



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

TOIYABE TRAILS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2019

WINTER EVENTS Issue

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

From the Chair

What the national climate assessment means to us

BY ANNE MACQUARIE
(ANNEMACQUARIE@GMAIL.COM)

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, because it is required to do so by law, released the *4th National Climate Assessment* in November. It was released on the day after Thanksgiving, in hopes that we were still too stuffed with turkey to notice it. When the American people noticed the report anyway, Trump told reporters he didn't believe in climate change. Since then administration spokespeople have been portraying the report as "alarmist and extreme."

The National Climate Assessment emphasizes that in our region, the most severe effects of unmitigated climate change will be to our water supply, ecosystems, energy, food production, and health. Think about more catastrophic wildfires. Imagine Las Vegas' struggle for water when the city can't withdraw water from Lake Mead. Think about Sierra ski resorts with more precipitation coming as rain than as snow. Imagine the threats to wildlife as ecosystems are stressed from heat, drought, and fire.

And since our region is not an island, we will also be affected by what happens to the entire world as a result of climate change. "In the absence of more significant global mitigation efforts, climate change is projected to impose substantial damages on the U.S. economy, human health, and the environment. It is very likely that some physical and ecological impacts will be irreversible for thousands of years, while others will

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.



The wilderness-quality Glass Mountains are a popular and scenic recreation destination. Please see Inyo Forest Plan update below for details of why it needs protection. PHOTO: Kurt Molnar. Fran Hunt, fourth from left.

Inyo Forest Plan urgent update

BY FRAN HUNT, SIERRA CLUB EASTERN SIERRA ORGANIZER

On August 4, 2018, the Forest Service released its new plan for the Inyo National Forest. Roughly six years in the making and covering about 2 million acres, this new plan will set the strategic direction for wilderness, water, wildlife, recreation, fire management, and many other essential Inyo Forest resources and activities for the coming 15-20 years, if not longer.

Throughout the planning process, the Sierra Club and our many volunteers and allies – including national allies like The Wilderness Society and locally-based groups such as Friends of the Inyo and the Mono Lake Committee – have worked to ensure strong public involvement and promote protection of special wildlands, wildlife, water, quiet recreation, and other key values. Since August, we have worked with our coalition allies to carefully review the new plan's strengths and flaws.

On the positive side, the new plan:

1. Prioritizes partnership opportunities for the Forest Service to work with local groups and volunteers to, for example, restore and maintain popular hiking trails, overused camping areas, and degraded wildlife habitats.

2. Includes a smart, science-based approach to fire management to improve forest health and to protect people and communities.

3. Does an excellent job of identifying and inventorying remaining wilderness-quality areas that are free of roads and significant developments on the Inyo Forest.

4. Recommends a few key national forest areas in Inyo County for wilderness protection by Congress. The fact that any new recommended wilderness areas were recommended in the current political climate is an important accomplishment and offers a positive model for future forest plans.

5. Identifies a large number of important

streams as eligible for protection by Congress as Wild & Scenic Rivers.

We are supporting these important achievements and defending them against opposition from the timber industry and the off road vehicle community. We have also filed objections to the parts of the plan that do not comply with important environmental regulations and/or that fail to set a high standard for strong, science-based forest plans and protections.

Our objections push back, for example, against the fact/s that the plan . . .

- fails to safeguard important wildlife species including sage grouse,

Please see INYO FOREST PLAN, page 5.

An introduction to the SW Local Outdoor Program

SERGIO AVILA, LOCAL OUTDOORS COORDINATOR, SIERRA CLUB
(SERGIO.AVILA@SIERRACLUB.ORG)



Hola! I want to introduce myself as a new staff member at Sierra Club, and describe the goals and opportunities in my new position. I will dive deeper into those goals in future articles, but for now let me tell you about myself.

Please see OUTDOOR PROGRAM, page 5.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 9 am
February 9, 2019
Las Vegas, NV

For details, contact the Chair,

ANNE MACQUARIE

chair@toiyabe.sierraclub.org

All members may attend ExCom meetings, in person, for Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe or Mammoth Lakes meetings or via Zoom meeting for other meetings. Please arrange participation with the Chapter Chair, Anne Macquarie (775-303-2562) or email (chair@toiyabe.sierraclub.org). Members are also encouraged to contact the Chair or any ExCom members with requests to bring certain matters before the ExCom.

100% renewable energy or bust!

BY BRIAN BEFFORT,
TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

THE ENVIRONMENT DID pretty well at the polls in November. An impressive 80% of Toiyabe Chapter's endorsed environmental champions won their races.

- Nevada now has a Democratic trifecta — a majority in the state Assembly, Senate, and the Governor's office. Most of these Democratic victors ran on a commitment to the environment. Governor-elect Sisolak supports a push to 100% renewable energy (search "Sisolak's bold environmental vision" on YouTube).
- Nine other states enjoy a similar Democratic trifecta with a governor committed to 100% renewable energy: CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, NJ, OR, & WA.

Please see 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY, page 5.

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Great Basin Gatherings

Great Basin Group

Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON, GREAT BASIN GROUP CHAIR

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our friends in the Great Basin! The Great Basin Group will continue 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 7 pm.

Program Meetings

January 10, 2019 (Thursday). "Parks & Open Space in Reno-Sparks": Join Haley McGuire and Elena Larsen to learn about two exciting parks and open space projects happening in the Reno-Sparks community. Discover the unique histories and biodiversity hidden within our community parks through the Parks Project and learn how an abandoned space is in preparation for restoration. Haley and Elena will share great opportunities for community involvement in these projects and a variety of ways community members can enjoy the parks and open spaces.

February 14, 2019 (Thursday). "UNR Student Presentations": This program will feature presentations from three UNR students who adopted Sierra Club priorities as their research topics in the fall of 2018. Join us as we support these young researchers in presenting their findings about the following:

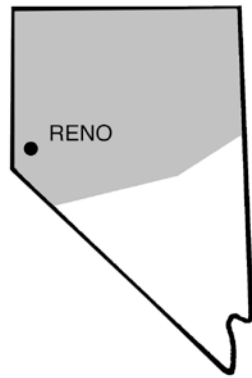
- Miranda Montes: *How Can Nevada Kick the Natural Gas Habit on the way to 100% Renewable Energy?*
- Kalin Ingstad: *Residential Energy: How Consumers Can Support Our Community in Transitioning to 100% Renewable Energy*
- Faith Delfin: *Millennials and the Environment: Turning Young Voters Out to Vote in the 2018 Elections*

FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1
be permanent."

Gloomy news. And already we have climate refugees in our own country: how long will it take the thousands of people burned out of their homes in the Camp Fire to be housed again?

What you can do. In the Toiyabe chapter, we have a real opportunity to make a real difference -- IF we rally together to demand that Nevada lawmakers enact a 100% renewable energy standard in 2019. Question 6, to raise the state's renewable portfolio standard to 50% by 2030, passed easily. But our house is burning down -- we need more. We need a campaign for 100% renewable energy in Nevada.



GB Group OUTINGS NEWS

"If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow."

-- Anon.

FOR OVER A CENTURY, the Sierra Club has prided itself on exploring the planet and often those explorations are in the winter alpine environment. The Great Basin Group, with the majority of its members in the Reno area, have direct access to the Lake Tahoe region of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

When you go into these environments during the winter when there is a heavy snow pack, you need to be aware of avalanche hazard. An ally that we have is an information source known as the Sierra Avalanche Center (SAC): a partnership between a non-profit of its own namesake and the United States Forest Service (USFS). At their website (www.sierraavalanchecenter.org) you will find a great deal of useful information:

- avalanche danger forecast
- overview of the regional snow-pack
- weather forecast for the specific alpine environments you wish to travel
- links to additional educational resources that will help you hone your skills at navigating avalanche terrain

Before you go, be sure to stop by their website and get their most recent report!

And, if you are inclined, be sure to thank the USFS and the SAC for providing this valuable resource (you can actually thank the SAC portion of this resource by donating here: www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/donate).

Join our outings! 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: www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events

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, Daniel Ellsworth, for more details (danomike@yahoo.com)

March 14, 2019 (Thursday). "Sierra Bighorn Sheep": Join us for a fascinating presentation from the Sierra Bighorn Sheep Foundation and learn the story of the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, the rarest wild sheep in North America. A slide show and hands-on demonstration will be included, along with maps of where the Sierra bighorn may be sighted.

Get ACTIVE in Great Basin Group. An activism session, 6:15-7pm, will be held prior to each of the monthly GBG program meetings at the Bartley Ranch Center. Stay active and keep the dialogue moving!

Tin Cup Award. Native Nevadan and long-time Sierra Club member, Lori Bellis, is the 2018 Great Basin Group Tin Cup award recipient. Most recently, her efforts with the Trailhead Project and Great Basin plant guide have been noteworthy. She now serves as an outings leader and is running for the 2019 GBG ExCom where her experience and knowledge as an environmental scientist will be instrumental in moving the GBG forward.

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
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Treasurer	Roleigh Martin*	roleigh@pobox.com

Winter outing with the Great Basin Group in early 2017 beneath Incline Peak. Outings leader is assessing avalanche risk that the group is exposed to and keeping it minimal.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.



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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

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



Toiyabe Trails

SERVING NEVADA & CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA



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

Editor – Lynne Foster (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.



Great Basin Peak Section News

Mount Moriah

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



Mount Moriah (12,067 ft) sits in the northern section of the Snake Range, in eastern Nevada. The peak is part of the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area established in 1989. Separated from the better-known Wheeler Peak in the southern section of the Snake Range, Moriah receives fewer visitors, providing greater solitude.



Heading towards the summit of Mount Moriah. PHOTO: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

There are several ways to access Moriah. We started at Big Canyon Trailhead on the mountain's west side. This is the shortest route into the wilderness; however, the 14-mile road to this point is rough, making higher clearance a must.

Plenty of camping space is available at the trailhead. The trailhead, bordered by aspen, has a view of the peak's north-west face and provides a nice viewpoint for starry Nevada skies.

We left camp early and followed the trail as it drops into Big Canyon then switch-backs up to a large flat plateau called The Table. This route passes through aspen, fir, and limber pine, ending with a stand of bristlecone prior to the treeless Table. From The Table a short cross-country climb leads to a nice use trail

that contours along the mountain's east side with a final scree scramble to the top.

Moriah is sandwiched between the Snake and Spring Valleys. The summit provides views down the numerous rugged canyons leading to these valleys plus a sweeping vista of surrounding ranges. Even with lingering distant smoke, we enjoyed great views in all directions. The view south to Great

Basin National Park displayed Wheeler and other Snake Range peaks. Looking west across Spring Valley provided views of the Schell Range; looking east, views of western Utah Ranges. We lingered on the peak to enjoy these phenomenal views.

Heading down I spotted a lonely blue columbine in the scree slope. These beautiful delicate flowers always seem out of place in such dry rocky habitats.

On our return to camp, we were serenaded by bugling elk in Big Canyon. We camped here a second night to relish the solitude, starry sky, and another memorable adventure in the Great Basin!

Hiking in the West of Ireland

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

Here in the Toiyabe Chapter we are fortunate to have clear weather on most days of the year, and this makes conducting our outings easy and enjoyable. But now take yourself to the west of Ireland, County Mayo, town of Westport where there is measurable rain 200 days a year. How do you conduct an outings program in those conditions? Well, as I learned, they just do. I had the privilege of joining the Westport Hillwalkers on two occasions during October and November 2018. One was a perfectly clear day and the other a miserably rainy one. However, the latter had 10 eager participants. A hike is seldom cancelled due to weather.

"Hillwalking" is not really about hills or walking. There are respectable elevation gains to 2500 feet (starting from near sea-level) with steep ascents in some outings. "Walking" does not really describe some of these ascents nor the maneuvering on very rocky trails, often wet and slippery. The Westport Hillwalkers is one of many Irish "walking" groups, with various degrees of organization. There is no national group such as the Sierra Club. Most people did not know of Sierra Club, and I took great pride in talking about it. There was no liability waiver or any "trail talk" before starting, but leadership seems nearly on a par with our standards.

In Ireland, one needs a higher level of outerwear to guarantee keeping moisture out and sturdy, waterproof boots for going through the bogs and handling the ubiquitous and often wet rocks. In the autumn, with temperatures sometimes hovering near freezing higher up, occasionally accompanied by hail, one needs to be prepared mentally, physically, and gear-wise. I found the "hillwalkers" more than up to it. They designate their walks as A, B, and C. The A walks are what we would designate as strenuous while C are relatively easy.

Aside from the two hikes with them, I also took many other paths and loops around Westport. Trails often coincide



Hillwalking in Ireland, well bundled up.

with country roads, but they are generally well-signed, well-described, and well-mapped. Limited parking is often the annoying factor. I enjoyed a month of hiking within about 40 miles of Westport without ever repeating a trail.

There are published guidebooks, but the local Irish tourist office was the source of most of my trail guides -- which were quite good. On many hikes, I saw only a few people, and sometimes even none. County Mayo is uncrowded and very enjoyable in the off-season. There is a relatively new national park in County Mayo called Ballycroy. It has wilderness quality and an International Dark Sky designation.

Sierra Club international outings usually has one trip to Ireland in summertime, and I've taken three of these in previous years.

Winter Desert Trips

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

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For 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).

A NOTE TO SIERRA CLUB LEADERS. Would you like to see your desert outings in the Desert Report? If you have a day hike, a multiday service trip or backpack planned for this winter or spring, please send a writeup to: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, by February 15th and it will run in the April-May-June 2019 Trails issue.

FEBRUARY 25-28, 2019 (MON-THU) CAMPING & HIKING IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. On Monday, meet at noon at Panamint Springs Campground (\$10/car) on Hwy 190, just off Panamint Valley Road. In the afternoon, hike to Darwin Falls. Tuesday, move to Mesquite Springs Campground and hike the rim of Ubehebe Crater. Wednesday, hike Titus Canyon and return to camp. Thursday, pack up and go to Mesquite Dunes for morning hike on dunes before heading home. All hikes leisurely paced. Reservations: Carol Wiley (earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/ CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 12-14, 2019 (TUE-THU) AFTON CANYON OUTING. Afton

Canyon is in the new Mojave Trails National Monument. Camp both nights in campground near Mojave River. Meet Tuesday at noon and hike up a side canyon in the afternoon. Wednesday, hike the Afton Canyon to some interesting sites. Thursday morning, hike to an area of hoodoos. Hikes will be at a leisurely pace. Reservations: Carol Wiley (earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/ CNRCC Desert Committee

The following activity is not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication

SALT TRAM PROTECTION PROJECT Various dates from November to March Come help Marty Dickes, Wilderness Coord-

Please see SALT TRAM PROJECT, page 5.

National Public Lands Day 2018

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

EVERY YEAR numerous organizations sponsor a variety of projects supporting our public lands. Nevadans are lucky to have many public land areas for various outdoor opportunities. It is important that we take time to maintain these areas. Celebrating National Public Lands Day gives us many opportunities to help.

For the past few years I've joined Friends of Nevada Wilderness to help with their public lands projects. FNW partners with Friends of Black Rock/Highrock, Winnemucca BLM, and Nevada Outdoor School for a fun weekend of work projects, educational opportunities, and a Dutch oven cook-off. Their varied projects are located near Soldier Meadows in northern Washoe County.

A few of this year's projects included restoring desert dace habitat, cabin painting and maintenance, campground clean-up, and wilderness signing.

Besides the satisfaction of maintaining our public lands, participants enjoyed colorful sunrises and sunsets, phenomenal starry skies, and yummy Dutch oven cooking. Volunteers are needed every year.

Hope to see you there next year!



Public Lands Day Volunteers -- Cathy, Janice, Mitch, and Jim. PHOTO: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

"We are one state . . ."

Good news on the water grab front!

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

During the recent state election campaigns, Nevadans were shocked to find out that both the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor publicly opposed the 29-year-old, \$15 billion project proposed to annually pump and pipe billions of gallons of groundwater under eastern Nevada over 300 miles to S. Nevada for growth and development.

Steve Sisolak, now the newly elected Governor, publicly re-stated his opposition to the pipeline project to the I-Team at KLAS in Las Vegas during the campaign. "My opinion is that this project is not a smart or effective way to spend what is projected to cost more than \$15 billion. This plan is nothing more than a 20th-century band aid to a 21st-century problem."

In an Elko Daily Free Press opinion on October 12, 2018, Sisolak stated: "My commitment to Nevada residents is to continue my efforts to best manage our state's limited water resources, while preventing the unnecessary destruction of fragile ecosystems. The environmental needs of Northeastern Nevada must be treated equally with the resource needs of other communities. We are one State and we need to deliver solutions that reflect this."

Republican candidate, Adam Laxalt, told the I-Team that he too opposes the rural groundwater proposal.

How will this opposition to the water grab be carried forward into the 2019 Nevada Legislative session? In the other good news, Great Basin Water Network proudly announced in a December press release the hiring of Kyle Roerink as its first Executive Director. Roerink, who formerly worked for Rep. Dina Titus and the YES on Question 6 energy campaign, will lead the organization as it fights legal battles in state and federal courts, defends the integrity of

NV water law, and grows the Network's coalition.

"For 13 years, the Water Network has been fueled by a volunteer army that has unflinchingly worked to defeat a project that will harm SNWA ratepayers, destroy our natural resources, and decimate local communities," said Abby Johnson, president of the Board. "We've worked to secure major victories in courts, the Legislature, and in regulatory bodies. But, thanks to the ratepayer-funded war chest of SNWA, the battle is far from finished. The board and countless members of our community who have selflessly invested time, money and effort will remain committed, but we believe it's time to take this fight to the next level and bring on full-time staff."

"For years, I have watched the Water Network and its legion of dedicated volunteers do what many thought was impossible: Stop the water grab in its tracks," Roerink said. "GBWN has united a coalition like no other in the state to advocate for sound water policies. It is a privilege to stand with the organization on the front lines as it continues to fight this costly boondoggle."

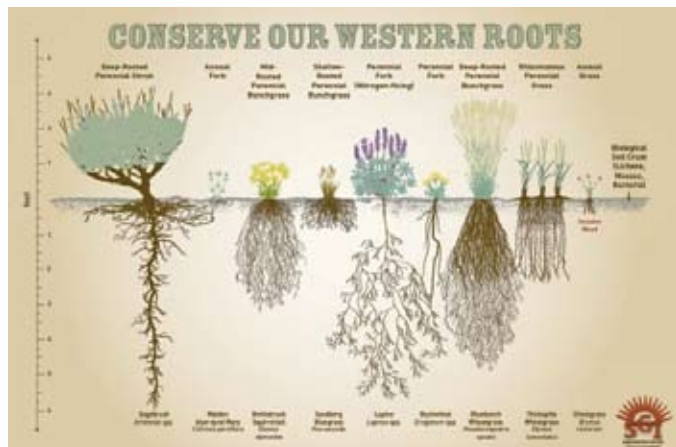
The Sierra Club has been an active part of the Great Basin Water Network since it was formed and has sent its congratulations to the Water Network for expanding its campaign with a new Executive Director.

Looking below ground

BY TINA NAPPE

Standing stalwart against the hot sun, buried in snow, or subject to a deep freeze and continuous wind, many of our native desert plants rely on deep roots to bind them to the earth and to reach water essential to their existence. This poster (available also as a postcard) is produced by the Sagegrouse Initiative and is available for use.

For many of us accustomed to recognizing and defending surface water



Art credit: Jeremy Maestas & Maja Smith, Sage Grouse Initiative (<https://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/roots/>).

and meadows, we may forget that these desert plants also have water needs. From their leaves, the plants absorb the sunshine and work in two directions -- one to produce seeds for the future and the other to grow roots to survive.

When these native plants are not being burned or facing competition from pin-

Dark days ahead for wilderness & wildlife refuges

BY WYNNE BENTI

Nevadans to lose 1 million acres of public lands to Navy and Air Force military land withdrawals near Reno and Las Vegas.

Wildlife refuges and wilderness study areas to lose protected status.

Public comments due by January 15, 2019, for the Navy's Fallon Range & Training Complex Draft EIS.

LESS THAN 10 MILES NORTH of Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, is the Navy's Fallon Range & Training Complex Bravo-20 bombing range, one of four major bombing areas (Bravo-16, 17, 19 and 20) within the existing 202,859-acre base. If the Navy gets what it wants, as detailed in their recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement . . .

- 74,000 acres within the Stillwater Range, Jobs Peak and Clan Alpine Wilderness Study Areas will be stripped of wilderness study area status
- 31,000 acres of lands with wilderness character will be totally eliminated
- the public will be completely shut out of approximately 424,000 acres



American white pelicans stand guard over a juvenile, Stillwater NWR. Photo: Wynne Benti.

The Navy plans to withdraw 618,727 acres of public lands, including . . .

- lands within the Stillwater and Fallon National Wildlife refuges
- Job Peak, Stillwater Range and Clan Alpine wilderness study areas
- segments along the Pony Express National Historic Trail
- permanent closure to the public of the entire Monte Cristo Mountain range and Gabbs Valley
- permanent closure of Highway 361 between Middlegate and Gabbs, Nevada, the primary paved access to Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

Four grim alternatives. Three call for the withdrawal of 618,727 acres of federal public land and 65,153 acres of non-federal land. The fourth alternative is a "No Action Alternative" which would allow currently withdrawn public

yon-juniper and shallow rooted annual grasses, they are subject to livestock and horse grazing, bulldozers, and recreation vehicles. They deserve our thanks.

lands, that which the base is built on, to expire.

Most military lands in the West are withdrawn, "borrowed", from the Department of Interior for a certain time period. The Navy's current land withdrawal expires in 2021, as does the Air Force's Nevada Test & Training Range public land withdrawal near Las Vegas.

Unlike the Air Force's Nevada Test & Training Range Legislative Environmental Impact Statement, which offered a "Status Quo" option, where everything stays the same and lands are renewed for a specific time period, the Navy is all or nothing. There is no "Status Quo" alternative, only a "No Action Alternative" in which the Navy proposes to allow the public lands to go back to the Department of Interior.

The EIS paints a grim picture of a dismantled base reduced down to a few checker-boarded parcels owned by the Navy. It is a nefarious strategy giving Congress really only two choices: dismantle or expand.

What you can do.

The EIS is available in whole or in sections at: <https://frtmodernization.com/Documents/2018-Fallon-Range-Training-Complex-Modernization-EIS/Draft-EIS>.

Comments in writing can be made to:

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Southwest
Code EV21.SG
1220 Pacific Highway
Building 1, 5th Floor
San Diego, CA 92132

More information at: <https://www.nevadawilderness.org/fallonexpansion>.

Truckee Meadows Trails Survey

BY LORI BELLIS

THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS REGIONAL Planning Agency is collecting information for a comprehensive non-motorized trails project. The goals are to map existing trails, identify areas where trail linkages are missing, and develop a plan for a sustainable interconnected trail system. David reported on our trail

Please see TRUCKEE MEADOWS, page 7.

SW OUTDOOR PROGRAM . . .

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As a wildlife biologist, I have studied jaguars, ocelots, and mountain lions, both in Mexico and the United States, and also cactus-ferruginous pygmy owls, monarch butterflies, California sea lions, and rattlesnakes. In 1997-98 I lived with the Tarahumara people (Raramuri) of the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua -- the Mexican state that borders New Mexico.

In 2003 I came to work for The University of Arizona and became aware of the ecological impacts along the international border. I've witnessed the destruction of wildlife habitats and corridors by the Department of Homeland Security, while the national narrative is that of fear and disregard for environmental laws.

I started volunteering with the Grand Canyon Chapter, speaking in support of Mexican gray wolf reintroduction, protection of jaguar corridors across the border, and defending mountain lions.

I now work for the National Sierra Club in a team called Outdoor Activities, supporting staff and volunteers in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mex-

ico and Utah. Our mission is to connect people with the natural world and with the Sierra Club, by maintaining and enhancing diversified, superior, volunteer-run outdoor activities that support the Sierra Club's conservation mission.

Sierra Club no longer views environmental conservation and social justice as separate issues. I intend to strengthen the connection between conservation advocacy and outdoor recreation.

I will share the Jemez Principles for democratic organizing (www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune/2016/12/jemez-principles) and incorporate them in all our work. Similarly, we will bring the practice of Land Acknowledgements as "a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth."

I am very interested in hearing from Outings chairs, leaders and advocates on the needs, ideas and practices they'd like to bring into their activities. I look forward to being in touch with you and meeting you on the trail.

INYO FOREST PLAN . . .

continued from page 1

big horn sheep, willow flycatchers, and goshawks. Instead of providing needed habitat safeguards, the plan allows too much salvage logging and/or grazing in vulnerable habitat areas

- fails to protect key watersheds and critical aquatic habitats, including important streams, wetlands, and high mountain meadows, placing threatened fish and other aquatic species at greater risk

- fails to recommend wilderness protections for any special national forest lands in Mono County, in spite of strong public support and the support of the Mono County Board of Supervisors for new wilderness areas in that county. The Glass Mountains, pictured here, are an example of a wilderness-quality area the Forest Service failed to protect

The objection process, which will include a critical public meeting that will likely occur in January 2019, provides a final critical opportunity, short of litigation, to improve the plan so

that it provides lasting protections for the Inyo National Forest and offers a stronger model for other national forest plans that follow. The Sierra Club and our allies -- including The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Inyo, Defenders of Wildlife, California Wilderness Coalition, California Native Plant Society and others -- will be invited to this meeting because we have objected to flaws in the new plan. There will also be an opportunity for certain members of the public to have a recognized role in these meetings.

If we are successful in our objection, the Forest Service will have to redo flawed parts of the final plan, a process that could take the better part of next year. While we don't know exactly when the objection process will conclude, our vision of an Inyo Forest plan that offers meaningful protection to this unique area is clear; we will continue to mobilize the public and press the agency until the plan is complete.



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Desert National Wildlife Range imperiled by Air Force

BY WYNNE BENTI

In October 2018, the Air Force's Nevada Test & Training Range Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (NTTR LEIS) was released. Despite objections raised by the public and numerous organizations during the Draft LEIS review, nothing was changed.

At least 32,000 letters were submitted by the public, while numerous organizations such as the Sierra Club, USFWS, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Friends of Nevada Wilderness supported Alternative 1, which maintained the status quo by renewing the land withdrawal, but not expanding the base to take in the Sheep Range.

In the NTTR LEIS, some of the many road closures will include the entire Alamo Road north of Hidden Forest -- the only road between the towns of Indian Springs (US 95) and Alamo (US 93) and the only access USFWS and NDOW biologists have to the bighorn sheep herds within the Sheep Range.

Refuge and wilderness lands previously absorbed into both the NTTR and FRTC have retained USFWS and BLM oversight, but the military NTTR LEIS wants to strip the protections from those lands, creating an uncertain future for wilderness and wildlife refuges within

Please see *DESERT NWR*, page 7.

SALT TRAM PROJECT . . .

continued from page 3

director for Ridgecrest BLM, with a project to protect the historic Salt Tram in the Inyo Mountains from fire damage.

The Saline Valley Salt Tram was built in 1912 to transport salt 13.4 mi. over the Inyo Mountains to the Owens Valley. Last used in 1935, its wood towers and steel machinery remain today as a National Register Historic Site. Small trees have taken root near the tram towers, making them susceptible to destruction in a wildfire.

With a BLM crew, volunteers will help establish firebreaks around several of the structures. The group will carpool to the Inyo crest in 4WD high-clearance vehicles for a two-night car camp at 8700 ft. Volunteers will reach the work sites on foot and use hand tools to remove small pine trees.

This promises to be a rewarding experience in one of the most awe-inspiring places in the desert. For dates and details contact Marty Dickes (mdickes@blm.gov, 760-384-5444).

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY . . .

continued from page 1

- Nevada's Congressional delegation is now 4/5 Democrat (Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, and Representatives Dina Titus, Susie Lee, and Steven Horsford, helping make up the Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. For the first time in years, we have real potential to get work done to benefit the environment and begin healing our planet.

And it's about time, because we have work to do.

- The International Panel of Climate Change report, released in October, warns of a strong risk of crisis as early as 2040. After watching the Camp Fire roar through Paradise, California, this fall, we needn't wait until 2040.

- Nevada exports more than \$700 million each year to buy fossil fuels (mainly natural gas) to generate electricity. That figure climbs to \$1.3 billion annually if you include heating and transportation.

It's time we spend that money here at home instead. Here in the humble Sierra, Mojave Desert, and Great Basin, we have the resources and innovation to replace all our energy from fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy from solar, geothermal, and wind, with help from storage and energy-efficiency technologies.

Let's invest in local solutions, creating local jobs here in our communities and cleaning the air and water while we're at it.

We can do this all while protecting our treasured open spaces, outdoor recreation, sensitive wildlife habitat, and quality of life -- and without taxing our infrastructure or taxpayers. We can ensure that everyone, no matter their location, background, or economic status,

can benefit from our cleaner, healthier renewable energy economy.

Our Nevada Legislature has every opportunity to pass legislation committing to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Reno, Las Vegas, Henderson, West Wendover, Mammoth Lakes, and other communities can boldly make the same commitment. This will clean our local air and water, while reducing energy use and costs and creating jobs.

We can create a regional Green New Deal here, while climate champions in the House of Representatives build the foundations of a Green New Deal to do the same for communities across the country. Sierra Club is working nationwide to support our trifecta states and climate champions.

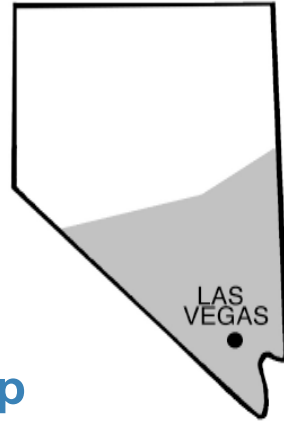
What you can do. Sierra Club members and supporters, we need your time and voice in your local papers, in city hall, in the state legislature and the halls of Congress to create a more sustainable future. We need your generous donations to fuel the efforts.

Tesla, Switch, Google, and Apple, you have made our region your home, while benefitting from generous tax breaks and incentives. We need you to give back to your chosen communities by investing in and innovating these local, sustainable solutions.

People everywhere, please encourage your political leaders at every level to act as if our future depends on it. Then thank them publicly when they do. Do your part by carrying reusable bags, utensils, straws, and by buying less plastic.

The best way to put together the complicated puzzle of saving our planet is one piece at a time. And by working together in common cause, we can make the million little decisions that will combine to do just that.

The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

New committee to address local transportation issues

From the current Project NEON, widening 3.7 miles of Interstate 15, to new Raiders Stadium accessibility concerns, to the impending extension of Interstate 11 through the Las Vegas Valley, Southern Nevada faces enormous challenges in the realm of transportation. To get ahead of the curve and take a proactive role in the region's planning process, the Southern Nevada Group is moving forward to establish a Transportation Committee. You can be part of it by sharing ideas and helping us set priorities!

As a first step, during the last quarter of 2018, member Najea Rodgers volunteered to attend a 3-day training in Washington, D.C., organized by the Sierra Club's "Clean Transportation for All" campaign. The event drew more than two dozen local transportation activists from across the country, with a focus on developing campaigns to reduce vehicle miles traveled and curb transportation emissions.

Electric buses? More bike lanes? Light rail proposals? New ways to ease traffic congestion? Now Najea is eager to meet other local volunteers who are interested in addressing transportation issues throughout Clark County and beyond. If that's you, please contact Najea by email (najea.asani@gmail.com) to receive details on the new committee.

Meetings & events

ExCom. 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 - 8 pm at the Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas 89107. Please join us on **January 3 (Thursday), February 6, and March 6.**

Leaders meet & greet. Among other events scheduled at the office during the first quarter of 2019, there's a Toiyabe Leaders Meet & Greet on **Friday, February 8, from 6 pm.** It's an opportunity to meet Chapter leadership

from throughout Nevada and Eastern California, when they arrive for their first Executive Committee meeting of the year on that Saturday. As in the past, this is a potluck event, so please bring along a dish of food or your favorite beverages to share, as well as non-disposable dinnerware. No charge for participation; children welcome.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1
FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Vinny Spotleson*		vinny.spotleson@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bobby Mahendra*		candidate@bobbymahendra.com
At Large	Verna Mandez		mandezvl@gmail.com
At Large	Janet Carter		jkumar167@aol.com
At Large	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
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Global Warming	Eric Young		erichtheredrock@gmail.com
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Green Burials	Dennis Raatz		runwa2001@yahoo.com
Political	Open		
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Recycling	Heather Haney-King		hhaneyking@gmail.com
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@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.

JANUARY 1 (TUESDAY)

Hangover Hike, Valley of Pillars in Rainbow Gardens. Start new year right by joining your fellow hikers on a scenic 4-mi RT hike in Rainbow Gardens on E side of town. Less than 200 ft gain. This uncrowded trail has spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. How do you recognize volcanic rock? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com)

JANUARY 8-9

(TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Overnight in St. George, UT. Hike Yant Flat on first day, and Vortex on next day, before driving home that afternoon. Hikes 4-6 mi, rated moderate. Yant Flat is a new area with great slickrock vistas. So is Vortex. One night in a hotel in St George. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com)

JANUARY 14 (MONDAY)

Valley of Fire Exploratory. About 5-6 mi, rated moderate, this outing will all be off-trail in a new area yet to be determined. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com)

JANUARY 17 (THURSDAY)

Desert Hills Mountain Bike Trails. Five-mi loop with 500 ft gain. Great views from this ridge hike on SW side of Las Vegas. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341)

JANUARY 21 (MONDAY)

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. Geology hike through Nevada's new Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument at N end of Las Vegas Valley. With authorization from National Park Service, we'll hike through badlands to see Ice Age deposits and fossils, Eglinton Fault, and a rare Late Pleistocene tufa channel. About 4 mi, less than 100 ft gain/loss. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com)

FEBRUARY 7 (THURSDAY)

Buckskin Cliff Shadows Loop. Five-mi loop with 500 ft gain. This hike starts and ends at equestrian park near 215 and Cheye.nne on W side. Red Rock is too crowded? This may be what you are looking for! Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

FEBRUARY 8 (FRIDAY)

Toiyabe Leaders Meet & Greet. We are hosting the first Toiyabe Chapter Meeting of the year at our office this weekend, so please join Sierra Club

representatives from all over Nevada and Eastern California at this potluck social event. We'll enjoy great food and fellowship with our best and brightest. There's plenty of parking in front of the office for easy access. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Bring along your favorite dishes and drinks to share, along with non-disposable utensils and dishes. Family and friends welcome, too! Time: 6 - 9 pm. Info: tajainlay@aol.com

FEBRUARY 11-13

(MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Three Nights in Kanab, UT. Hike Toadstool Hoodoos on Monday. This is a 2-3 mi hike to very photogenic area, on afternoon of arrival before checking in to a hotel. Tuesday is Yellow Rock, a great yellow sandstone monolith across a small river and up a steep scree slope. On Wednesday, hike Edmeier's Secret, an area of slickrock reached by a 2.5-mi walk in dry riverbed of Upper Buckskin Gulch. Drive home on Thursday. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com)

FEBRUARY 19-21

(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. Leave Tuesday morning, stay in motel in Alamo for two nights, return on Thursday afternoon. Plans include drive-through of Monument, short hikes, pulling bird-killing mining claim pipes, and studying petroglyphs. Leaders: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com) and biologist Jim Boone (BirdandHike.com)

MARCH 7 (THURSDAY)

Blue Diamond Hills Trails. Six-mi loop with 900 ft gain. Starts and ends in village of Blue Diamond. If available, Nick Saines will co-lead and interpret unique geology in this area. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqprbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341)

MARCH 19 (TUESDAY)

Dale's Trail, Red Rock Canyon NCA. Dale's Trail connects Pine Creek Canyon with Ice Box Canyon through a 4.4-mi trail along sandstone escarpment. This is a scenic hike which goes up and down across several washes draining the escarpment. About 300 ft gain. Why are Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons warmer than Ice Box Canyon? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com)

MARCH 30 (SATURDAY)

Earth Hour 2019. Don't forget to turn
Please see SN CALENDAR, page 7.

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 6

out the lights for one hour from 8:30 pm PST in support of this annual worldwide event, focusing attention on energy conservation, sustainability, environmentally-friendly laws, and protecting wildlife and its habitats. More information at www.earthhour.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

JULY 27-AUGUST 3

(SATURDAY-SATURDAY)

Glacier NP Service Project, MT. Assist National Park Service in beautiful West Glacier, Montana, with their Native Plant Nursery & Citizen Science program. Camp out at Apgar Campground. Park Service provides all tools and safety equipment. Moderate difficulty, Level 3. Leader: Stan Peyton (stanpeyton@gmail.com, 702-347-3331).

TRUCKEE MEADOWS . . .

continued from page 4

inventory (now nearly 150 trailheads) previously, and our work in the local area should feed into this plan quite nicely.

If you enjoy hiking in the Truckee Meadows, please take a few minutes to complete the TMRPA survey by going to www.tmrails.com and selecting 'Take Our Survey'.

DESERT NWR . . .

continued from page 5

every military base across the country.

Of the 1.6 million acres set aside for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR) in 1936, over 800,000 refuge acres were withdrawn by NTTR at the onset of WWII. 590,000 of those acres were proposed wilderness and managed as such. Removal of all protections for these lands will degrade wildlife habitat, and jeopardize fragile biological communities that have adapted to both the arid Mojave Desert and to the Basin & Range Physiographic Province.

In short, with little regard for the Sikes Act, the Department of Defense no longer wants to manage public lands within their military bases in a manner that preserves wilderness characteristics or protects habitat for imperiled species.

What you can do. The fate of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge now lies in the hands of our elected Representatives and Senators, who will make the final decision on the legislative environmental impact statement. Write them. Call them. Be fearless. They will need to hear from all of us. Contact your Senators at: Dianne Feinstein, www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact and Kamala Harris, www.harris.senate.gov/.

This is about protecting the future of all our public lands.

Once they are gone, gone is forever.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1

FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

Las Vegas ICO : Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Kids plant for desert tortoise at Gilcrease Orchard

BY CYNTHIA REGIDOR

Las Vegas ICO and Get Outdoors Nevada (GON) partnered on November 10th to give our 6-10 yr old kids from Bob Price Recreational Center a memorable and educational experience on sustainability. Gilcrease Orchard was the perfect setting. It is a 60-acre orchard in the Las Vegas Valley that grows a wide variety of fruits and vegetables and is open to the public. On this ICO outing to Gilcrease Orchard, our young participants learned the important role of plant life in providing sustenance to the wild creatures in our desert community.

GON's educational program coordinator, Cheresa Taing, told the youngsters that several desert tortoises under the care of GON will be relocated to Gilcrease Orchard next spring. She then introduced us to the native plants that provide food for our beloved desert tortoises and gave direction in planting them for their new habitat at this orchard. These plants included desert marigold, creosote bush and apricot globemallow.

The children quickly got to work, mixing nutrient rich soil into the ground and carefully placing each plant in its

new home. "I love getting dirty!" screamed 10-year-old Vivian. Then Chloe, the youngest and most vocal of the group, said, "Planting is so much fun . . . I thought it was going to be boring!"

We later moved on to view the beehive and learned the symbiotic relationship of the bees and apple trees, while the children looked on with curiosity and hesitation, for fear of being stung. Although the official apple season is over, the children were delighted to find mini apples as we combed through the apple orchard. Darting from tree to tree gave the kids an appetite, so we stopped for lunch.

Devouring their sandwiches took no time, and the children were off and running through the maze built from stacks of hay bales. We ended this sunny Saturday in the pumpkin patch, to endless squeals of "Look what I found!" while they smiled ear to ear.



Running through the maze of hay bales. PHOTO: Cynthia Regidor.



Bob Price youngsters at Gilcrease tortoise habitat. PHOTO: Cynthia Regidor.

MANY LOCAL PIONEER FAMILIES made generous donations in return for a place to honor their family history on the Pavilion walls. These panels will be available for viewing year round, and will enhance the mission of the adjacent Mono Basin Museum.

Another important feature is an exhibit on solar power and the impetus for building the Pavilion as a showcase for renewable energy. Visitors will be able to see how the solar generation is working in real time via a computer monitor.

The Pavilion was made possible by the generosity of so many: Duncan and Ellen King visited Ashton Hayes in England and brought back the idea of a Solar Pavilion. Tim Banta of Lakeview Lodge made the entry sign and sliding doors. Deanna Bone-Rundle supervised the tile painting and firing. Mitch Pinizzotto lifted the steel with the family crane. Dave Carle designed all the family history panels. Janet Carle spearheaded fundraising.

Solar Pavilion in Lee Vining, Part II

BY JANET CARLE

Ben Trefry created a video to share our project with the world, available on YouTube (search Pioneer Solar Pavilion).

The most critical person of all was the one who actually made the dream into a reality with weeks of hard physical work, an extensive array of building

Julia Silliker's 5/6 grade class has adopted Pavilion upkeep as a class project.



skills, and a knack for taking willing volunteers and honing them into an effective work crew. Urs Willimann was our volunteer contractor and gave the community a gift of lasting beauty.

The volunteer construction crew, the businesses and families that donated food and materials, and the tile painters all made invaluable contributions.

All of our major suppliers were generous in understanding the shoe string

nature of the finances, and responding with discounts and donations. Thank you to Mammoth Welding, Lumos Solar, Marzano & Sons, Sierra Solar, Ashley & Vance Engineering, and Chuck Villar Construction.

And then there is Mono County. Parks and Facilities Superintendent Joe Blanchard was enthusiastic and encouraging from the very beginning. His crew was always there when heavy equipment, additional muscle or construction oversight

Please see SOLAR PAVILION, page 8.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group

Group News

BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR

Happy New Year!

Outings Chair/s needed. Connecting people with nature helps get people to care for the environment. The ROLG has been doing that for 26 years through weekly outings (and then some!). The Hihns have carried on the tradition for the past five years and are stepping down as Outings Co-Chairs. Since we don't have a permanent chair yet, we are asking volunteers to take turns coordinating outings a month at a time. If you would like to help, contact Vivian at (510) 414-9948 Barrontoo@gmail.com. P.S. A big thank you to the Hihns for making our outings happen for so many years!

Program Chair/s needed. We are also hoping someone will volunteer to be our Program Chair. Until that position is filled, we will be cutting back on the number of member meetings and presentations from monthly to quarterly.

Group projects. The ROLG is currently working on three projects: the Sierra Club's Ready for 100% Renewable Energy project (RF100), the Tangle Free Waters project, and the Blue Diamond project.

RF 100. The RF100 team consists of members of the ROLG, 350Mono.org, Citizen's Climate Lobby, and the Eastern

Sierra Electric Auto Association. They are pursuing various paths to reduce the town's carbon footprint. The main goal is to get the Town and community of Mammoth Lakes to switch to clean energy by 2030. After much research, it comes down to the town needing to either form/join a Community Choice Aggregate or to develop more rooftop solar and micro-grids.

The team explored the possibility of putting a 1-2 MW array out at the airport to supply energy to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the schools, and/or the hospital, but until legislation changes the rules, it is not possible. The solar array can only tie in to one net-metering meter. That could be the airport's meter, but the airport doesn't need 1-2MW of power and it would not be feasible to bring a line from the solar array into a meter in town.

The RF100 team is also working on getting public, universal, electric vehicle charging stations installed in Mono County. There are over 500,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in California. Right now, only Tesla vehicles can make it to the Eastern Sierra. Non-Tesla EVs can't make it due to the lack of charging stations for them to top



Range of Light Group OUTINGS

Winter outings will generally be on Sundays, meeting at Union Bank at 10; destinations to be decided by leaders closer to the date of the activity. For details and the most current status, check the ROLG's MeetUp page: www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/. Outings will also be posted in the local papers.

Also pick up our free, 2019 Mammoth Lakes Blue Diamond Nordic Routes map at the USFS Visitor Center. Then have fun following the blue diamond signs posted on trees as you make your own tracks through the forest around the Knolls, Inyo Craters, and Obsidian Dome!

If you are willing to be responsible for

coordinating a month of Sunday hike/snow activities or be a hike leader, please contact Vivian at (510-414-9948, Barrontoo@gmail.com). Your job would be to:

- find leaders for as many Sundays as possible that month. (You might choose to lead some yourself if credentialed.)
- send the information to the publicity chair for publication in the local papers and post the outings on MeetUp.
- accept inquiries via phone or email from anyone who wants more specifics about the event planned for a specific date. (This could mean referring the inquiry to that Sunday's leader.)

off en-route.

The team has identified possible locations for charging stations and possible financing for the mid-level (Level 2) charging stations. The Caltrans 30-30 ZEV project will install public quick charging stations at the rest areas in Boron and Coso and one at their Bishop office starting in 2020. They will put in a mid-level one at the Division Creek rest area.

Tangle Free Waters. This project, headed up by Janet Barth, is also very much a team effort among many different organizations. There were cleanup efforts throughout the summer where fishing line was removed from bushes along lakes and wads were pulled out of the bottom of lakes. The 42 fishing line tubes were also cleaned out, documented, and assigned to someone to maintain next summer.

Blue Diamond. This summer, the ROLG's Blue Diamond team re-marked the signs on a section of an existing Nordic ski trail and got approval for extending a route in the Knolls. The blue diamonds mark historic x-country ski routes around the Knolls, Earthquake Dome, Inyo Craters, and Obsidian Dome. They provide a wonderful alternative to track skiing. For a scenic adventure, you just follow the blue diamonds posted on trees that lead you through the forest. Maps are available at the Mammoth USFS Visitor Center and at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light.

What you can do. If you would like to help work on any of these projects, please let me know (chairrolg@gmail.com). I hope 2019 will be a good year for protecting our precious national monuments, the environment and wildlife!

100% local water for Los Angeles: It's possible!

BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR

What if LA could live on its own watersupply? What if LADWP could let Mono Lake rise to the mandated level, restore wetlands, and let the Owens Valley aquifer recharge? A 2018 UCLA study, "Los Angeles Sustainable Water Project",* explains how the city of Los Angeles can be much more self-reliant using local water sources than Mayor Garcetti's goals set forth in the 2015 Sustainable City pLAN. If LA follows UCLA's road map, it would mean using 100,000 acre-feet less of Eastern Sierra water or more!

Many aspects of the Mayor's pLAN are very progressive. It has conservation goals of reducing per capita water usage from 104 gpcd to 98.25 by 2035. It promises to reduce the use of water from the Metropolitan Water District by 50% by 2025 by increasing wastewater treatment and stormwater capture, increasing groundwater storage, decontaminating groundwater, using non-potable water for golf courses, irrigation, or industrial uses, and more. However, the Mayor's current pLAN still takes as much as is available from the Eastern Sierra.

Local water for LA! Los Angeles gets 2-3 times more rain than the Eastern Sierra, plus snow in the San Gabriel Mountains that are the backdrop to the LA basin. The UCLA study shows how the city can get even more out of these sources by adding more wastewater treatment plants, more cisterns, more vegetated swales, more rainwater capture, more water conservation incentives, etc. But an important part of the study is increasing infrastructure to integrate each of these areas — to interconnect them. In an integrated system, water could be directed to reservoirs, treatment plants, or the Los Angeles River depending on where water is needed. Local reservoirs would be used for groundwater recharge, flood control, as well as household use.

The study also incorporates the private sector and highlights what businesses and private landowners can do to either conserve or capture water. It says Los Angeles

can meet the more aggressive goals without using desalinization and without limiting population growth through building moratoriums and other measures.

It will be expensive to develop the infrastructure to transition to self-reliance, but it is possible! And the citizens of LA just passed a bond measure, Measure W, to get started. Los Angeles can lead the way with new, innovative approaches to restoring their own groundwater basin and having it become their main water source.

* <https://cloudfront.escholarship.org/dist/prd/content/qt4tp3x8g4/qt4tp3x8g4.pdf?t=p4u0ld>

SOLAR PAVILION, II . . .

continued from page 7

was needed. Special thanks to Claude Fiddler, Eric Eilts, Tony Iniguez, and District 3 Supervisor Bob Gardner.

The ribbon was cut at the Grand Opening by Augie Hess, the son of Gus Hess, one of the founders of Lee Vining and the namesake of the park that holds the Pavilion. We are so honored that Augie, at 103 years old, was able to participate.

The Mono Basin community would like to invite everyone to come and see the beautiful Pavilion in the park, to think about clean energy and learn about local history, and sit in the shade under the solar roof to watch the children play.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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

This New Year, say goodbye to old habits, and hello to new beginnings.

Join Sierra Club now.

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 ____/____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

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