

Tehipite Topics

December 2009 & Vol. 55, No. 10

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet *Saturday, February 6, 6:00 P.M.*



Classic Catering, 625 Fourth Street,
Old Town Clovis

Menu: Choice of Chicken or Vegetarian Entree

Program by Stephen Johnson, Photographer

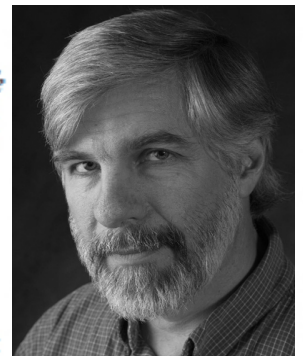
Tickets are \$25. Make checks payable to
"Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Please fill out the form below and mail to

Marcia Rasmussen, Banquet Chair
35680 Ennis Rd.
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Deadline to purchase tickets is January 15.

Stephen Johnson is a landscape photographer, designer and teacher. He has been photographing since 1973. His work has been featured in *Communication Arts*, *Life Magazine*, *American Photo*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *ABC Discovery News*, among many others. His books include *At Mono Lake*, the award winning and critically acclaimed *The Great Central Valley: California's Heartland*, *Making a Digital Book* and the new *Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography*. Internationally recognized as a digital photography pioneer, Johnson's photographs have been exhibited, published and collected in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Japan. In 1994 he embarked on *With A New Eye*, the ground breaking all digital photographic look at American national parks, to be published in due course. In 2003 he was inducted into the Photoshop Hall of Fame. Canon named him to their Explorers of Light program in 2006. Stephen is well-known for his passionate lectures and love for the traditions of fine photography. From Photoshop features, to cameras, printers, and papers, Stephen's consulting with high tech imaging companies has helped shape the very tools we all use today. His photography studios, galleries and education center are located in Pacifica, California. For more information on Stephen Johnson and his work, see <http://www.sjphoto.com>.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Number of tickets _____

Name of each person attending. Please check entree choice.

_____ chicken ___ vegetarian ___

_____ chicken ___ vegetarian ___

_____ chicken ___ vegetarian ___

Chapter General Meeting

EXPLORING PATAGONIA

A DIGITAL SLIDE SHOW BY HELEN GIGLIOTTI

WEDNESDAY, Dec, 16, 2009

7:00 pm at the Sierra Club Meeting

Univeresity of California Center

550 E. Shaw (across from Fashion Fair)

Join Helen as we explore the spectacular lands of southern Chile and Argentina, from the seas to the ice-capped Andes. Our adventure begins as we cruise by expedition ship and zodiac, the channels and fiords of Tierra del Fuego, in the footsteps (so to speak) of Magellan and Darwin. In addition to spectacular glaciers, the area is a haven for marine life including colonies of southern elephant seals, seabirds and penguins.

From the coast, we move inland to explore Argentina's glacier country, characterized by the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, the largest continental ice-cap



outside Antarctica. Meltwater from the expansive ice field forms milky lakes from temporary puddles to Lago Argentino, one of South America's largest lakes where we will see flamingos and oystercatchers, as well as black-necked swans among other waterfowl species. A highlight of this area is Puerto Moreno Glacier, famous the world over as one of its largest and most active ice rivers.

Across the border in Chile we visit Torres del Paine National Park with its panoramas which conjure up the very image of Patagonia. In a setting of glorious scenic vistas colored by springtime wildflowers, we search and find some of the area's legendary wildlife inhabitants: Andean condors, Patagonian foxes, rheas and hordes of guanacos. Don't miss this journey!

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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of the Sierra Club
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Population

. open

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, December 3rd
Rod Webster's home, 7:00 P.M.
345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meeting Will Be the December Banquet Saturday, Dec. 5th

The banquet will be held at UC Merced with food provided by Lakeside Caterers. The choice of entrees are Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian Strudel with Tiramisu for desert. Doors open at 6:00, dinner will be served at 6:30, and the program begins at 7:15.

Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 for tickets. Cost is \$20/general and \$10 for students.

Directions to the University: From the south on Hwy. 99- take the G St/16th St. exit, turn Rt on "G" St., take it all the way through town (on past Raley's shopping center and Merced College). Another two miles or so and go RT onto Bellevue Rd. When it dead ends on Lake Rd you'll see the univ in front of you to the left. So turn LFT on to Lake and then RT at the first oppty--Scholars Lane.

Once on campus: signs will direct you to park in the lots to the right (free on weekends). The dining commons is about a block walk up the hill. A "Sierra Club Banquet" sign in the road will alert you. If you want to drop folks off you can also drive straight past the parking area and on up the hill to the venue (on your left). There is some limited parking along the curb for those of you who are less mobile.

Excellent Sierra Club Holiday Gifts

Sierra Club calendars, day planners, Christmas cards, and note cards are available. With always exceptional Sierra Club nature photography. The calendars and day planners also come in convenient postal mailers. Purchase at Merced Group banquet or phone Annette Allsup. at (209)723-5152

Outings - Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate car-pooling.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about the Lodge or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

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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

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Water Bill from the Twilight Zone

The words "Bizarre" and maybe "grotesque" come to mind regarding the water bill, SB7X1, recently signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

In *Cadillac Desert*, Marc Reisner describes ours as "a civilization whose success was achieved on the pretention that natural obstacles do not exist." And "in the West ... water flows uphill toward money." In a few years we might be piping water in from British Columbia and, in a few more years, space-shipping it in from the Moon—an image from Star Wars. (NASA discovered a significant amount of water there in the form of water vapor and ice after purposefully exploding a missile on the Moon's surface on October 9th. Yes, I am being facetious—at least about water from the Moon, I think.)

According to the Governor, "I'm fighting to rebuild our crumbling water system.... Water is jobs for California, water is food, water is our future, water is our economy." If so, why are we wasting so much water? Why is our pumping of ground water not limited by law? Ground water of course is not unlimited, and the water table in the Valley has dropped steadily since we started pumping over a hundred years ago. The population keeps growing and pumping more and more. As it is—and the bill will not change these facts—the most ground water goes to whoever has the longest straw.

SB7X1 has other problems. The bill does not require monitoring of water use. It does not require payment for water per amount used. According to Peter Gleick, "Very modest targets for

improving water-use efficiency were set in the bill for urban users only, and even these are not mandatory or enforceable." The \$11.4 billion will be paid for with bonds, which will put California in even deeper debt.

According to Lloyd Carter, "California Ag now uses 80 percent of the state's developed surface water (water from rivers stored behind dams or in the ground). Half of California farmland is still flood irrigated, like the ancient Egyptians did. Incredibly wasteful in a desert. Modernization of irrigation techniques (drip, etc.) could save 3.7 million acre-feet a year according to the Pacific Institute, enough water for another 37 million people."

Edward Abbey gets the final word (published in 1968): "There is no lack of water here [in the Southwest], unless you try to establish a city where no city should be. The Developers [capitalized apparently because developers' words are the Words of God], of course—the politicians, businessmen, bankers, administrators, engineers—they see it somewhat otherwise and complain most bitterly and interminably of a desperate water shortage They propose schemes of inspiring proportions for diverting water by the damful from the Columbia River, or even from the Yukon River, and channeling it overland down into Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico [and of course California]. They cannot see that growth for the sake of growth is a cancerous madness ..." (*Desert Solitaire*).

"Most of the serious environmental damage being done on the planet is the result of decisions made with a limited view of the consequences. We cannot hope to know the entire picture. But all those who make the effort to educate themselves about global change will contribute to a more positive outcome."

from *Navigating the Tides of Change* by David La Chapelle

Topics on the Chopping Block

Do you like the *Tehipite Topics* newsletter?

The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee is considering dropping the newsletter, which you are now reading, for financial reasons. Both the Executive Committee and the editors—and we hope you too—want the Topics to be local Sierra Club members' source of important information on local environmental, wilderness, and Sierra Nevada issues not carried in other publications.

Sierra magazine—Sierra Club National's publication, which you get six times a year—is good, but it of course does not cover local issues from a local perspective.

The problem right now is the Topics costs about \$1600 a month (about a dollar per member) to print and distribute—according to Tehipite Treasurer, Joe Ruff, our biggest chapter expense. Also, Tehipite Chapter will be getting less money from Sierra Club National starting next year. The bad economy causes problems all around.

We have options. We could drop the paper version and save the entire \$1600 and keep only the online version found on the chapter web site (www.tehipite.sierraclub.org). It would save on paper and trees. Unfortunately some members are not online and would therefore miss out. Also, the chapter leaves copies of the Topics at libraries and other locations for non-members, which we hope helps with membership. Finally, Hume Printing, a union shop, would lose business.

Tehipite Chapter member donations might be the real answer. A check from you—dear Topics reader—sealed in an envelope addressed to Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 5396, Fresno, CA 93755-5396—with a little note of encouragement to keep the Topics going—would be greatly appreciated.

The Comment Period on the Jesse Morrow Mine Project Ends December 4

The following part of my comment on the Cultural Resources Impacts is included here in remembrance of Angie Osborne, a Choinumni leader who passed away recently.

According to the DEIR, the Cemex mining project could potentially cause "substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource." This impact would be "significant and unavoidable."

Also according to the DEIR, "Wahahlisch is Choinumni for 'Someone Cried' and may reference a traditional Choinumni story." We might have been lucky enough to know this story if it were not for environmental and cultural destruction (genocide) curiously suggestive of the present project. However, because of the genocide perpetrated by capitalists during the Gold Rush and to a much lesser degree by the Spanish and Mexican governments before the Gold Rush, most of the cultural artifacts of the Yokuts groups like the Choinumni were destroyed long before researchers like Kroeber, Merriam, and Latta arrived on the scene to collect what little remained (1900-1950).

According to Jeff Mayfield, who was raised by the Choinumni from about age seven to sixteen in a camp near the confluence of Sycamore Creek and the Kings River, the tribe would recite traditional stories—none of which are now extant—around a fire in the evening. Mayfield described this tradition to Frank Latta:

"After the evening meal they would all lie around the fire on the ground through the long evening and tell stories and sing until as late as ten or eleven o'clock. This was the finest part of their lives. Here was the real family circle. ... The old sages would tell stories about their own experiences when they were young, or about the history of the tribe, or just simple stories they may have made up. We youngsters would sit around with our mouths and eyes wide open and listen until we had to go to bed" (*Indian Summer*, 69).

None of these stories remain because the destruction of cultures for the purpose of exploiting their natural resources seems to require the destruction of any and all cultural artifacts, including language and narrative. This destruction

continues today with projects like the one here under consideration. The location on the site of no special artifacts favors the project. The early settlers apparently did Cemex a favor.

In *Desert Solitaire*, Edward Abbey describes the culture of the Navaho, in many ways similar to the Choinumne, and why it is difficult for them to adapt to modern capitalistic practices as evidenced in the present project:

"Coming from a tradition which honors sharing and mutual aid above private interest, the Navaho thinks it somehow immoral for one man to prosper while his neighbors go without."

One can see why the greedy settlers had to do away with these simple people.

Since no Choinumne tales remain, we include here the "Race of the Deer and the Antelope" (collected by Alfred Kroeber) from the Tachi Yokuts group, the closest friends of the Choinumni:

The antelope and the deer were together. The antelope said: "I can beat you running." The deer said: "I think not." The antelope said: "Well, let us try." The deer said: "We shall run for six days," and the antelope agreed. The deer said: "Let us go south and run northward." Then they went far to the south "across the ocean" (or Tulare Lake), in order to run northward to the end of the world. The antelope said: "This will be my path on the west here. You take the path on the east." The deer agreed. Then they started. Their path was the Milky Way. On the side where the antelope ran there is a wide path; on the other side there are patches. That is where the deer jumped. The antelope had said: "If I win, all this will be my country and you will have to bide in the brush." The deer said: "Very well, and if I win it will be the same for me." Then they ran and the antelope won. So now he has the plains to live in, but the deer hides in the brush.

Perhaps since we have taken everything else from these people, we can leave Jesse Morrow Mountain, also called Choinumni Mountain and Wahallich in the Choinumni language, as a monument to a people who lived near it for perhaps 10,000 years—happily, abundantly, and joyfully—without ever needing to mine it for aggregate, without ever needing the "necessities" and conveniences of the modern world.

CEDAR GROVE BRIDGE IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

by John and Marcia Rasmussen

Kings Canyon National Park has submitted a Final Environmental Impact Statement for a new Bridge in Cedar Grove near the hotel and store. The National Park Service has chosen to evaluate only two alternatives. The No Action Alternative, which they must include as part of the NEPA process and in the long run is not feasible. The other alternative is to build a bridge wider and twice as long than the existing bridge in the same location. During the scoping process the Tehipite Chapter submitted comments proposing a number of alternatives, which are listed below.

The Park Service chose not to give a thorough review to any ideas other than their Management Preferred Alternative. Current Environmental Assessments from Kings Canyon National Park show a disconcerting tendency to analyze only the management's preferred alternative and to put people comforts and construction projects ahead of the natural resources and scenic vistas. More information on this project is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=342&projectId=12339>. Comments are due by December 4, 2009.

Also consider sending a letter to:

Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Attn: Cedar Grove Bridge Project
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

Suggest that Environmental Assessments need a greater number of alternatives subjected to detailed review. This EA only received six comments. The Park needs to work harder to involve more people in important park projects.

The following comments should be considered as from the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Four alternatives present themselves for consideration:

- 1) No action.
- 2) Replace bridge with the capacity to support vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.
- 3) Remove the bridge.

4) Replace bridge with the capacity to support pedestrian and bicycle traffic only.

UNDER ALL ALTERNATIVES

A traffic analysis is needed to identify current and future needs for vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian use. The analysis should identify the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives. The traffic analysis should also include parking needs and requirements for Cedar Grove Village.

NO ACTION

This alternative appears to be the least desirable of the potential alternatives. Given the description in the press release we assume that the bridge is no longer safe or approaching that condition. The natural river flow would continue to be restricted under this option.

REPLACE BRIDGE WITH THE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT VEHICLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC

This would be the most expensive of the solutions. It appears that if the bridge needs to be relocated that it would need to be moved down stream because of the bend in the river. A large flood has the potential to significantly changing the course of the river at the point where the current bridge is located. Moving the bridge far enough downstream to avoid the bend may result in considerably more roadway needed and would not be as desirable as a pedestrian bridge.

REMOVE THE BRIDGE

Though this may not meet the objectives as stated in the news release or in the General Management Plan it should be considered as a viable alternative. Vehicle access to Cedar Grove Village would be available using the north road. Day use access to Cedar Grove Village may be more restricted requiring a longer drive. This alternative would have the least impact on the natural flows of the river. A substantial amount of road could also be removed under this alternative thus improving the riparian wildlife corridor.

REPLACE BRIDGE WITH THE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC ONLY

This alternative may be the best alternative for improving the visitor experience, in the Cedar Grove Village area, along with providing for the

natural flow of the river. Though the press release identified an objective of providing for vehicle traffic I did not see this identified as a requirement in the General Management Plan. The riparian wildlife corridor would also be improved by replacement of the road with a narrower pedestrian and bicycle paths on both the north and south sides of the river. This alternative also allows for a greater range of bridge styles and placement. Parking already exists on the south side of the river that could be used for those wishing to gain access to the Village without having to drive around on the north road. The experience of visitors staying at Cedar Grove Village would be improved with less traffic, noise, and enhanced access to the river. The parking area near the river could also be reduced providing a nicer visitor experience near the river. Pedestrians are more likely to stop and enjoy the view on a bridge that does not have vehicle traffic.

Le Conte Lodge Spared

The bad economy nearly forced Sierra Club National not to fund the LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley. However, because of the efforts of Harold Wood of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, National restored funding for 2010. After 2010, the LeConte Committee is likely to have to raise funds to support the memorial. According to Richard Kangas of the Tehipite Chapter ExCom, "An Internet site is being established to allow donations to be made there for LeConte. An effort to set up an endowment fund is being studied. An endowment would need investments in excess of a million dollars in order to fund the \$55,000 level."

Geologist Joseph LeConte was a friend of John Muir and helped found the Sierra Club in 1892. He died in Yosemite in 1901 and the Lodge was completed in 1904 as a memorial.

Kings River Project

Because of the intervention of Sierra Forest Legacy (www.sierraforestlegacy.org), the EPA, and other agencies, the Kings River Project (KRP) has evolved into the Kings River Experimental Watershed Project (KREW). The purpose of the KRP, which evolved out of USFS prescription burning plans developed and implemented in the 1990s, was to restore "Sierra Nevada forests to conditions that are sustainable and resilient." KRP would have involved hand and mechanical thinning and prescribed burning to restore the forest to pre-1850 conditions—conditions before European settlement. Also, the project aimed to prevent catastrophic wildfires and protect communities adjacent to the forest. Sierra Forest Legacy objected to KRP (DEIS 2006) because the project would have allowed more harvesting

Continued page 7

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Dave Wallace at wagga@comcast.net and Steve Cosner at stevec@sfsu.edu. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

From Page 6 of larger trees and would have adversely impacted watersheds and endangered species—particularly the Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and the Yosemite toad (*Bufo canorus*). Also, according to a letter to the district ranger in the area of the project from Duane James of the EPA regional environmental review office, the draft Environmental Review Statement (DEIS) for KRP did not “evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives, or provide sufficient information to support the project design and proposed variances from the existing 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment”

Now the Forest Service has come back with a supplemental EIS and renamed the project the Kings River Experimental Watershed Project. According to the USFS web site the project “is a watershed-level, integrated ecosystem project for headwater streams in the Sierra Nevada. Eight

sub-watersheds have been chosen ... to monitor ecosystem changes: four on the Big Creek drainage, three on the Dinkey Creek drainage, and one that drains directly into the North Fork, Kings River. Watersheds are located in two groups; the Providence Creek Site is located in mixed-conifer forest” at 4920-6950 feet elevation, “and the Bull Creek Site is located in red fir/mixed-conifer” at 6720-8150 feet elevation. “Each watershed will receive one of three management treatments, or serve as a control. The three treatments will be uneven-aged group selection thinning, prescribed fire, and a thinning with burn combination. ... KREW is designed to continue for at least 15 years of study, providing at least four years of pre-treatment data, several years of post-treatment data, and several seasons of data that span successive treatments.”

Lots of questions remain. Will the forest thinning benefit the Pacific fisher? Proponents

January 24 – Sunday

Snowshoe to Panoramic Point, Kings Canyon

Outing rated (1A) but can be easy or hard, depending on snow conditions. Poor conditions will result in trip postponement to the following Sunday.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

February 21 - Sunday

Snowshoe from Coyote Trailhead (1A or 2A)

Conditions will determine whether we follow Eagle Trail or Coyote Loop trail. Poor conditions will result in trip postponement to the following Sunday.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

DONATE NOW

SECURE DONATIONS
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Sierra Club California Needs Your Help

You have great people in Sacramento lobbying to protect the Sierra and on other critical issues like climate change. Bill Magavern, Jim Metropoulous, and Annie Pham do a terrific job, and they need our help. Please go to the terrific Sierra Club California web site at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and donate generously.



Coyote Trail Snow Shoe and X-C Ski, (from Tehipite website)

of the project believe so, but there is a question about the actual conditions of the habitat before 1850. Was the forest as open as John Muir found it when he first came on the scene in California about 1870? Or was this open forest the result of sheep grazing in the forest for perhaps twenty years before Muir’s first visit? There is also evidence that the local Native American groups, such as the Mono people, regularly burned the forest floor with low intensity fires to keep it open for hunting and to encourage growth of plants resources they gathered. Some believe the primary motivation behind the KREW project is timber harvest using science as camouflage. The answers are still indefinite and will require the USFS to work together in good faith with organizations like Sierra Forest Legacy and the Sierra Club.





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Inside *Tehipite Topics*

Chapter Banquet Coming In February ...Cover	
Chapter Meetings	2
Merced Group & Banquet Info.....	3
Water Bill.....	4
Topics Chopped?.....	5
Jesse Morrow Mountain.....	5
Cedar Grove Bridge	6
LeConte Lodge	6
Kings River Project	6-7
Outings	7
More Water.....	8

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month. Submit material to TehipiteTopics@gmail.com

Water Oligarchs

According to Yasha Levine of Al-ternet, “A group of water oligarchs in California have engineered a disastrous deregulation and privatization scheme. And they’ve pulled in hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars without causing much public outrage.” Apparently, they are trying to gain control of even more water—and of course more Big Money.

The main players are a limousine liberal power couple, Stewart Resnick and his wife Lynda Resnick. They donate big money to the philanthropy, the arts, and the Democratic Party and are friendly with Arianna Huffington and producer of An Inconvenient Truth, Laurie David. Governor Grey Davis appointed Resnick to co-chair his agriculture-water transition

team, likely as a favor for a \$350,000 campaign contribution. The Resnicks own Roll International Corporation, which owns Paramount Agribusiness, “the largest farming company in America and the largest pistachio and almond producer in the world.” Roll was ranked 246 on Forbes’ list of America’s largest private companies, with revenue of about \$2 billion in 2007.

Roll is one of the largest water brokers in America. “Through a series of subsidiary companies and organizations, Roll International is able to convert California’s water from a public, shared resource into a private asset that can be sold on the market to the highest bidder.”

Stewart Resnick is involved the Kern County Water Bank, “an underground water storage facility at the

center of a plan to bring deregulation to California’s most important public utility: water.”

The Kern County Water Bank is an underground reservoir in the southern San Joaquin Valley with a capacity of 1 million acre-feet, “enough to supply the City of Los Angeles with water for 1.7 years.” The bank was originally planned by the Water Resources Board to save up water during wet years for use in during droughts. “California spent nearly a hundred million dollars to develop the underground reservoir and connect it to the state’s public canals and aqueducts, but in 1995, California’s Department of Water Resources suddenly, and without any public debate, transferred it to a handful of corporate interests,” now apparently controlled by the Resnicks.