



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

TOIYABE JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2019 TRAILS

SUMMER OUTINGS Issue

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

From the Chair

What does Toiyabe Chapter do, anyway?

BY ANNE MACQUARIE
(ANNEMACQUARIE@GMAIL.COM)

SOMETIMES MEMBERS TELL ME they don't quite know what the Toiyabe Chapter does. Over the past few months I've become acutely aware of the range of issues the Chapter and our four Groups deal with -- a new challenge or opportunity walks in the door almost every day. So I thought I'd share some of them with you -- to give you a sense of what we do.

- In April, a Chapter team led by David von Seggern commented on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for renewal of the Special

Please see *WHAT DOES TOIYABE CHAPTER DO*, page 5.

SCAM alert! Protect yourself!

The Toiyabe Chapter and some of its leaders were recently attacked by a "phishing" scam, in which a criminal posing as a Chapter leader asked others via email for an "emergency" transfer of funds. Unfortunately, *at least two people fell victim* to the ruse. Don't become the next victim.

No Chapter leader will ever contact you asking for an emergency transfer of funds. If you receive such a request, do not comply. Instead, contact that Chapter leader (do not respond to the suspect email) to verify the request. And report the criminal attempt to the FBI.



The Baker Bucket, a symbol of opposition to the proposed pipeline from rural Nevada to Las Vegas, was brought to the Capitol for a news conference publicizing opposition to AB30. Please see Anne Brauer's article on page 5 for details.

Three ways to make a difference every day

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

I love Earth Day, because it gives me and other activists opportunities to attend community events, build stronger friendships with members and other activists we already know, and make new friends with people who are interested in making a difference for our planet. And with nearly a dozen Earth Day events across the Toiyabe Chapter, April 2019 was the busiest Earth Month yet for us.

But then it ends, and most people return to their daily lives — in which many drive too much, buy too much, and pay too much attention to the distractions marketed to us on TV and the internet — leaving little evidence they have changed habits enough to heal our Mother Earth.

I'm sure we all agree Earth deserves more than one day of activities and news coverage. And certainly, the headlines tell us every day we need more sweeping change to turn the tide of environmental degradation we face on almost every front. That means more people doing more things that support the Earth, not destroy it.

But what can one person do? How can you change the world from your little corner in it? It's true that, statistically, one vote in an election rarely makes a difference (though it's happening more frequently). It's also true that when enough people jump into the pool, we can make some meaningful waves (as with Nevada in the last election).

As a member of the Sierra Club,

you probably already do more than most; you're more likely to make environmentally-friendly consumer decisions, and you're more likely to speak out (or write your government representatives) about issues that matter to you.

Which makes you a leader. Because you "get it" already, you are in a better position to inspire others to make meaningful actions of their own. And Earth needs more environmental leaders.

Here are *three ways you can make a difference* to your community and your planet:

1. Pilot projects. The challenges we face are big ones—climate disruption, mono-crop industrial agriculture, consumerism, etc. If our planet is suffering a death of a thousand cuts, we can rehabilitate it with a thousand healing salves. What is one thing you can do today that will make a difference? Plant a garden (or even just a few tomatoes), install a solar panel, commit to re-useable bags and utensils, drive less, walk more, buy local. And talk about it, not in a braggy, holier-than-thou way, but in an I-care-and-am-trying-to-do-my-part way, to show people what is possible, and demonstrate that little things can add up. Not only will your project show other people what is possible, but it might inspire them and help them to understand that environmental

Please see *MAKE A DIFFERENCE*, page 2.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 8a-5p
Sept 14, 2019
Reno NV or Lee Vining 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. (telecons are evening meetings by teleconference, often third Thursday of month, start at 7 pm and end by 8:30 pm). Please contact Chapter Chair for information on how to join the meeting by phone or computer. 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.

What's your legacy?

BY BRIAN BEFFORT

YOU CAN ENSURE YOUR LOVE FOR people, wildlife and our Earth continues to make a difference well into the future by designating a bequest or other planned gift to the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. Other donors like you have given bequests and planned gifts to the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club has the power and history to ensure your gift continues working for generations to come. The Toiyabe Chapter has the capacity to put your gift to work right here in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra.

You can make the Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter a beneficiary of ...

- your will or estate

Please see *WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?*, page 2.

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Great Basin Gatherings

Great Basin Group

Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON, GREAT BASIN GROUP CHAIR

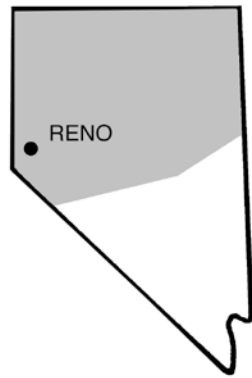
Great Basin Group Monthly Programs for Fall 2019. The GBG hosts monthly programs at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month, *except June, July and August.* Please see outings websites for more details.

The planned Fall programs include: **"Tahoe Myth Bustin"** (Tahoe Institute for Natural Science) on **September 12**; **"Gold Butte National Monument"** on **October 10** (Friends of Gold Butte); and **"Final Resource Management Plan for BLM Carson City District"** on **November 14**. Please note that the social hour begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the program at 7 pm.

Great Basin Group Annual Members Picnic. The GBG annual members' picnic is scheduled for **AUGUST 18, 2019, from 3-6 pm** at the Bear Mat group site in Galena Creek Park. Bring a favorite dish to share, along with your drinks and non-disposable plates/flatware. The grill will be fired up too. All members and their families are welcome!

Outings. Many, many hikes are planned for Summer 2019. GBG's motto is, "We Get YOU Outdoors!" Join us by checking these websites: www.meetp.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno and www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events. Great Basin Group wishes to extend a big outdoor welcome to our new Outings co-Chairs, Rob & Rhonda Jarrett. We look forward to their combined leadership and new ideas!

Webmaster. A note of appreciation to Rhonda Jarrett, who has accepted the role of webmaster for the Great Basin Group.



Tahoe-Pyramid Trail Project. Congratulations to all who have worked to bring the Tahoe Pyramid Trail project near to completion; this long, non-motorized trail system down the Truckee River between Lake Tahoe and Sparks will be fully open this year. Some sections between Sparks and Pyramid Lake are still under planning. Great Basin Group members use parts of this non-motorized trail for scheduled hikes and for personal recreation. Great Basin Group is adopting a portion of this trail (west of Verdi, NV) to monitor and keep clean. The Tahoe Pyramid Trail has an excellent website at <https://tahoepyramidtrail.org/> with interactive maps and comprehensive information.

Truckee Meadows Trails. During this past spring, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency has stepped up to merge non-motorized trail information from many outdoor groups. The Great Basin Group contribution was of substantial impact. Over a hundred participants at workshops provided new and complementary information to design a more-connected and more-usable trail system for the Reno/Sparks area.

Great Basin Group ExCom. The GBG ExCom meets at 5:30pm at Swill Coffee & Wine on the first Tuesday of the month, *except during summer months.* All are welcome! Check website for updates on location.

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
Outings	Rob Jarrett	
Webmaster	Rhonda Jarrett	

WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY? . . .

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- your retirement plans (including IRA, 401(k), 403(b), & others)
- your life insurance policy or bank account

One of the simplest and most "tax-wise" ways to make a gift to charity is through your IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement plan. Why? Considerable taxes may result when your retirement plan is distributed directly to an estate or to heirs.

In your estate plan, will, or your beneficiary designation form, specify the following: Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter. Tax ID: 94-1153307

If you would like to give a tax-deductible gift to the Toiyabe Chapter, contact:

**Sierra Club Foundation,
Toiyabe Chapter
2101 Webster Street, Suite 1250
Oakland, CA 94612
Tax ID: 94-6069890**

Consult with your estate planning advisor to chart the best course for your planned giving. If you would like to share your plans with us, contact Toiyabe Chapter Chair Anne Macquarie (775-303-2562) or Chapter Director Brian Beffort (775-848-7783). We want to make sure we direct your gift according to your wishes.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE . . .

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progress (and problems) result from myriad actions.

2. Invite someone new. This planet needs more people doing more good things (or fewer bad ones). Invite a friend to brainstorm solutions with you. Join together to volunteer for a local service project. Support each other as you each speak before a city council. Team up to organize a letter-writing potluck party. This kind of work is more fun when we can make friends and support each other along the way.

3. Practice compassion and kindness. Partisan bickering and finger-pointing are part of the problem. We will not heal the Earth until we can heal our relationships with each other. Distasteful though it may be, find common ground with someone who disagrees with you on a particular topic. One good strategy is to listen. Say, "tell me more about why you support x." And when they're done telling you, say simply, "well, I don't necessarily agree, but I appreciate hearing your perspective. It's helping me learn about the issue."

Compassion includes you, too. Be gentle with yourself. Take a hike, take a break, smell the flowers, stop



Sheldon NWR. Photo: Brian Beffort.

for sunsets, get enough sleep, and eat well. Saving the planet is a marathon, not a sprint. We need you refreshed and recharged for the next steps in the journey.

Most important. Do something. Your actions will inspire others to act on their own, spreading ripples of good work across the water. And that's how we build a movement that heals the world.

100 Things You Can Do. These are just a few ideas. Similar conversations among Toiyabe Chapter Excom members inspired us to create a **"100 Things You Can Do"** page on the Toiyabe Chapter Website. Find it in the "Get Involved" page on the Chapter

DEADLINE!
SEPT 1
FOR
OCT - NOV - DEC ISSUE

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact
Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



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.

How to become an outings leader

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

Sierra Club outings leaders meet regularly to keep current on leader training and updated on new information. The meeting typically starts with social time for leaders to connect, shared yummy potluck food, and then the business meeting for deciding on the next quarter's outings.

This month we welcomed our new Outings Chairs, Robert and Rhonda Jarrett. They have led group outings for a number of years and will be an asset to the program in their additional role.

Thanks to Roleigh for hosting this month's meeting and thanks to Rob and Rhonda for volunteering to run the Outings program.

If you are interested in connecting people to the outdoors and becoming a Sierra Club leader, the minimum requirements are:

- be a Sierra Club member and at least 18 years old

- complete a basic (or higher) first aid class
- complete the Sierra Club Outing Leader Training 101 -- and OLT 201 if you are interested in overnight outings away from cars
- possess skills appropriate for the activities of the trip
- complete additional training as required by your Outings Chair
- be an Assistant Leader on a trip
- receive approval to lead outings from the Outings Chair

And, of course, join us out on the trail!

Range of Light SPRING-SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY

ALL PHOTOS BY JOANNE HIHN
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Summer might be "icumen in," but here in the Eastern Sierra, winter weather still surprises and perplexes us. During this past unusual winter season, leaders needed to be particularly creative as they found places to ski, snowshoe, and (yes) hike. Several ski and snowshoe trips visited one of our favorite places

outside of Mammoth Lakes -- The Knolls. We followed Blue Diamond routes into this lovely forested area which is part of Inyo National Forest.



Celebrate TWO 2019 Wild Anniversaries with Chapter & Group outings!

It's hard to believe it will be the 30th anniversary for Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 and the 25th for California Desert Protection Act. These landmark decisions deserve to be celebrated!

On December 5, 1989, President George Bush signed 13 new Forest Service wildernesses into law in Nevada -- which previously could boast only ONE wilderness area, the Jarbidge from the original 1964 Act. From 1989 the spectacular high spots of most of Nevada's lofty mountain ranges were protected -- for example, Arc Dome in the Toiyabes, the Ruby Mountains Wilderness, and Mt. Charleston in the Spring Mountains.

Five years later, on October 31, 1994, President Clinton signed the California Desert Protection Act -- the largest land protection measure ever passed by Congress other than for Alaska. The Act included two new national parks (from monuments), a national preserve, and 69 new wilderness areas.

What you can do. Outings leaders, take note. These anniversaries can be inviting themes for outings during 2019!

Thanks from a Science Camp 4th grader

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE to help us share the wonders of nature with local children with our Get Kids Outdoors fund. The Sierra Club was able to support children snowshoeing with their classes in February, spend nights in cabins on the shore of Tahoe in April and May, and more classes will hike and study at Tahoe in September.

Fourth graders from Alice Maxwell Elementary in Sparks were so excited and grateful for the opportunity to participate in Great Basin Outdoor School science camps that they re-enacted their entire experience back at school for a special exhibition showing what they had learned, complete with s'mores, astronomy, and activities on birds, trees, web of life, Tahoe, and team building. The children wrote heartfelt letters of thanks, and here is most of one of the best letters:

"I love Great Basin Outdoor School! The food is lovely and it is so peaceful there. Also loved hearing the waves crash. One thing GBOS taught me is I don't need tablets, phones, computers, or any kind of screen in front of

me . . . I loved learning about the stars, also rocks and all the trees. I really liked going birding and hearing the chickadee talk to us. Thank you, GBOS, for giving us the best time ever and making the earth a better place because you guys are right. We only have one and it is our home and we need to take care of it."



Teacher Lori Stock helps with Web of Life game at Great Basin Outdoor School.

What you can do. Please help us share these impactful experiences with more kids. Join us at our annual picnic at Galena Creek on Sunday, August 8 and bring your donations to keep our Get Kids Outdoors fund strong and help us include more children.

S. NEVADA GROUP SERVICE OUTING . . .

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and the last Joshua tree, drove over the mountains through a pinyon-juniper forest, and descended into the Great Basin Desert. We were greeted with spectacular views north across Garden Valley where big sagebrush grows wall to wall as far as the eye can see.

We stopped on a back road and looked across two miles of sagebrush to "City," artist Michael Heizer's enormous land art project. While the sculpture is huge and thought provoking, the sagebrush desert and galloping antelope don't really need scenic improvement, but we are grateful that the Arts Community spent a decade setting the groundwork for the establishment of B&RNM in 2016.

On the way out of B&RNM, we stopped in Coal Valley and knocked down four hollow-pipe mining claim markers. Thankfully, we found no dead birds in the pipes, but we found about 100 dead native bees, and we are

glad that forevermore our efforts will prevent birds and other creatures from becoming trapped and dying inside the markers.

On our last day, we visited a disjunct section of B&RNM, the Shooting Gallery. We viewed some amazing rock stories (petroglyphs), saw where people lived, found a fair bit of lithic scatter, and enjoyed the spring flower display. We missed the upright "shooting gallery" stones, but armed with better knowledge of the site, further research suggests where to look next time. The day was unseasonably hot, so we made a short visit, hastened out by a looming thunderstorm.

All in all, we had a good chance to better know each other, to enjoy some great food at the Alamo Diner, to spend comfortable nights in the Alamo Inn, and to see some great country while engaging in an important service project.

New Desert Wilderness comes to California

On March 12, when the president signed S. 47 -- officially named the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act -- into law, he immediately added five new wilderness areas to California's previous 149. This gives our state 154 wilderness areas, far more than any other state. The five new areas are: Avawatz, Soda Mountains, Great Falls Basin, Buzards Peak, Milpitas Wash. For details and a location map, go to: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/WOW-April-2019.pdf>.

-- from *Words of the Wild*, April 2019, a publication of Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

You need to read this!

Nevada legislature wrapup

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

THE 2019 NEVADA LEGISLATURE is now over. What a difference an election can make! The environmental champions Nevada Sierra Club members helped elect in 2018 passed a raft of good bills to protect clean air and water, public lands, wildlife, public health, and to further development of the renewable energy economy. Although not every deserving bill passed, here's a summary of some highlights:

Bills that passed & were signed into law

SB 358. Increases the percentage of Nevada's electricity from renewable resources to at least 50% by 2030, with a goal of 100% by 2050.

SB 299. Revises provisions relating to the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program; allows for the purchase of electric school buses.

AB 84. Provides more than \$200 million in bonds to allow for habitat restoration, land acquisition, and other projects to protect, preserve, and protect natural and cultural resources in Nevada.

SB 254. The Carbon Bill, which requires the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to issue an annual report concerning greenhouse gas emissions in Nevada; to develop strategies to reduce Nevada's greenhouse gas emissions 28% by 2025 and 45% by 2030, from a 2005 baseline; and to assess whether the above strategies will result in zero or near-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

SB 140. In hydrographic basins where there is still water available for appropriation, this bill reserves 10% of the total amount of water available in the basin as not available for appropriation, in order to maintain environmental function in the area.

AB 163. Requires indoor water conservation, such as water-conserving faucets, showerheads, toilets, etc., in new and renovated homes and buildings, beginning January 1, 2020.

SB 458. Appropriates \$615,000 over the next biennium to be made available to schools to implement school gardens.

AB486. Creates a Division of Outdoor Recreation within the State Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, in order to promote the growth of a sustainable outdoor recreation economy in Nevada that supports economic growth alongside stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

AB465. To expand solar access, requires utilities to offer affordable solar programs to those who can't afford solar panels.

SB 178. Creates the Council on Food Security and the Food for People, Not Landfills program.

AB 93. Tahoe grant funding allows non-profit organizations to receive grants

from the Tahoe license plate program to protect the natural environment in the Lake Tahoe basin.

SB 428. Makes it illegal to park a vehicle in a parking space designated for charging electric or hybrid electric vehicles unless the vehicle is being charged at the charging station.

SB 136. Makes changes to the board of the Tahoe Transportation District by replacing three existing seats with an appointee each from the Governors of Nevada and California and a member of the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

AB205. Requires school districts to use alternative options before using pesticides at schools, and would require school district staff to become trained in Integrated Pest Management.

AB377. Revises provisions governing weight limits on certain vehicles, which will allow for the heavier weight of electric long-haul trucks.

AB54. Sets minimum efficiency standards for light bulbs, in response to a Trump Administration rollback of federal minimum standards for lightbulbs, in order to ensure Nevadans continue to have access to the cheapest and most efficient technology.

SCR5. Expresses support for the role of science in the Lake Tahoe Basin and recognizes the role of the Tahoe Bi-State Executive Committee and the Tahoe Science Advisory Council in guiding environmental preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

SB454. Prohibits harassment of any game mammal or game bird with drones.

SB250. Requires dedicated water rights to be in place before parcel maps can be approved in Nevada.

AB220. Requires issuance of \$8 million in bonds for environmental improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

AB353. Requires Nevada's Legislative Counsel Bureau, state agencies, school districts, and the Nevada System of Higher Education to recycle electronic products.

SB316. Creates a deterrent to keep overzealous property owners from denying access to public lands.

Resolutions that passed

AJR 2. Urges Congress to oppose expansion of the United States Air Force in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada.

AJR7. Urges Congress to oppose the proposed expansion of the Fallon Naval Air Station over more than 600,000 acres of public lands in northern Nevada.

AJR 1. Objects to transfer of radioac-

tive plutonium to this State.

AJR3. Supports the Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan and the Nevada Conservation Credit System.

AJR8. Opposes elimination of the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

SJR7. Supports the Bi-State Working Group on Transportation -- a broad group of stakeholders working on transportation solutions in the Lake Tahoe basin -- in finding solutions to the environmental impacts of 10 million automobiles driving in the Tahoe basin each year.

SCR1. Directs the Legislative Committee on Energy to conduct an interim study concerning the development of renewable energy and clean energy resources in NV.

SJR4. Supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would provide dedicated methods of funding to support conservation of wildlife in the state.

Bills Sierra Club helped kill

AB 30. Would have undermined Nevada water law and aided the Southern Nevada Water Authority in its effort to pump 58 billion gallons of water annually from Eastern Nevada and send it to Las Vegas via a 300-mile, \$15.5 billion pipeline.

AB 51. Would have upended Western water law by undermining the Prior Appropriations doctrine and violating the U.S. Constitution's Takings Clause, by incentivizing monetary payoffs to approve water permits, and validating unsound mitigation schemes in order to compensate those whose property is being taken.

SB168. Would have rolled back energy efficiency standards for new homes and would have compensated that loss with on-site renewable energy system, a waste of resources.

This is only a partial list. Find more details on our blog (<https://www.sierra-club.org/toiyabe/blog>).

Next steps

With the session over and many good laws passed, the Toiyabe Chapter will be working with federal, state and local administrators to implement those laws into good works on the ground and in your community. In particular, our Transportation Team will work on projects to expand charging for electric cars, work with planners to include more walkable communities and mass transit, and urging Nevada to sign on to California Clean Car standards.

We will also be pursuing conversations during the interim about what good ideas need to be introduced as legislation in the 2021 session. These include:

• **Community Solar.** This would allow

those who cannot afford solar panels, renters, landlords, or those with shady roofs, to access the benefits of renewable energy.

• **Plastic bag ban.** Needed because single-use plastics like bags are choking the oceans and our planet.

• **Brownfield incentives.** Build renewable energy developments on already-disturbed lands. We should use roofs, highway medians and other disturbed acres in the state before bulldozing another acre of sensitive wildlife habitat for an industrial solar farm.

• **Building power.** Sierra Club is successful to the degree people like you contribute time, energy and money. The same is true for this last legislative session. We will be reaching out with opportunities to get involved. Please find something that inspires you to action.

What you can do. What else is a priority for you? Let us know, and let's begin the conversations about how to bring healthy bills to the legislature.

In all of this work, we depend on your support. If you'd like to get involved with any of these projects, please contact me at brian.beffort@sierraclub.org. And please donate generously. It makes our work possible.

ANXIOUSLY AWAITING SINE DIE* . . .

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will be using the EPA Water Sense, or equivalent, plumbing fixtures.

SB 140. Climate change brings uncertainty to the amount of recharge to the groundwater basins in our state. Because a large percentage of the basins are already over-appropriated, SB140, which passed both Assembly and Senate without a dissenting vote, requires the State Engineer to reserve 10% of the unappropriated water in the remaining basins. This water is not available for any purpose under the provisions of the final form of the bill. Though this may be a small amount in many of the basins, it is a positive starting place in reserving some water for environmental needs.

As of this writing, Sine Die, the closure of the legislative session, has not occurred. It is scheduled for no later than midnight, June 3. Until then, anything can happen. We are waiting, fingers crossed. Please see Brian Beffort's article on page 1.

Photo Credit: Kyle Roerink. The Baker Bucket, a symbol of opposition to the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed \$15 billion+ water pipeline from several basins in eastern Nevada, usually sits near the entrance to Great Basin National Park in Baker, NV. On May 23 it sat at the capital in Carson City as a backdrop for a news conference held to amplify opposition to AB30, seen by many as a bill that would enable the pipeline.

* The closure of the Nevada Legislative Session.

DEADLINE!
SEPT 1
FOR OCT - NOV - DEC ISSUE

Burning Man's long shadow over Black Rock Desert NCA

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

The Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (hereafter, NCA) is a long name that is reflective of the long list of wonderful assets of this special place in northwest Nevada. Spanning one of Nevada's most remote areas and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the NCA was created by federal legislation in 2000 after a long period of advocacy by the Toiyabe Chapter (Marge Sill, now deceased, being a leading proponent) and other conservation groups.



Burning Man site, 2017. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

Unfortunately, in spite of the proponents' intentions in 2000, and the federal action embodied in legislation, the character and meaning of the NCA has been highly altered by the Burning Man Festival in the years since. The NCA is now synonymous with the Burning Man Festival across the globe, while few today know the original reasons which led to the declaration of the NCA. Emigrant history, wilderness, special habitats and stunning vistas were the driving arguments for the NCA in 2000. Central to the stunning vistas was the enormous Black Rock Desert playa (hereafter, playa).

With about 25,000 participants in 2000, the Burning Man Festival has grown into 75,000+, with an attempt this year to get a recreation permit that will allow it to grow to 100,000 participants. An EIS was prepared this spring by the BLM. As you read this article, the decision will have been made by the BLM on one of the EIS alternatives. The selected alternative will dictate the size of the festival for 2019 and for subsequent years through 2028.

Toiyabe Chapter formally commented on the EIS and concluded we could support none of the alternatives, due to the lack of solid information on past impacts of the festival and due to the lack of monitoring requirements going forward to gain that information. Although the Burning Man organizers have done fairly well in adhering to Leave No Trace principles, many questions remain about the long-term impacts of the event, both natural and sociological.

The Burning Man Festival has cast a long shadow over the NCA, both in time and space. The decision of the BLM on its future will influence how the NCA is perceived -- between the two extremes of a grand natural landscape in the Great Basin and a human-centered playground.

Gold Mine Expansion. As I write, another threat to the character of the NCA has arisen. The owners of the Hycroft Mine (gold) on the east edge of the Black Rock Desert (referred to as the "playa"), near the Emigrant Trail,

want to control an additional 20 square miles of BLM land for mine tailings from expanded operations over the next few decades. The expanded operations would include an additional mining disturbance on

nearly 14 square miles.

An EIS has been prepared for this proposed expansion, and a decision is expected this summer. Currently, tailings from the mine are visible from many parts of the NCA. Substantial viewshed impairments will result from the additional land use requested by the mine, affecting the Emigrant Trail east of the playa.

WHAT DOES TOIYABE CHAPTER DO, ANYWAY? . . .

continued from page 1

Recreation Permit for Burning Man. In our comments we did not support any of the alternatives, in general because of lack of documentation of the environmental effects of the event. Other issues we raised included the event precluding access by others to the NCA during the event, trash, and undocumented impacts on the microfauna of the playa.

- Chapter Executive Committee member Laura organized and led the first in-person meeting of our reorganizing **Public Lands Conservation Team** on April 4. We discussed how to organize our public lands work, communicate, and collaborate better so things don't fall through the cracks.

- The **public lands bill for Pershing County** is moving again. We think it's a difficult bill to get right because Pershing County holds so much of Nevada's "checkerboard" lands. (The checkerboard is a swath of land along the transcontinental railroad right-of-way, where in the 1860s the federal government gave the railroad company alternate sections of public land as payment and incentive for completing the railroad.) We hope to engage in this bill to make sure it protects critical habitat in the checkerboard lands and elsewhere, and does not cut off access to close-in public lands that are used and enjoyed by many Nevadans, especially residents of Winnemucca and Lovelock.

- In the Range of Light Group, Lynn, Fran, and collaborators, have been busy tracking **lithium exploration** activities in the Panamint Valley,

Anxiously awaiting Sine Die*

BY ANN BRAUER

Fortunately for the Toiyabe Chapter we have had a very active Legislative Committee under the leadership of Cassandra Rivas and our Chapter Director, Brian Beffort. Members Tobi Tyler, Laura Richards, Janet Carter, Tina Davis-Hersey, Jenn Cantley, Elspeth Dimarzio, Eymhy Corpus, and yours truly, worked collaboratively to monitor legislation, and write and present testimony on behalf of the Chapter at numerous committee meetings during the session. Additionally, alerts were sent out to a very active list of supporters who responded by adding their comments and recording their support or opposition to bills on many subjects.

Water issues: Bad bills

As in past legislative sessions, water proved to be a contentious issue this session. And, once again, the Toiyabe Chapter worked with a large coalition of like-minded groups to oppose the bad and support the good. Especially helpful in our efforts this session have been Kyle Roerink, the new Executive Director of the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN), and Patrick Donnelly, the Nevada State Director for the Center of Biological Diversity.

AB30. The most controversial bad water bill, AB30 attempted to give the State Engineer the power to use 3M Plans ("Monitoring, Measurement, & Mitigation") to avoid and eliminate conflicts between new applications, protectable interests, and senior water rights holders -- instead of denying such applications outright as required by current water law.

Seen as enabling inter-basin transfers

of water to support growth in the receiving basins and deplete groundwater reserves in the basins of origin, overwhelming opposition to AB30, including by the Toiyabe Chapter, resulted in many proposed changes that brought a large coalition of interests to a guarded neutral position on the bill.

Once out of committee and passed by the Assembly, the debate continued in the Senate Natural Resources Committee with more proposals for changes. No agreement could be reached, and the bill was passed out of committee without recommendation. It was becoming clear that a rush to fix AB30 in the waning days of the session would not result in consensus.

In a final push to defeat the bill, the Baker Bucket, a symbol of opposition to the proposed pipeline from rural Nevada to Las Vegas, was brought to the Capitol. The Bucket served as a backdrop for a news conference on May 23, publicizing opposition to AB30. On May 24, with the growing and vocal opposition, the Governor decided to pull the bill. During the interim, the various parties will work together to see if agreement can be reached on how to use 3M plans.

AB62. Another controversial bill, AB62, addressed extensions of time to complete works and put water to beneficial use. Longer extensions were slated for the largest users, which would have, in the view of the opposition, created classes of water rights holders, an unacceptable inequity. Although the bill did pass out of the Assembly, it met with resistance in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Rather than push through a revised bill, the committee deleted the original provisions and replaced them with a requirement that the State Engineer adopt regulations relating to extensions, with the understanding that the process would be open, collaborative, and public. There is also a requirement for a study of how other jurisdictions manage extensions of time to perfect water rights. The Assembly accepted this action and the bill is on its way to the Governor.

Water issues: Good bills

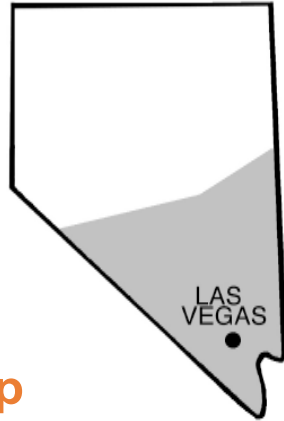
Two very positive bills were approved this session.

AB163. Proposed by Assemblyman Howard Watts of Las Vegas, AB163 deals with addressing water losses by certain water suppliers and the need to reduce those losses. Indoor conservation in new construction and renovations of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings is also part of this bill. Beginning on January 1, 2020, these projects

Please see ANXIOUSLYAWAITING SINE DIE, page 4.

And this is just some of it. Thanks for your interest and support. Please get in touch with me if you want to become more engaged in our conservation work -- there is a lot to do!

The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Drivers needed: Volunteer here!

The Southern Nevada Group is seeking volunteers. From clean energy and electric vehicles to recycling and electing environmental champions, we need individuals who are passionate about making a difference and willing to be the drivers of change.

Right now, we are organizing a new Transportation Task Force, planning a gala event for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day next year, and looking to play a key role in the 2020 elections -- exciting activities that all require leaders with drive. And you can be one of them!

What you can do. To help steer our efforts to explore, enjoy and protect the local environment, please contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com, 702.576.6815). Positions are now open and available, so don't wait. Claim yours today.

Meetings & events

ExCom meetings

All members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (Ex-Com), which are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We gather from 5:30pm to 8pm at the Sierra Club Office, located just near Springs Preserve and Meadows Mall. The address is 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107. There's lots of free parking in the surrounding lot. Please join us on July 3 or September 4; dark in August.

Group meetings

These meetings are conducted as quarterly membership events. On **July 20 (Sat)**, we will be gathering in the coolness of the mountains with fellow Sierra Clubbers for an

easy hike, followed by a *free picnic* and an information update on Group activities. Location: Picnic area at the Spring Mountain Visitors' Gateway, 2525 Kyle Canyon Rd, Mt Charleston, NV 89124.

We will arrange carpooling from Las Vegas in the morning; children/pets are most welcome. For details, contact tajainlay@aol.com or call 702.576.6815. Also see info in Calendar, this page.



SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Janet Carter*		
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		
Treasurer	Bobby Mahendra*		
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		
Energy	Jane Feldman*		
Global Warming	Eric Young		
Las Vegas ICO	Betty Gallifent		lasvegasico702@gmail.com
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Open		
Green Burials	Dennis Raatz		
Political	Open		
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Recycling	Mhansi Pandhi		
Transportation	Najea Rodgers		
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.

JULY 1 (MONDAY)

North Loop Trail. In Mt. Charleston area, hike North Trail Loop to meadow and back down Wild Horse Canyon, 3 mi, 900 ft gain. Easy pace. There may be wildflowers to identify. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

JULY 13 (SATURDAY)

Trail Canyon to Raintree. Hike in Spring Mountain NRA, 7.2 mi RT with gain of 2100 ft. Mod. strenuous hike. Trail offers views of both Charleston and Griffith peaks. Why is this tree called Raintree and about how old is it? Level 4; dogs welcome. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com).

JULY 20 (SATURDAY)

Group Picnic & Hike at Mt. Charleston. Join us to escape the summer heat on Saturday, July 20, for a picnic at the Spring Mountain Visitors' Gateway at Mount Charleston. In the morning, we will drive up via carpool. Participants will have an opportunity to take an easy hike and explore the Spring Mountains. Then, around noon, we will provide a free picnic lunch and information about the Sierra Club's current activities and committees. Bring the whole family. Children and pets welcome. For details, contact tajainlay@aol.com or call 702.576.6815 with any questions..

JULY 27 (SATURDAY)

North Loop Trail to Fletcher Peak. In Spring Mountain NRA, this RT hike covers 7.4 mi with gain of 2200+ ft. Mod. strenuous hike. At summit, there is an almost 360 degree view from Kyle Canyon to desert below and Sheep Range to east. At what elevation do Ponderosa pines yield to Bristlecone pines? Level 4; dogs welcome. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com).

JULY 27 (SATURDAY)

Film Screening "Bag It". The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, in partnership with 5R Revolution, is hosting a screening of the award-winning documentary "Bag It." This film is about plastic, answering questions about how it's made, why we use so much, and what happens after it is discarded, as well as how it negatively impacts our bodies, communities, and earth. Location: Windmill Library. Time: 1pm-3pm. Free and open to the public. For info, contact: feldman.jane@gmail.com.

JULY 27-AUGUST 3 (SATURDAY-SATURDAY)

Glacier NP Service Project, MT. We will be assisting National Park Service with their Native Plant Nursery and

Citizen Science program in beautiful West Glacier, Montana. We'll camp at Apgar Campground; Park Service will provide all tools and safety equipment. Moderate difficulty, Level 3. Leader: Stan Peyton (stanpeyton@gmail.com, 702-347-3331).

JULY 29 (MONDAY)

Upper Bristlecone Trailhead. Hike 4 mi to unique overlook with 1000 ft gain. Maybe you can see Parumph from here? Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

AUGUST 3 (SATURDAY)

South Loop Trail to High Meadow. In Spring Mountain NRA, this 8-mi RT hike to ridge line has gain of about 3000 ft. Strenuous hike. Once on top, look for wild flowers and examine burned area and new growth since fire. How does fire ecology effect vegetation's life cycle? Level 5; dogs welcome. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com).

AUGUST 12 (MONDAY)

South Loop Trail to Griffith Peak. In Mt Charleston area, this strenuous hike covers 10.5 mi with 3500 ft gain. Pace will be as easy as I can make it considering distance and gain. At this height, 11,000 ft, there could still be flowers because of the wet winter. Leader: David Morrow (david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

AUGUST 19-22 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)

Bryce Canyon National Park. Stay three nights near Bryce Canyon National Park. Hike under rim from Bryce Point to Wall Street (6 mi, 700 ft gain). Above rim from Bryce point to Sunset point (3 mi, 200 ft gain). Then move on to Grand Staircase Escalante to hike to lower Calf Creek Falls (4.5 mi, 300 ft gain). Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

AUGUST 31 (SATURDAY)

Bristlecone to No Name Trail. In Lee Canyon, Mt Charleston, this moderate RT covers 5 mi with 1000 ft gain. Easygoing hike includes short mindfulness walk through bristlecone forest at midway point. Finish by mid-afternoon. Why do bristlecone pines grow here? Level 3; dogs welcome. Leader: Bill Marr (wrmarrwilliam@aol.com, 702-433-0743).

SEPTEMBER 7 (SATURDAY)

Old Mill to Bonanza Trail. In Mt. Charleston area, this mod. strenuous RT via side of Big Sister, Lee Canyon, covers 7-8 mi, with 1500 ft gain. We'll pace ourselves on this full day hike so as to enjoy our time in mountains and perhaps see some fall colors. What are sources

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 7.

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 6

of water in this area? Level 4; dogs welcome. Leader: Bill Marr (wrmarrwilliam@aol.com, 702-433-0743).

SEPTEMBER 14 (SATURDAY)

Red Spring Thrust Fault, Red Rock Canyon NCA. Back to Red Rock Canyon! Join geologist Nick on hike to Red Spring Thrust Fault by way of Turtlehead Peak Trail. Fault is part of Keystone Thrust System. Hike along fault, see interesting petroglyphs, and wander through beautiful sandstone terrain, including a little slot canyon. This is one of my favorite hikes in Red Rock Canyon. How do we recognize a fault in the field? RT covers 3 mi with 500 ft gain. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

SEPTEMBER 15-19 (SUNDAY-THURSDAY)

Central Nevada Backpack: South Twin River, Arc Dome. This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." Trip begins on South Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive NE of Tonopah, at about 6300 ft. From trailhead, hike in 5 mi to a very nice campsite. After setting up camp try hiking upstream in this lush canyon of many cascades and waterfalls. Next day, hike about 5 mi and camp. On day 3, do a day hike (bring daypack) to top of Arc Dome at 11,773 ft. Mod. strenuous, covering 10-12 mi RT, 4100 ft gain. This part of the hike is somewhat exploratory, as there is supposed to be trail which may be difficult to follow. On Day 4 we'll start down to South Twin, all downhill, and camp where we did first night. Last day is hike out. In total, it's about 16 mi RT, 3000 ft gain, with backpacks. Limit 12. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826). Email preferred.

SEPTEMBER 16 (MONDAY)

Raintree via North Loop. This hike covers 5.3 mi out and back, with

1600 ft gain. View 3000+ years old bristlecone pine tree. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

SEPTEMBER 26-29 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

Zion National Park Service Project, UT. Join our annual Sierra Club National Public Lands Day Service Project in Zion National Park. We have group campsite reserved from noon Thursday thru noon Sunday at Watchman Campground in Zion National Park, Springdale UT. Join us as we give service on Friday, Saturday, or both as we work with Park staff in field and also at their Native Nursery. Park entry and camping are free to all volunteers. Teenagers welcome with parent or guardian. For questions or to RSVP, contact leader: Par Rasmusson (parasmusson@gmail.com, 702-215-9119).

SEPTEMBER 28-29 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

Nevada Public Lands Day Citizen Science Survey. Join us for a driving tour, campout, and citizen science survey, as we explore Paiute/Mormon Mesa. We'll explore area to E of Mormon Mountains and N of Mesquite, along Rainbow Pass Road, Tule Well Road, and Tule Spring Road, all the way to Summit Springs and Ribbons (Lincoln and Clark Counties). We are not planning any strenuous hiking, but will be stopping along the way to stretch our legs and survey various areas for plants, animals, and anything else that will help us put a stop to proposed oil and gas drilling that currently threatens our Southern Nevada public lands and waters. Map link to route: <http://bit.ly/NVPLD19>. Level of hike will vary depending on what all participants feel comfortable with. Leader: Sierra Club National Our Wild America Organizer, Christian Gerlach (Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org, 702-271-6485).

S. Nevada Group service project report

BY JIM BOONE & NICK SAINES

In late April this spring, seven Sierra Club members carpooled north from Las Vegas to spend two nights in Alamo, Nevada. From there, we traveled out to Desert National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR) and Basin & Range National Monument (B&RNM).

On our first day, we visited Desert Dry Lake Dunes in the area of DNWR where the US Air Force is trying to take over the land and lock us out. For most of us, this was probably the first and last time we would ever see these dunes. If the USAF succeeds, in addition to losing access to the area and the grand recreational opportunities therein, the rare Pink Funnel Lily growing at the edge of the dunes will lose habitat too.

On our second day, we toured B&RNM. We started in the Mt. Irish Archaeological District, visiting the three main petroglyph sites. Few of us had ever seen Pahranaagat Man, who represents a unique Nevada culture.

We didn't have time to hike up to see Pahranaagat Woman, so we'll have to plan a return trip.

We next visited the historical Logan Townsite, where miners set up shop in the 1860s to extract silver from nearby mines. An exhilarating drive over Logan Pass took us by a log cabin that also dates from the 1860s. We are lucky to live at a time when sites like these are open and accessible to the public. Unfortunately, though, the log cabin is deteriorating.

Driving into the heart of B&RNM, we said goodbye to the Mojave Desert

Please see *SNG SERVICE TRIP*, page 3.

Las Vegas ICO : Inspiring Connections Outdoors ICO kids restore tortoise habitat

BY TJANET CARTER

On Saturday, May 18th, eight children, ages seven to 11, from Bob Price Community Center, went with Las Vegas ICO on a special outing to Gilcrease Orchard in the northwest valley.



Team accomplishment (standing on wall of the habitat). Photo: Janet Carter.

The Bob Price Center youngsters had gone with Las Vegas ICO to this local "pick your own" farm and orchard in the Fall to help establish a new habitat for two rescued desert tortoises which now live there. This time they were returning to rid the habitat of invasive weeds and plant additional native plants -- which will become tortoise food. This visit was a service project organized with Get Outdoors Nevada, a local non-profit that is dedicated to getting Nevadans of all ages and backgrounds into Nevada's diverse outdoor places.

The day got started with a talk from Sarah Mortimer of the Tortoise Group, a local non-profit that advocates for protection of desert tortoise. She explained that two male tortoises live in the habitat. Each male has his own burrow and walled-in area, as male tortoises are solitary animals and will fight with each other if allowed to live together. Our first task was weeding, because the habitat was overgrown thanks to an exceptionally wet winter and spring. Christiana Manville, a visiting biologist from US Fish & Wildlife Service, demonstrated how to tell weeds from native plants. Working in small groups, the children began pulling identified weeds, some almost as big as they were. They all worked hard and pulled a LOT of weeds, filling two full wheelbarrows.

As they worked on the weeds, the younger tortoise came out to see what was happening. At the approximate age of 15, he is a "teenager." We learned that desert tortoises have a lifespan similar to humans. He stayed out of his burrow for the entire time children were present, and was quite willing to "talk" with them in return for a few leaves of spinach or carrot tops from the gardens. He seemed very interested in the work being done to

his home and followed the children around to seemingly supervise the weeding.

After all weeds were pulled from the habitat, Cheresa Taing, from Get Outdoors Nevada, reviewed the procedure for planting native plants. Again, the children went to work. With adult help digging holes, they planted desert marigold and globe mallow, plants that will become food and shade for the tortoise. This involved measuring depth of holes, placing the plant in holes, adding amended soil, and watering the plants for

the first time.

After all that work, it was time for a little fun. Cheresa showed the children how to finger paint flowers of native plants onto the low walls of the habitat. After learning what flowers belong to each type of plant, everyone grabbed gloves and went to work. It was messy, but fun. At lunchtime, Cheresa had a special surprise—at the beginning of the outing she had asked children to suggest names for the younger tortoise. All of the names were terrific, so we had a drawing for the winner. Our new friend is now Jordan the Tortoise.

After lunch the kids had time to enter the vegetable garden to pick carrots and beets to take home for their families, courtesy of Las Vegas ICO. Each yank of greens produced a fresh root vegetable, which delighted them because they had never before harvested fresh vegetables from the ground. As is ICO tradition, we gathered at the end of day to talk about our favorite (roses) and non-favorite (thorns) parts of the trip. Although there weren't many thorns other than the

Observing the tortoise. Photo: Janet Carter.



insects and dirt that go along with farm life, a surprising number of kids said that their "rose" was pulling weeds. The tortoise habitat at Gilcrease Orchard may have a permanent weed crew for the future!

The children were not only able to learn the pleasure of giving back, but they also learned a lot about the desert tortoise, a very special animal to all of us who love our Southern Nevada environment.

What you can do. To find out how you can support Las Vegas ICO in getting youth into the outdoors, visit us at: www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico or on Facebook at: Las Vegas ICO.

L to R. Pulling tall weeds (photo by Stephanie from Get Outdoors Nevada); planting native plants (photo by Betty Gallifent); beets fresh from the ground (photo by Janet Carter).



Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group

Group News

BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR

Non-motorized outings

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

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

Water Grab Update

In September, Sierra Club joined Mono County's CEQA complaint against LADWP that says LADWP's withholding of irrigation water is negatively impacting the environment. Then LADWP 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. 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.

What you can do. If you would like to help by writing Mayor Garcetti or the LADWP Commissioners or something for your local paper/radio, please contact Lynn at chairrolg@gmail.com.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations 101

There are three things to know about



Range of Light SPRING-SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY

ALL PHOTOS BY JOANNE HIHN



In early April, while snow continued to accumulate farther north, we enjoyed an outing in Bishop with two local knowledgeable hikers who took us on a 7.5-mile trip from the town of Wilkerson over Coyote Pass Trail, down to the Druid Stone climbing area, and Bir Road. The altitude gain of 3000 ft gave us quite a workout. We were also treated to blooming desert peach and an abundance of wild flowers.

View from Coyote Pass Trail above Druid Stones climbing area, Bishop, CA. That's the town of Bishop and the White Mountains far below.



Please see ROL PHOTO GALLERY, page 3.

EV Charging Stations. First, there are two categories of EVs: Teslas and then all other makes. That is, Chevy, Ford, Nissan, BMW, etc. 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; it takes all day to charge a car. Level 2 is a 220 outlet; it takes 4-8 hours to charge a car. Level 3 is the quick charger; it 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 will make them very reasonable to install. 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.

Pumped storage in the Eastern Sierra?

Premium Energy Holdings, LLC, recently submitted applications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for two hydro-pumped storage projects in the Eastern Sierra. One is Owens Valley Pumped Storage project and the other is Haiwee Pumped Storage project.

Pumped storage projects consist of an upper reservoir and a lower reser-

voir connected by a large penstock or underground tunnel. Water is released from the upper reservoir, flows through a power plant generating electricity as it fills the lower reservoir. Then the water is pumped uphill to the upper reservoir to be released again. The water level in the reservoirs fluctuates, but they are not completely drained.

It takes as much power to pump the water up as it generates coming down, so it is not a source of renewable power. Pumped storage acts as a battery that can produce electricity on demand or during the night when solar and wind facilities aren't generating power. It is a critical component for California to meet its ambitious renewable energy goals of 100% electricity by 2045. The goal of these two projects is to generate up to 12 hours of electricity on a daily basis and 24 hours in an emergency.

The Owens Valley Pumped Storage project would consist of three, closed-loop, pumped storage projects that will be broken down into three separate projects. Each project would have an upper reservoir in the White Mountains east of Laws, up Silver Canyon or Gunter Canyon. Also, each would have a lower reservoir in Owens River Gorge. Three pressure tunnels would be dug under the Volcanic Tablelands connecting one upper reservoir to its paired lower one.

The Haiwee Pumped Storage project would be a single closed-loop system. The lower reservoir would be between North Haiwee Dam and Butterworth Ranch. Three alternatives were proposed for the upper reservoir: two in the Coso Range Wilderness and a third at Sage Flat on the west side of Highway 395.

FERC should deny the first two alter-

natives because they are in wilderness. That would leave the third choice for the upper reservoir. It would put a reservoir west of the houses on Sage Flat road, on Inyo NF land. A penstock or tunnel would connect the upper and lower reservoirs.

Both projects would dramatically rearrange the environment and have significant impacts on wildlife, wetlands, cultural resources, and recreation. The Haiwee project will impact about a dozen homes and ranches as well. Many environmental groups, local citizens, and county leadership are looking into the impacts and are already involved.

Once FERC issues the preliminary permits, the proponent will start feasibility studies and environmental reports. Not all projects go beyond this phase. They need to be viable and funded with promising returns on the investment.



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations coming to the Eastern Sierra!

Electrify America is installing the first non-Tesla quick charging stations in the Eastern Sierra. Ground has been broken for one at the Vons gas station in Bishop and for one at the Chevron station by the Coso Junction Rest Stop south of Olancho. One is almost completed at the Shell station in Bridgeport and might be ready around the 4th of July.



You're only as old as you feel.

Giant Sequoias are the largest living things on the planet, some dating back over 3,500 years. Sierra Club has worked for the protection of these gentle giants for over 100 years. Sequoias have withstood the test of time -- and by now, their only true enemy is us. Currently, Sequoias are in grave danger of being destroyed by commercial logging. We have the power to preserve or destroy these majestic trees -- but we need your help!

Live it up and JOIN Sierra Club to help keep our 100 year tradition of preservation alive.

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

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

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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