hills near Pyramid Lake in March 2010. At our lunch stop he politely asked if he, Rich Wilson, and John Sparks could sign-out to do a couple of peaks. He was surprised that I had previously hiked Gin Peak and questioned me about this easy peak. This began our peak bagging history. Though I wasn't even in John's dust trail on all shared peak bagging adventures, he was always encouraging and never criticized my snail's pace as he rocketed up the summit.

Another memorable outing was a hike to Loch Leven Lakes where we both discovered our first *Dicentra uniflora*, the longhorn steer's-head wildflower. It was a notable find for both of us.

In addition to peak bagging, John touched many circles of friends with his varied interests. These interests included but weren't limited to bridge, good books, movies, concerts, birding, nature hikes, environmental & scientific groups, politics, traveling, and volunteering.

Thank you, Henry Taro

BY TINA NAPPE

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road... unless you fail to make the turn." (TA's email signature.)



Henry Taro, leading the way. Photo: Tina Nappe.

On February 4, 2019, Henry (TA) Taro, a long-time Chapter hiking leader, specializing in the Carson River country, failed to make the turn.

The Chapter has lost a dedicated outings leader whose knowledge of the area's history, geology, trails, and natural resources made the landscape come alive.

TA's trips included views of petroglyphs near Lahontan Reservoir, following a stream up El Dorado Canyon, walking along the V&T railroad right-of-way, and a magical fall trip along the Carson River as Fremont cottonwoods turned brilliant yellow. TA preferred cross-country trips. On one of these trips we visited Mt. Grosh as well as nearby Rose and Kate peaks. Taro described this trip with its "lunch summit", as a sort of "Japanese Garden" with the particular rocks and shapes of trees...

My favorite hike started in Virginia City and followed a small canyon along the remaining segments of a flume designed to catch every drop of water from a temporary spring. The flume segments were probably from the late 1860s. Lunch that day was on the peak of Mt. Davidson.

Taro prided himself on his knowledge and, often, reuse of handy hiking poles, ropes, emergency gear, and medications. His day pack bristled with various potentially useful gadgets. His pack and everything in it seemed well used and re-used -- except for the new package of cookies he always shared at lunch time.

He will be missed.

On January 24, John's peak bagging friends gathered in Reno to share memories and grieve his passing. Everyone shared stories and photos of adventures with John, producing smiles and laughs. The retelling of John adventures provided an evening of comfort and healing. Thanks to Ron Moe and Dick Kendall for organizing this event.

Most described John with words like kind, compassionate, cheerful, interesting, intelligent, fit, fast hiker, energetic, and an all-round nice guy.

Regardless of how John touched our lives, he will live on in our memories and his spirit will accompany us on all of our mountain endeavors.

May you rest in peace, John Ide.

For those wanting to donate in John's memory, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Population Connection, and Environmental Defense Fund are three organizations that he supported.

Snowshoeing at Clair Tappaan Lodge

BY FRANK ALLEN

The Sierra Club's historic Clair Tappaan Lodge sits at 7000 feet near Donner Pass, northwest of Lake Tahoe. In winter, the rustic mountain retreat maintains 14 kilometers of groomed trails for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and sledding.

The lodge rents outdoor equipment, including snowshoes and poles. Daily trail passes are \$15 per person, or included in the rate if staying overnight. Overnight accommodations range from hostel-style dorm rooms to private group and 2-person rooms and include communal meals in the large dining hall. The lodge makes a great base for year-round recreation in the Donner Pass and Tahoe area. Additional details can be found at <http://clairtappaan-lodge.com/>.

After several January storms which dropped five feet of new snow in the surrounding mountains, Lori Bellis and I led a Great Basin Group

snowshoe outing using the Lodge as our base. We enjoyed sunny skies, a wide variety of scenery, and the camaraderie of getting outdoors in a gorgeous environment. The high point of the hike was our climb to the top of Boreal Ridge, where we enjoyed panoramic views, including Lake Donner (see great Sierra Club photo on page 1).

If you've never visited the grand old lodge, stop by to say "Hi" next time you're in the area!

DEADLINE!

JUNE 1

FOR JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE

Memorial Day service trip with BLM in eastern Nevada May 25-27

JOIN CA/ NV WILDERNESS COMMITTEE in Goshute Canyon Wilderness, a new area for our group. After a two-year hiatus, we work again with BLM's Ely District wilderness staff to enhance wilderness values in this wild mountain range of eastern Nevada. Central commissary, RSVPs required. Contact Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

NEW OUTINGS CHAIR...

continued from page 2

sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events.

GB Outings leaders wanted

Are you an experienced hiker, trail runner, kayaker, bicyclist, rock climber, skier? Do you believe in the Sierra Club mission? Do you want to share your experience with others? If so, consider becoming an outings leader for the Great Basin Group of the Sierra Club. Contact Outings Chair Patrick Lujan for more details: pelujan@protonmail.com.

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

MAY 30-JUNE 4 (THU-TUE)

ESCALANTE BACKPACK. This trip will get to Neon Canyon, starting either at Harris Wash or 25-Mi Wash (which is preferred), depending upon information I can find. It will be 30 mi with pack using Harris route, or 34 mi RT using 25-Mi Wash route. Both routes have dramatic scenery, including narrows. Ringtail Slot and Neon Canyon will be explored with daypacks. If we come in by way of Harris, we will also explore Choprock Canyon, a long slot canyon. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet as we will be wading much of time. Moderate backpack. Limit 10. Contact David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

JUNE 16-21 (SUN-FRI)

PARUNUWEAP CANYON. East of Zion, this is a canyon not frequently visited. It is not in any park or any other boundary. No permit is needed. This

is a 30-RT backpack recommended for middle to late June, when water conditions are best. There are several side slot canyons to explore along way and main canyon becomes a narrows similar to Zion Narrows. Moderate backpack. Contact David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

JULY 4-7 (THU-SUN)

FOURTH OF JULY IN BLACK ROCK. This will be a busy weekend in Black Rock as many Burning Man Attendees use this as a "shakedown weekend" for their gear. Possible One-Day Ham License class. Typical events include visits to hot springs and Emigrant Trail. No firm schedule set at this writing and few facilities, but we'll probably have portapotties. No signups until after 6/15! Contact David Book (775-843-6443).

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

Nevada water grab drama continues!

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Two bills to radically change Nevada Water Law attracted a packed house of opponents to a three-and-a-half hour hearing in Carson City on February 27, 2019. The Assembly Natural Resources, Agriculture, & Mining Committee listened to the bill proponents (the acting Nevada State Engineer and other State officials) explain the need to “harmonize” NV water law. They believe some provisions may conflict with others on how water is managed and appropriated.

However, some of the proposed changes appear to opponents to significantly undercut the prior appropriations mandate of “first in line, first in right” by substituting a 3M plan to “monitor, manage, and mitigate” adverse impacts in lieu of rejecting junior applications that conflict with senior water rights.

There are also no provisions in AB30 or AB51 requiring the senior rights holders to approve, much less participate, in the 3M process, nor any provisions to require 3M plans to protect the environment or the public interest or to allow the public to participate in the 3M process. In addition, tribal leaders testified that they were concerned that existing protections of the Swamp Cedars in Spring Valley (adjacent to Great Basin National Park) would be unraveled by the proposed changes to Nevada water law.

Other concerns were raised about a proposed provision for using “replacement water” as mitigation, having to mortgage the farm to pay for legal and expert help to defend senior water rights, and whether “cash” is an acceptable mitigation for losing senior water rights.

Kyle Roerink of the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN) led the opposition to the bills, aided by Patrick Donnelly of the Center for Biological Diversity, Nevada tribal leaders, rural and urban County Commissioners,

several conservation groups, the Farm Bureau, the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, and citizens. Tobi Tyler testified on behalf of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Both Republican and Democratic legislators asked tough questions on the State Engineer’s proposed changes, why changes were needed, how they would work, whether changes would protect senior water rights or constitute a takings of property rights, or whether changes would violate due process requirements guaranteed by the constitution.

Like many of the organizations who testified against the two bills, the legislators also wanted to know if the proposed changes were intended to or would facilitate the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s project to take millions of gallons of groundwater from remote eastern Nevada valleys and pipe it to

Las Vegas.

Legislators were also concerned about how 3M plans would protect the environment from the devastating environmental impacts of groundwater pumping identified in the Bureau of Land Management’s 2011 Environmental Impact Statement. These include harming 305 springs, 112 miles of streams, 8,000 acres of wetlands, and 191,000 acres of wildlife habitat. The SNWA pipeline project has been stalled in part due to legal victories by GBWN, White Pine County, and others in which judges ruled that the State Engineer’s approvals of SNWA applications were arbitrary and capricious and did not mandate sufficient mitigation of adverse project impacts.

An undercurrent of concern by opponents of the two bills is the over-appropriation of one-third to one-half of the 256 groundwater basins in Nevada by previous State Engineers. Opponents question whether giving nearly absolute authority to the current State Engineer on picking winners and losers in maintaining or obtaining Nevada’s scarce water resources will exacerbate unsustainable water use in Nevada.

What you can do. For more information on the Nevada water wars, follow this link to the GBWN website: <http://greatbasinwaternet-work.org>.



Spring Valley looking west toward the Schell Creek Mountains near Great Basin National Park. Spring Valley contains numerous springs and an extensive grassland dotted with Rocky Mountain junipers supported by the high groundwater table. Photo: D. Ghiglieri.

Proposed bill will damage rivers, streams and springs

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

NEVADA’S SURFACE WATERS -- rivers, creeks, and springs -- are threatened by Assembly Bill 51, written by the NV State Engineer’s Office. Under the proposed rewrite, the State Engineer could approve new groundwater pumping applications or mitigate existing groundwater pumping operations which harm the surface water of existing senior surface water users.

Over the decades, the NV State Engineer (NSE) has allowed groundwater users to over-appropriate as many as half of Nevada’s hydrographic basins. Early on, most water used in the state came from surface waters such as the Truckee or Humboldt Rivers, smaller streams which flowed from the state’s numerous mountain ranges or from local or large regional springs. Later,



These Carson Valley groundwater supplied pivots first appeared in 1999 just 2 miles from the Carson River and expanded quickly to the 22 pivots (about 2,900 acres) seen in this 2019 Google Earth™ image. Consumption of groundwater for these pivots could be as much as 10,000 acre-feet of water per year or 200,000 AF over 2 decades.

the NSE allowed groundwater wells to be drilled for agriculture or other uses even in basins with rivers and streams or springs that were already fully appropriated, such as the Humboldt River.

Groundwater and surface water are not separate but, instead, are linked systems. Depleting the flow of a stream can result in declining groundwater levels and, likewise, pumping groundwater can draw water from a stream, reducing its flow. Pump enough and you can dry up the surface water -- streams or springs. It has happened throughout Nevada as groundwater pumping was approved, for example, in Ash Meadows’ famous Devil’s Hole spring.

Unfortunately, the effect of over-pumping doesn’t show up right away.

Please see PROPOSED BILL, page 5.

Bookshelf

EMPTY PLANET: THE SHOCK OF GLOBAL POPULATION DECLINE

By Darrell Bricker
& John Ibbitson

Penguin Random House: 2019.

THE AUTHORS GIVE US A TITLE, “Empty Planet”, that seems to be just another treatise on doomsday for the Earth. However, this should not dissuade the reader, because the book is well-written, well-argued, and well-substantiated.

It is certainly not a cold, dry, contemporary look at population, but is warm and ends positively. The authors did their research through discussions with real people in countries from the poorest to the richest, as well as assembling the latest statistics on population, fertility rates, and death rates. Added to those are an impressive assemblage of survey revelations and other relevant cultural signs.

With the downward trajectory of fertility rates everywhere, they conclude that the world population will follow the United Nation’s “low variant” prediction of 8.5 million humans around 2050 and then go down to 7.0 billion by 2100.

They see the UN’s high-variant and medium-variant predictions as badly out-of-step with the current declines in fertility rates, with few exceptions, across the globe. They also point to the normalization of “small family” thinking in most of the world’s cultures. This is a result of several factors like available birth control, women’s rights, urbanization, and weakening of religious constraints.

So, what does our world look like with declining population? The subtitle “The Shock of Global Population Decline” seems ominous. Until the last chapter, though, the authors are not clear on whether a decline is positive or negative overall. They do hasten to strongly point out many of the disadvantages of aging population profiles.

In the last chapter, “What Lies Ahead”, the authors discuss “a world growing smaller in numbers by choice.” In completely unmasking their feelings, they say “We believe there will be much about that world to admire. It will be cleaner, safer, quieter.” On the important subject of peace, they say “...the world could enter a new era of peace: a geriatric peace.”

What environmentalists will find missing here is any real discussion of the effect of our current, and growing, population on the planet. As we ease up and over the population peak, will

Please see EMPTY PLANET, page 5.

Outlook: Rivers benefit from February '19 snow & rain

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

February snow and rain in California and Nevada quickly took a slightly below average winter season at the beginning of the year to well above average by the beginning of March. February snow in the Sierra set a record, with as much as 400 inches of snow falling in and around the Lake Tahoe basin.

As of this writing on March 1† the Truckee River watershed stood at 141% of average precipitation and Lake Tahoe at 136% of average. Lake Tahoe rose over a foot during February, much of it from precipitation directly on its surface. If the Sierra and western Nevada



Snow-covered Peavine Mountain from Reno's Rancho San Rafael Park in mid-February '19.

continue to receive average snow and rainfall during March, there will be continued above average flows in rivers and streams in California and Nevada.

Other Nevada river basins also are currently above average††: Carson River basin, 120%; Walker River basin, 136%; Humboldt River basin, 115-117%. Likewise, the runoff forecast for the Colorado River has improved with additional precipitation in the Rocky Mountains during February.

The remainder of the winter season will determine just how significant the runoff will be for the 2018-19 water year. Continuing wet weather will mean additional runoff to positively benefit the rivers, streams, and terminal lakes of Nevada that were negatively affected by the dry winters from 2012 through 2016, as well as the overall dry conditions that have prevailed in the western U.S. since the beginning of the century.

† The water year runs from October 1 to September 30.

†† Percent of average is a floating value based on the historic average for a given date.

EMPTY PLANET . . .

continued from page 4

we be able to escape drastic global warming, severe degradation of agricultural lands, unchecked pollution of lands and oceans, and extinction of many species? Many investigators already estimate that the Earth's current population is using several times the resources that the Earth can offer on a sustainable basis. Will the resources hold out until the low variant prediction takes hold?

-- review by David von Segger
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

National Resource Management Act Congress hits a bipartisan home run for the environment

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Perhaps in response to the many hardships and frustrations of the government shutdown from December through January, the Senate quickly approved a package of over 100 separate public lands bills, the National Resource Management Act, by a 92-8 vote. Two weeks later, the House approved S.47, also by a bi-partisan 363-62 vote. The entire Nevada delegation -- senators and representatives -- voted yea. **The legislation now goes to the President for his signature. The question is . . . will he sign it?**

The legislation would designate over a million acres of wilderness, 367 miles of scenic rivers, 2600 miles of national trails, create four new national monuments, and expand two national parks and a national preserve in California: Death Valley NP, Joshua Tree NP, and Mojave NP. It does include some provisions not supported by conservationists, but the bill was endorsed by the Sierra Club and over 200 organizations, nationwide.

The measure also permanently re-authorizes the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal program established in the 1960s to use up to \$900M of revenues from fees and royalties on off-shore oil and gas drilling to pay for many conservation programs on public and private lands each year. Congress must authorize funding for the LWCF annually, but often siphons these revenues from the LWCF in order to finance other budget items.

One of the LWCF's most popular programs, the State Grants Program, provides matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments, for acquisition and development of parks and recreation sites. Since 1965, over 40,000 projects in every county in the United States have been funded, providing \$3.9 billion, according to the Department of the Interior (which administers the LWCF).

In Nevada, according to a report by Investigate West, a non-profit investigative news organization, the LWCF funded 323 projects in Nevada between 1965 and 2011 for over \$40 million (e.g., Sand Harbor State Park at Lake Tahoe). Just about every kind of recreation project has been funded: parks, playgrounds, restrooms, maintenance facilities, fishing ponds, shade structures, campgrounds, trailheads, land acquisition, events centers, plans, visitor surveys, skateboard parks, sports complexes, erosion control, golf course irrigation, swimming pools, etc.

"What a treasure the LWCF has been to Nevada," said Dennis Ghiglieri, Chapter Conservation Chair. "We look forward to thanking the Nevada delegation for supporting this bill which has been so beneficial to Nevada and other states for outdoor recreation and requesting their support for increased funding appropriations for the LWCF in 2019 and future years."

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR
JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE

PROPOSED BILL . . .

continued from page 4

It might take a decade or more – and it takes far longer after groundwater pumping stops to make up the deficit. Many of Nevada's rivers and springs are losing flow due to groundwater pumping, as on the Walker River and in Moapa Valley.

AB51 would allow the State Engineer to:

- continue to allow damage to surface water caused by newer groundwater pumping, or
- possibly require the groundwater pumper to provide "replacement water" (e.g., another groundwater well), or
- possibly levy a tax on the groundwater user to "compensate" the surface water user for the loss of water caused by the groundwater pumping, and
- possibly tax the water users for administering the program.

One clear result of this law change would be that groundwater pumping would continue into the future, drying the affected surface water source in perpetuity.

The Sierra Club and numerous other organizations oppose AB51 (and a companion measure, AB30). See the article in this issue: "NV water grab drama continues" or go to "sierraclub.org/toiyabe" and click on "News".

DIRECTOR'S ESSAY . . .

continued from page 1

tainable communities. We're coordinating as never before, and we're speaking more often as one voice pursuing common goals.

Consensus is even growing among stakeholders who share little else in common. In past years, proposals to sell off or transfer federally managed public lands to state or private interests met fierce opposition from people on all sides of the political spectrum — from ranchers to sportsmen and staunch conservatives. And February's hearings in the Nevada Legislature regarding legislation to further the Las Vegas Water Grab was similarly opposed by almost all stakeholders. It turns out, we Westerners love our public lands, and we appreciate the value of water.

A saying keeps playing in my mind: Democracy belongs to those who show up. And from my perch in this moment in history, I'm seeing environmental protection gain a stronger voice. And the ever-hopeful part of me says we are being effective, especially as more of you join in.

Thank you to everyone who has dedicated your time and energy supporting the Sierra Club and environmental causes in general. At times, you may feel alone and

powerless, but your influence is greater than you perceive. The Toiyabe Chapter is becoming stronger and more influential, thanks to you.

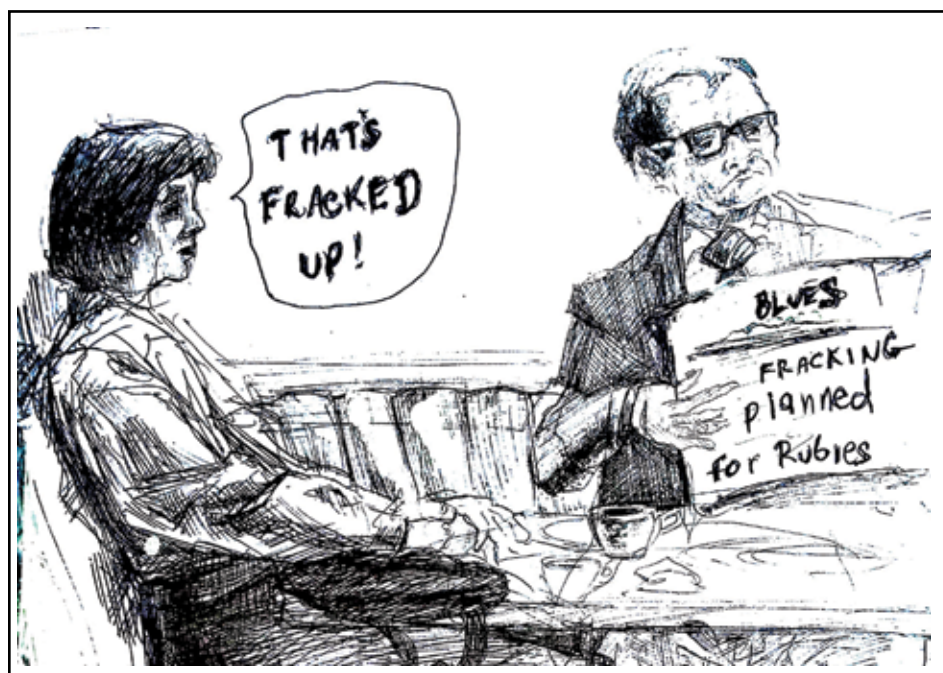
For those of you who haven't engaged, and who have a nagging voice inside somewhere wanting to work to make a difference on an issue that's dear to you, there's no better time than now to get involved. Join us, and let's change the world.

What you can do. To volunteer for the Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter, call me at 775-848-7783.

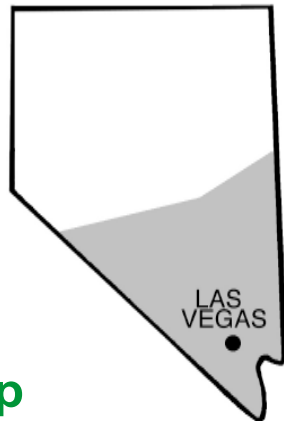
CHAPTER EXCOM 2019 . . .

continued from page 1

Great Basin Group Rep,
Katy Christensen
S. Nevada Group rep, Janet Carter
Tahoe Area Group Rep,
none at present
At Large
Ann Brauer
Rory Lamp
Laura Richards
Tobi Tyler
Emily Woodall



The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

SN leaders land exciting day jobs in NV government

DURING THE PAST YEAR, NOT ONE, NOT TWO, BUT THREE of the volunteer leaders of the Southern Nevada Group have taken positions with the state's delegation to the federal legislature. **Executive Committee members Verna Mandez and Naomi Lewis** are now working for *U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez-Masto and Jacky Rosen*, respectively, while **Vice Chair Vinny Spotleson** has been appointed by *U.S. Representative Dina Titus* to serve as her new District Director.

Please join us in congratulating these fine Sierra Club members, who will now put their passion for the environment to work in the offices

of three of our most powerful elected officials. Well done!

The downside of these hirings is that we are losing three key volunteers due to federal conflict-of-interest restrictions. That means we have vacancies on our Executive Committee, and one of them could be yours. If you have an interest in helping guide our efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect the local environment, please contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com). We can't guarantee it will lead to a job inside the beltway, but it can put you in a position of influence, and obviously it's a plus on one's resume. For sure!

Meetings & events

ExCom meetings

Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 5:30 to 8p at the Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas 89107. Please join us on **April 3, May 1 or June 5.**

New Members' Orientation

Among other events scheduled at the office, there's a New Members Orientation coming up on **Wednesday, May 22 from 6pm.** It's an opportunity for members new and old,

as well as prospective members, to learn all about our organization and activities in Southern Nevada. Light refreshments will be served, and family members are welcome. Also look for notices of activities via email, on the Chapter website and on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club - Southern Nevada Group).

DEADLINE!

JUNE 1

FOR JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Janet Carter*		jkumar167@aol.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bobby Mahendra*		candidate@bobbymahendra.com
	Verna Mandez		mandezvl@gmail.com
	Naomi Lewis		lewis.naomi10@gmail.com
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	Eric Young		erichtheredrock@gmail.com
Las Vegas ICO	Betty Gallifent		lasvegasico702@gmail.com
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Open		
Green Burials	Dennis Raatz		runwa2001@yahoo.com
Political	Open		
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Recycling	Mhansi Pandhi		lover4chocolate@yahoo.com
Transportation	Najea Rodgers		najea.asani@gmail.com
Webmaster	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.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.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng, and please "like" our page.

APRIL 2 (TUESDAY)

Primary Election Day. The polls are open from 7am to 7pm for Primary Municipal Elections, including Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Boulder City. Be sure to vote for environmental champions. Let's Make America Green Again!

APRIL 7 (SUNDAY)

First Aid/CPR Training. We've arranged with Red Cross Certified Trainer Stephen Goldstein to provide group instruction in First/Aid and CPR at our Las Vegas office. Training is available free of charge to current Sierra Club and Las Vegas ICO Outings Leaders, as well as members who have completed the OLT 101 training in preparation for Outings Leader certification. For details and to enroll, contact tajainlay@aol.com.

APRIL 9 (TUESDAY)

High Clearance Expedition Thru Rainbow Gardens. Rainbow Gardens Area of Critical Environmental Concern is located E of Frenchman Mountain on E side of Las Vegas. It is a wilderness of colorful sedimentary formations intruded by volcanics. We'll circumnavigate Rainbow Gardens, stopping to take photographs and short hikes. Total distance in vehicles in park is about 20 mi. Space limited by number of high clearance vehicles available. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com).

APRIL 11 (THURSDAY)

Desert Hills Mountain Bike Trails. Five-mile loop with 500 ft gain. Great views from this ridge hike on SW side of Las Vegas. This hike is like walking on top of world! May have a beautiful spring bloom. Guided/silent meditation before lunch. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

APRIL 13 (SATURDAY)

Eldorado Overlook, McCullough Range (Black Mountain). An 8-mile mod. RT hike across breadth of this mountain range with minimal gain of about 400 ft. What mammals roam this area and how have they adapted to survive in city margin? Level 3. Dogs allowed. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)

Top of LaMadre Ridge, Red Rock Canyon NCA. A 7-mile mod. strenuous hike with well over 1000 ft gain from Willow Spring to LaMadre Spring, then along a flowing stream and up-canyon to a miners' cabin, mine shaft, and eventually to top of ridge line. Most of hike is along a riparian zone which has

an abundance of water insects, birds, and vegetation. What is a riparian zone? Level 4. Dogs allowed. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

APRIL 22 (MONDAY)

Earth Day. This year's theme is "Protect Our Species." The goal is to "raise awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences of this phenomenon." For details, visit www.earthday.org.

APRIL 23-25 (TUESDAY-THURSDAY)

Basin and Range National Monument. Join guest leader, Jim Boone, on a visit to Nevada's new Basin & Range National Monument near Alamo, Nevada. We will leave Tuesday morning, stay in a motel in Alamo for two nights, and return on Thursday afternoon. Plans include a drive through Monument, short hikes, pulling bird-killing mining claim pipes, and studying petroglyphs. Leaders: biologist Jim Boone (BirdandHike.com) and geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

APRIL 27 (SATURDAY)

Lovell Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA. A 7-mile mod. RT hike which passes through foothills with a view of Mt. Griffith Peak. Depending on ground moisture levels, we may see wild flowers. How long can a seed stay dormant in dry conditions? Level 3. Dogs allowed. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

Mountain Springs Trailhead, Spring Mountains NRA. Covering 5 mi, with 1200 ft gain, this is an out-and-back hike, steadily uphill. View Las Vegas from 4400 ft above Strip. Gorgeous views of back side of Red Rock Canyon. I rate this hike as similar to hiking Mary Jane Falls, only a little longer. Short guided/silent meditation on top of mountain. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341)

MAY 18 (SATURDAY)

Lee Canyon Overlook, Spring Mountains NRA. A 10-mile mod. strenuous RT hike up Trail Canyon to North Loop and finally to ridgeline. Hike through three different climate zones, starting with ponderosa pine grove, then aspen grove, and finally to where bristlecone trees grow. What is a mountain biome? Level 5. Dogs allowed. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 7.

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

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499-9218).

MAY 22 (WEDNESDAY)

New Member Orientation. Our first orientation of the year is open not only to new and prospective members but also to current members with an interest in learning more about the Sierra Club, the Toiyabe Chapter, and the Southern Nevada Group. We will be meeting from 6pm for about 90 minutes at the Sierra Club Office at 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas 89107. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

MAY 25-27 (SATURDAY-MONDAY)

Telescope Peak, Death Valley National Park. Three days and two nights of car camping at Mahogany Flat campsite. We will drive off to Death Valley on Saturday morning, set up camp by noon, then do some exploring. Next day we'll get up early, have a nice breakfast, then head up the mountain for a strenuous hike. What geologic event caused this valley to sink? Everyone is responsible for bringing their own daypack, backpacking tent, sleeping bag, food, drink and gear. We can coordinate to bring food to share at our cookouts at night and for breakfast. High clearance four-wheel drive needed to drive up to campground. About 14 mi RT, 3000 ft gain. Level 5. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

MAY 27 (MONDAY)

Memorial Day at Big Falls (Mt. Charleston). Hike in Kyle Canyon to Big Falls – one of the treasures of Spring Mountains NRA – a 100 ft high waterfall. On way up, we'll examine a feature I've interpreted as a glacial moraine. This is the perfect time of year to be hiking on our beautiful High Country trails. Boulder and log scrambling for 2 mi unless there is still a carpet of snow. Have Spring Mountains been glaciated? If so, what geologic features would we expect to find? About 4 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com).

MAY 30-JUNE 4 (THURSDAY-TUESDAY)

Escalante Backpack. This Utah trip will get to Neon Canyon, starting either at Harris Wash or 25-Mile Wash (preferred). It will be 30 mi with pack, using the Harris route or 34 mi RT using 25-Mile Wash route. There is little elevation change either way. Both routes have dramatic scenery, including narrows. Ringtail Slot and Neon Canyon will be explored with day packs. If we come via Harris, we can also explore Choprook Canyon -- a long slot canyon. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet, as we'll be wading much of time. Mod. backpack. Limit 10. Do keep in mind that 'mod.' in backpacking is not same as in day hiking due to weight of pack, although we do fewer mi per day. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 702-875-4826, email preferred).

JUNE 6 (THURSDAY)

Courgar Ridge Trail/Road. This side

road off Deer Creek road offers some interesting history and scenic views. See \$1,000,000 mansion at end of road. About 4 mi, 1000 ft gain. Short guided/silent meditation before lunch. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

June 10 (Monday)

Upper Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon (Mt. Charleston). In Spring Mountains NRA, we take this scenic trail from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road. Then we take switchbacks up to top of ridge and loop back, reaching an elevation of 10,000 ft. We hike through strange, ancient and, some say, enchanted, Bristlecone Forest. Five mi RT, 800 ft gain. How old are bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of the road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com).

JUNE 11 (TUESDAY)

General Election Day. The polls are open from 7am to 7pm for General Municipal Elections, including Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Boulder City. Be sure to vote for environmental champions. Let's Make America Green Again!

JUNE 16-21 (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)

Parunuweap Canyon. This is a canyon not often visited; it's E of Zion, Utah, but not in any park or within any other boundary. No permit is needed. This 30-mile RT backpack has little elevation change and is recommended for middle to late June, when water conditions are best. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet as we'll be wading much of time. There are several side slot canyons to explore along way and main canyon becomes a narrows similar to Zion Narrows. Mileage of carrying backpack is around 23 mi. Mod. backpack. Limit 12. Do keep in mind that 'mod.' in backpacking is not the same as in day hiking, due to weight of pack, although we do fewer mi per day. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 702-875-4826, email preferred).

SAVE DATES!

JULY 27-AUGUST 3 (SATURDAY-SATURDAY)

Glacier NP Service Project, MT. We'll be assisting National Park Service in beautiful West Glacier, Montana, with their Native Plant Nursery and Citizen Science program. Camping is at Apgar Campground; Park Service will provide all tools and safety equipment. Mod. difficulty, Level 3. Leader: Stan Peyton (stanpeyton@gmail.com, 702-347-3331).

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
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JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE

Las Vegas ICO : Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Stepping into Queendom in the Calico Hills

BY TONY FOUNTAIN

In mid-February, the Las Vegas ICO welcomed 10 young women, ages 15-23, to the Calico Hills of Red Rock Canyon. These young women were participating in a special program with the Nevada Partners community agency entitled Stepping into Queendom. The point of the program is to give young women a safe and fun outlet to discuss everyday issues and tackle important subjects such as: Healthy Relationships, Work, Families, Friends, Body Image, Who Am I?, Emotional Wellness, and Financial Freedom. This weekly support group gives young them an opportunity to gain exposure to outside activities such as camping trips and college tours.

Our hiking objective was to reach the shelf overlooking the main Calico Tank. Although the weather started out a little chilly, the spirit of these young women was bright and they were eager to take on the challenge of hiking two miles with just under 600 ft elevation gain.

During the hike one of the representatives from Nevada Partners led the group in a couple of pauses to discuss maintain-

hiker and her partner came over and applauded the girls for their enthusiasm and positivity.

As we reached the top, they kept repeating to each other, "We did this; we did this!" There's nothing like the feeling of accomplishment when you complete something you've never

dreamed you would ever do. ICO helped these young women achieve this goal.

What you can do. To find out how you can support ICO in their efforts to get more urban youth into the outdoors, contact us at: lasveg-asico702@gmail.com, or on Facebook at: Las Vegas ICO.

* "graupel" are snow pellets -- soft, small pellets of ice

created when supercooled water droplets coat a snowflake



Queens of Calico Hills.



Trailhead talk by ICO Leader Tony

ing a life's purpose and how to manage setbacks. We scrambled up and down a few challenging slots and enjoyed several waves of graupel* that left clothing and hair sprinkled with some of nature's purest frozen liquid.

As one participant exclaimed, "I feel like I'm in another country." The girls broke into song on a few occasions -- motivational type camp songs. This brought smiles to the faces of other hikers who were passing by. One



Conquering a challenging trail. All photos: Cynthia Regidor.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group

Group News

BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR

X-C Skiers & Snowshoers!

Please use the Mountain Hub app to record your non-motorized recreational outing. The app, Mountain Hub, is a phone app that will track your route while you ski/snowshoe. It is important that the USFS know where there is non-motorized recreation! Your observations will help guide the USFS subpart C Winter Travel Management policy.

Also, pick up our 2019 Blue Diamond Nordic Routes map at the USFS Visitor Center to ski historic ungroomed routes in and around the Mammoth Knolls, Inyo Craters and Obsidian Dome.

Water Grab Update

In September, Sierra Club joined Mono County's CEQA complaint against LADWP that the withholding of irrigation water by LADWP negatively impacts the environment. LADWP then filed a demur asking the court to dismiss the CEQA complaint, challenging whether it is legal to file this complaint now. LADWP argues that the time to have filed was years ago when the Long Valley grazing leases were renewed in 2009-2010.

What you can do. The judge recently denied LADWP's demur, so the CEQA complaint stands. The next step will be a hearing to present the merits of the CEQA complaint. No date has been set for that yet. If you would like to help, please write Mayor Garcetti or the LADWP Commissioners:

- **MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI**, City of Los Angeles, 200 North Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (mayor.garcetti@lacity.org)

- **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power, Room 1555-H, 15th Floor, 111 North Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Inyo NF Plan Objection Meeting Update

On February 19-20, USFS Region 5 Deputy Regional Foresters and the Inyo National Forest Supervisor met with objectors and interested persons to review their key comments to the revised Inyo National Forest Management Plan and related EIR documents (released last August). The revised plan will be guiding the Inyo NF staff for the next 20 years. Some members of the Sierra Club were interested persons.

The Forest Service listened to everyone's concerns and noted what actions they will follow up on. There will be changes to the EIR, which may change the Record of Decision and the resulting forest management plan.

The Club's main goals included increasing wildlife and watershed protections, working to get more Inyo Forest roadless areas recommended as wilderness, and getting more streams deemed eligible for Wild & Scenic River protections. A dozen interested persons presented photos and spoke passionately for wilderness for a variety of reasons.

The speakers made a strong impression. Wilderness designations require acts of Congress, but having the USFS agree that an area qualifies as wilderness helps. The topics with the most contention were (1) about logging policies before and after wildfires and (2) how best



Mono Lake Needs YOU!

Be a volunteer at Mono Lake this summer and meet visitors from all over the world while sharing your knowledge of the Eastern Sierra.



Volunteers are very important to the visitor experience! There are opportunities to rove and answer questions at the shore and/or visitor center, guide group tours and help with trail maintenance and weed removal. An 8 hour commitment per month, June through September, is requested. Participants must be at least 18 years old, able to walk short distances and stand for 2 hours in sunny locations.

Free Training Sessions

May 31–June 2, 2019

Friday & Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

Volunteers are required to attend all training sessions. Please contact Jessica Horn at Jessica@monolake.org or call 760-647-6595 for more info or to sign up.



Sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee, U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks,

to deal with bark beetle tree kills.

Thanks go to our local Sierra Club Organizer, **Fran Hunt**, for her work to get local voices for wildlands and wildlife to attend this meeting and speak as inter-

ested persons. We also thank the USFS staff and all objectors and interested persons involved in this process for the thoughtful and important conversations about forest management.

Electric vehicle charging stations 101

BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR

THERE ARE THREE ESSENTIAL things to know about EV Charging Stations.

First, there are two categories of EVs: Teslas and then all other makes (i.e., Chevy, Ford, Nissan, BMW, et al.) Only Teslas can charge at the Tesla quick charging stations at Topaz, Mammoth, Lone Pine, and Pearsonville.

Second, there are 3 levels of chargers. Level 1 is your everyday outlet and it will take all day to charge a car. Level 2 is a 220 outlet and it will take 4-8 hours to charge a car. Level 3 is the quick charger and only takes 20-30 minutes to charge a car. However, a Level 3 charger requires

480v, DC, and costs over \$50,000.

The **third** thing to know is that there is a "universal" charger (J1772) that will work for non-Tesla cars and will work for Tesla cars with an adapter.

To support non-Tesla EV car ownership and move away from fossil fuels, every town in the Eastern Sierra should have Level 2 chargers with public access. Funding and rebates are available that can make them very reasonable to install.

What you can do. If you would like to bring Level 2 chargers to your town, contact Don Condon, your Eastern Sierra Electric Auto Association representative, at condon.don@gmail.com.

— Sign up —

for Toiyabe Chapter's monthly e-newsletter

Toiyabe Trails is just part of the story. Catch up with more news, events, and action alerts in the Toiyabe Chapter's new monthly e-newsletter. If you're not getting it already, send an email to toiyabe.chapter@sierraclub.org, and we'll make sure you're on the list.

Make a tree happy! Get your Trails online

Opt out of the paper *Toiyabe Trails* and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at "optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org" (put that address in the "To" line). Then put "optout" in the "Subject" line — that's all you have to do.



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint	N/A
Special Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49	
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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our activities, allow broad advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter membership.



Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org