



Tehipite Topics

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Economy vs. Ecology: A False Dichotomy

Most of us have become accustomed to think of the two “E” words, “economy” and “ecology,” as antagonistic. Perhaps the biggest reason we now go slow on taking measures to combat global warming is our fear that these measures will hurt the economy. If we take measures to reduce greenhouse gas production due to burning fossil fuels—so goes the argument—it will kill jobs. Thus, economy dominates ecology.

There is truth in reading the terms as antagonistic, but there is another way of looking at it. The “eco-” part of the “economy” and “ecology” derives from the Greek word *oiko*, meaning “house.” Thus, in a sense the ecosystem is the “house” in which all of us—humans and all flora and fauna—live. And economy, from the Greek *oikonomos*, meaning “one who manages the household,” is a system of exchange, a sort of household on a budget.

Increasingly we humans are wont to think



Wall Street vs. Forest-- a false dichotomy?

of this system of exchange as exclusively human. Certainly economy in the usual sense is a system dominated by humans. However, I believe we err in thinking of economy as exclusively human and separate from the natural ecosystem because most of the resources (a word I don't much like because it contains the connotation that the ecosystem exists for our exclusive use) exploited and traded in this system of exchange come from the ecosystem. One can hardly imagine human economy existing independently from ecology.

See “Economy / Ecology” page 7

A Week in Yosemite Valley,

by Elaine Gorman (Yokuts outing leader)

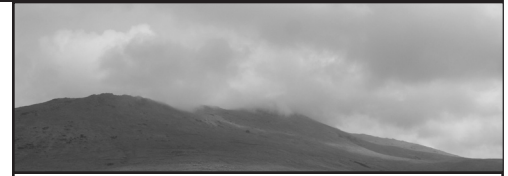
The sight and sound of Bridalveil Fall -- mist and thunder -- greeted us as we entered Yosemite Valley. Roadways and paths were edged with blooming dogwood trees. The cliffs on both sides of the valley were topped with glittering snow, and dozens of ephemeral cascades bounced their way down the granite walls. Our car was filled with camping gear, ice chest, and other necessities for a week of life in Yosemite Valley and service at the LeConte Memorial Lodge.



Yosemite Valley, photo by eekster from Wikimedia

Under the tutelage of curator Bonnie Gisel and her scottie dog Atwood, myself and two volunteers from San Diego, John Fankhauser and Bob Fullerton, greeted visitors, explained the exhibits, and helped set up for the evening programs. We had the opportunity to meet hundreds of visitors from all over the United States and other countries. The LeConte Memorial Lodge (LML), originally built in 1903 near Camp Curry, but located since 1919 just west of Camp Curry on Southside Drive, is a beautiful building with granite walls and a steep wooden roof. The LML is named for Dr. Joseph LeConte, charter faculty member of the University of Calif., Berkeley, who taught Geology and Natural History courses. He was also a friend of John Muir and charter member of the Sierra Club. The LML served as the first visitor center in Yosemite, a meeting place for Sierra Club members, and housed a Sierra

See “Yosemite” page 7



Part 2: Cemex Celebrates Earth Day at Wahallich

In the May issue, you learned how Cemex’s “tour” of their proposed aggregate mining project on Wahallich (Jesse Morrow Mountain) was interrupted by local opponents and Earth First! The continuation begins with a question from the audience about how the project will impact air quality.

The talk is punctuated by interruptions from the audience. They are assertive but civil. They are repeatedly asked to wait till the end. When the presenter seems to be about out of steam, one speaks up. “I have a question about air quality.” “Please wait until I’m finished, and then I’ll answer your question.” The questioner is not put off. The Environmental Impact Report says the impact to air quality will be significant and unavoidable. My question to you is do you know how many people die prematurely each year in the San Joaquin Valley because of ozone?”

The presenter’s shoulders droop a little. He tries to avoid the question. “We are the most regulated industry in the state. If the air district sees that we are polluting, they can shut us down.”

“That’s not likely,” someone speaks up. “The air district has been out of attainment on ozone for nearly 20 years. They work for the polluters; they won’t shut anyone down.”

The answer is that, according to the U.S. EPA, about 18,000 people die each year in California because of ozone, at least half of them in the San Joaquin Valley, which has some of the worst ozone on the planet. I believe that the real numbers are actually much higher and the official numbers are artificially low because of limitations of record keep-

See “Cemex” page 7

Chapter Meetings

General Meeting

University of California Center, 550 E.

Shaw Ave., Fresno

June 16th at 7 P.M.

Hiker and climber Chris Burrigh will share his stories and help you prepare for this summer in the Sierra

Photo of Chris Burrigh in the Pine Ridge area above Tollhouse and Big Sandy Valley



"I have hiked all my life and have been rock climbing for the past 3

years. I have rock climbed and ice-climbed in and out of Yosemite and hiked through most of the wilderness and high country of our sierras. Join me on June 15th when I'll discuss some of the trips I have taken as well as ways to properly prepare for a hike or climb and get the most out of your trip. I'll go over proper packing and gear selection for both hiking and climbing suitable to all outdoor enthusiasts whether you're just starting or have been in the outdoors all your life."

Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings June 9th

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM

The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM

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



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Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 1st, 7 P.M.

Thursday, September 2nd, 7 P.M.

Rod Webster's home
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

Third Thursday of Each Month

at 7 PM

(No Meetings in July and August)

Sierra Presbyterian Church,

3603 "M" St.

(Yosemite Ave and M, across from Merced College)

Last general meeting until September

Thursday, June 17th, 7:00 P.M.

"The Last Descent" (white water kayaking down rivers in Nepal, India, and Africa)

Environmental Award - Adventure Film Festival

People's Choice Award - Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Presenter: Charlie Center/ co-producer and director

World class kayaker Charlie Center will share his award-winning movie and personal stories from a year of exploring wild, untamed rivers in India, Africa, and Nepal. The headwaters of the longest river

in the world, the deepest river gorge in the world, Nepalese sherpas trekking for days with kayaks on their backs,- these are the exotic and remote destinations they sought out to sample rarely challenged white waters. The kayaking footage is exhilarating, amazing, unbelievable at times- drops over 30 foot waterfalls, spinning out of sight in roiling whirlpools, dodging through a slalom course of bashing boulders- the river thrills are intense. But there is a lot more to this film than an extreme sports showcase. At times traveling by bus, train, rickshaw, jeep, and helicopter, as well as portaging on foot, the getting there was often as much a part of the adventure as the destination. And in that account is the story of the people who live along these rivers and the threat they face to a way of life that has endured for centuries.

The film points out. . . as these countries modernize, electrical power is a priority. Sometimes it seems the lone priority of the urban decision-makers and the financial powers that drive them. The demand for power means dams and dams mean the end to wild rivers and the people who depend on them. To get a feel for the potential impact, consider the Brahmaputra River region in India (the team kayaked its head waters). It alone has 168 large dam projects planned for it. Currently 30 indigenous tribes live sustainably along 1880 miles of that undammed river way. For them, "the river is everything". They adamantly declare: "we will fight for water, we will fight for survival, we will fight for our children, we will fight for life!" Of course their voices are in danger of being drowned out by the powerful, financial institutions and construction companies focused on profit.

In essence these countries are facing the same challenges we did 70 years ago. Though projects like O'Shaughnessy dam that flooded Muir's Yosemite Valley "sister", Hoover dam that inundated Glen Canyon, and California's last dam the New Melones that put a good deal of the Stanislaus river under water, destroyed wild river ways, they also brought awareness that helped protect places like Dinosaur N.M. and the Grand Canyon. Water and power are real needs but so are places of escape and wild beauty. The hope is that other nations can learn from the mistakes that we have made. Perhaps "these places, these rivers, these people need not be buried by concrete and greed- a different path can be taken, one which will not make this particular river journey "the last descent".

Seeing the beauty of these rivers and the lives of the people along them, passionately pleads the case that when a wild river is lost "the world will be poorer in ways that cannot be measured by revenue dollars or kilowatt hours produced".

Want a sneak preview? Visit <www.thelastdescent.com>.

Join us at our usual location at: Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St. in Merced

See "Merced" page 4

“Merced” from page 3

(corner of M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College)

Summer ‘break’ . No general meetings for the months of July and August. We’ll resume on the third Thursday of Sept.

Planning Meeting in July

Saturday, July 17th, at 10:00, those interested in planning next year’s programs are invited to Charlie and Sally Magneson’s to brainstorm ideas. This meeting is open to everyone. We need topics and ideas for speakers to fill seven regular monthly meetings, plus a featured presenter for our annual December banquet. Also ideas for the May picnic are in order. This is a fun time of inspiration and possibility. We try to pencil in the coming year with timely and locally relevant issues and speakers, maintaining that cautious balance between informative and entertaining. If this sounds of interest to you, feel free to join us. Or for more information contact Rod at 723-4747.

Charlie and Sally live at 10235 El Capitan. Coming from the south on Santa Fe, cross the bridge over the Merced River, turn right on to El Capitan at the first intersection. Their home is the first one on the right. From the north, approaching on Santa Fe, turn left on El Capitan just before the bridge.

Groups Sue To Force EPA Action on California Air Pollution

By Paul Cort, Earth Justice

Agency fails in its mission to clean up nation’s dirtiest air basins

Community and environmental groups filed three lawsuits, and gave notice of their intent

to file more, against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday over the Agency’s failure to ensure air pollution in California is reduced to safe levels as required by law. The groups want EPA to comply with the Clean Air Act by finally cracking down on the California Air Resources Board and local air quality control boards which have allowed pollution problems to continue.

Two suits, filed in U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco, challenge EPA’s approval of the 2004 San Joaquin Valley plan to meet the national 1-hour ozone standard by 2010. EPA’s action, which was over four years late, only happened because the San Joaquin Valley-based Association of Irrigated Residents went to court to force EPA to act.

The third lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in Oakland, challenges EPA’s refusal to act on the San Joaquin Valley’s 2007 8-hour ozone plan despite its deadline for action having passed more than a year ago.

The lawsuits were filed on behalf of Medical Advocates for Healthy Air and the Sierra Club by Earthjustice, and on behalf of Committee for a Better Arvin, Comité Residentes Organizados al Servicio del Ambiente Sano (Comité ROSAS), and Association of Irrigated Residents by the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.

“Arvin has the most ozone-polluted air in the United States because the Air Resources Board and the EPA don’t care enough about us to make sure that ozone pollution is cleaned up on time,” said Salvador Partida, Co-Chair of the Committee for a Better Arvin. “We are suing EPA today because EPA has approved a plan that has failed: the Valley will not meet the 2010 deadline.”

“Once again the EPA has failed the San Joaquin Valley,” said Kevin Hamilton of Medical Advocates for Healthy Air in Fresno. “Our asthma rates are twice that of those in places with cleaner air, yet our local air pollution board and the Air Resources Board cater to the people causing the problem, and the EPA has been AWOL for decades. How long must my wife, children, grandchildren and those of all my patients wait to breathe clean air! EPA, you work for us – now get to work!”

Chip Ashley from Sierra Club’s Tehipite Chapter in Fresno agreed: “The health impacts are devastating as are the impacts on our natural surroundings and on the productivity of one of the nation’s most important agricultural regions. It is time for stern measures.”

Among the objections to the 1-hour ozone plan is the State’s refusal to allow EPA to include the many rules that the State claims will reduce emissions from cars and trucks. “EPA refused to review 180 car and truck regulations, yet claims that those car and truck regulations achieve 75% of the ozone pollution reductions,” said Maria Covarrubias of Comité ROSAS. “EPA’s job is to ensure that those car and truck regulations do what the Air Resources Board claims they do. Obviously, those rules are failing because we won’t meet the 2010 deadline and are still breathing ozone-polluted air in the Valley.”

In addition to the lawsuits surrounding the ozone plans, groups also notified EPA that the Agency has missed deadlines for acting on the particulate matter plan for the San Joaquin Valley. A letter filed on behalf of the Association of Irrigated Residents by the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, warns that EPA could face another round of lawsuits if

See “Lawsuit” page 5





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.

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 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
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 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

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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Conservation Forum

“Lawsuit” from page 4

the Agency does not take the required action within 60 days.

“More than a thousand people die each year from particulate matter pollution in the San Joaquin Valley,” said Tom Frantz, President of the Association of Irrigated Residents. “EPA’s action on the particulate matter plan is four months late and we refuse to allow EPA to stand idly by while people are dying. EPA must ensure this plan cleans up this killer by the 2014 deadline.”

“The system is broken,” said Paul Cort, an attorney with Earthjustice. “If we are ever going to have clean air, we need EPA to provide some leadership. Hopefully, today’s actions provide a wake up call.”

California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

51 delegates to the CNRCC, representing the thirteen California Chapters and the Toiyabe Chapter in Nevada, gathered at rustic El Chorro Park in San Luis Obispo to discuss candidates in the upcoming elections and to vote on five resolutions. Four of five resolutions were passed, and a fifth resolution requiring vehicle owners to pay for parking was tabled pending revision.

The resolutions that passed included resolutions (1) to request that the proposed solar thermal plant be move away from critical desert tortoise habitat, (2) to remove green waste from landfills to reduce production of methane, (3) to promote energy efficiency and distributed generation, and (4) to reroute the proposed Ruby natural gas pipeline in Nevada away from scenic areas and critical habitat.

National staffer Barbara Boyle attended the convention to debate the Ivanpah resolution, which National Headquarters does not support. The consensus among the delegates was that since Sierra Club policy favors energy efficiency and distributed generation over central station renewables that require lots of land and long transmission, National should oppose Ivanpah in its present form. Boyle argued that since Ivanpah is the first large project of its kind, Sierra Club should not oppose it.

Bike Ride to Save Wahalish (Jesse Morrow Mountain)

The Coalition to save Jesse Morrow Mountain is planning to host a bike ride from Fresno to Jesse Morrow Mountain in August.

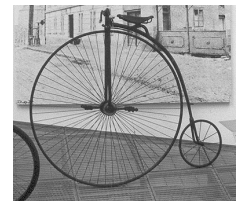
The ride will be on Saturday, August 14th, 2010. We plan to meet up at 7:00am, and leave from Al Radka Park on Belmont between Clovis Ave. and Fowler Ave or from the corner of Temperance and Fowler. This should be about a 38 mile ride. We have several breaks planned on the route. Folks leaving from the downtown/ Tower area may want to meet up earlier and meet up with the ride at Belmont and Temperance.

Riders are encouraged to wear a sign or clothing showing their opposition to the plan to mine Jesse Morrow Mountain.

We plan to have a van or trucks following the ride and setting up break / water points.

There will also be trucks and/or a bus for people to ride back to Fresno from Wahalish after our picnic celebration, etc.

For more information, please contact Bike Ride Committee chairperson Rebecca Asami, at rtasami@gmail.com



Invitation to join Wetlands Group

Dear Sierra Club leaders and Wetland Conservationists,

This is an invitation to become involved with California Wetlands protection through the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee.

Currently, there are groups of activists in the LA and San Francisco Bay area, who are diligently working on wetland protection and restoration issues and projects. There

Conservation Forum

are also people working on the Delta water issues in which wetlands are also involved. Finally, coastal folks also have wetlands to address in their work.

Wetlands are critical to 90% of all wildlife and are a complex ecosystem. They are also politically complicated (due to the almost two dozen agencies that have oversight of wetlands).



Because of this, and several environmental issues facing our region, I would like to propose that the CNRCC Wetlands Committee become reestablished and populated with individuals who have knowledge of these issues. Also, people who are affected by wetland issues in their respective areas, and who want to learn more about the ecology and how to protect and help restore wetlands. There is also much focus on this right now due to the tragic BP oil spill in the Gulf.

If you have expertise or just looking for a place to use your talents and good nature, then be sure to respond. Also, many of you attended Arthur Feinstein's workshop over a year in San Lois Obispo and may want to continue.

The plan right now is to recruit during the next few months and then have a meeting at the next CNRCC joint meeting which will be the State Convention.

Please contact me (Loma Prieta) at cindyadenny@yahoo.com and Marcia Hanscom at wetlandact@earthlink.net (Angles), if you would like to find out more about the work/role of CNRCC Committee's and consider participating

Thank you.

Cynthia A. Denny
Wetlands Subcommittee Chair
Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club
CNRCC Delegate
SCC Ex Com

Let Wolf Cabin Decompose, or Repair?

A controversy has been brewing in the Mokelumne Wilderness over a cabin built in the 1930s by a man who called himself Monte Wolf. Just Google the term "Monte Wolf cabin" and find out. Lots and lots of hits.

In any case, according to the U.S. Forest Service's interpretation of a 2006 U.S. District Court decision, structures in designated wilderness areas are not to be repaired. This is how Noreen Trombley of Foresta feels about it. "Let the building decompose back into the earth as Monte Wolf's body has," she wrote in a letter to the editor published in the Sonora Union Democrat.

Many share Trombley's opinion. But when a group of volunteers sent by the wilderness resource manager of the Amador Ranger District removed the cabin's door and stovepipe to let in the elements and hasten decomposition, a great hew and cry was raised. According to Jim Linford, an officer of the Monte Wolf Foundation, this was "an illegal act." Linford says Wolf was a friend of his grandfather's.

Feeling the pressure, district ranger Doug Barber said, "We goofed."

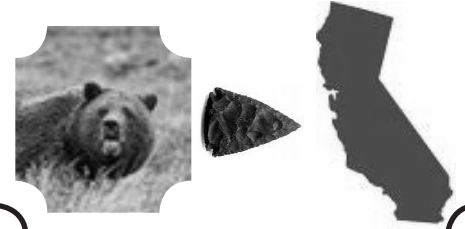
The story of Monte Wolf, who disappeared in 1940 after living in the area and working as a miner, lumberjack, and cowboy for local ranchers, has achieved legendary status. In the 1910s he had served time in Folsom Prison for robbery under the name Archey Wright. After that he left his family for the wilderness life. In 1921, he is said to have ransacked a cabin and nearly got into a gunfight with the local constable.

Wright then fled deeper into the woods to the Mokelumne River, where he built his cabin and began calling himself Monte Wolf. He claimed to be half Indian. To add further complication, he told his friends, of whom there were apparently many, that his real name was Ed McGrath. Many stories were told. In one, he appeared at a campfire like a ghost out of the darkness and joined a card game, where he was the life of the party. He is reputed to have "borrowed" necessities from local cabins and then repaid his debts by leaving valuable furs. He also developed quite a reputation as a ladies' man—which may have led to his demise. In another story he was murdered by a jealous husband.

See Wolf Cabin page 7

Help put the California
Symbol back in the Bear-
Flag State

www.californiagrizzly.org
thecaliforniagrizzly.blogspot.com



NEW DATES ADDED!
Island Hopping
in Channel Islands National Park
Jul 16-19; July 30-Aug 2; Aug 6-9;
Sep 10-12; Oct 17-19

CA's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These 3 & 4-day "live aboard" fundraiser cruises benefit Sierra Club's political program in California & depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' Truth.

The fee (\$590 for May and Sep; \$785 for Jul & Aug) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com)



“Wolf Cabin” from page 6

Noreen Trombley is skeptical of the legend. “Let’s stop glorifying the history of a convicted criminal who abandoned his family. Rather, let us set a positive example and enforce the Wilderness Act to protect these lands for future generations.”

Was Wolf—or Wright—or McGrath—a romantic vagabond or just a common criminal who squatted on public lands while on the lam? It looks as though the authorities will have to develop a full-fledged plan to settle these and other questions and decide the denouement of the cabin.

From “Yosemite” page 1

Club library. These activities continue today, with the addition of a children’s corner where young visitors can play with nature-related toys, create art, or read one of the many childrens’ books. There are also several interactive displays on John Muir, Joseph LeConte, the Sierra Club, and climate change.

Besides being steeped in Sierra Club/Yosemite lore at the LML, we had time to explore Yosemite Valley. On our days off, we hiked to the top of Yosemite Falls, to Snow Creek’s confluence with Tenaya Creek, and to Vernal Falls. We were able to participate in Yosemite Association hikes, attend Lee Stetson’s portrayals of Muir at the Yosemite Valley theater, and go to evening ranger programs at our campground. During our week of service, the evening programs at LML included presentations on hiking Half Dome, Native American Storytelling, and the famed Yosemite camping trip of John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt.

Spending time in the campground with Bonnie, John, and Bob, was also enjoyable. Sitting in our campsite and looking up at North Dome, Half Dome, Glacier Point, Cloud’s Rest, Royal Arches, and Yosemite Falls was awesome. Each night we were serenaded by chorus frogs, and once by a coyote. During the day we had sightings of deer, coyote, bear, and lots of birds, including a close inspection by a pileated woodpecker.

If you would like to be a volunteer at LeConte Memorial Lodge, contact Bonnie Gisel at bonnie.gisel@sierraclub.org. I recommend the month of May, when crowds are diminished, the mosquitos haven’t hatched, and the campgrounds are quiet. I have already signed up for next year. Please visit LML the next time you are in Yosemite Valley. To learn more about the LML, check out the website, www.sierraclub.org/leconte. Donations are welcomed.

“Economy / Ecology” from page 1

The common root of these two terms points to a commonality of meaning. The ecosystem is an economy and always has been an economy—a system of exchange involving all of the biological, geological, chemical, climatic, hydrological, and physical aspects of the planet. Indeed, it goes beyond the planet to the moon, the sun, and the rest of the cosmos—all a huge economy which all started up with the initial public offering called the Big Bang.

According to libertarian and Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow, “Nature is itself a free market system. A rain forest is an unplanned economy, as is a coral reef. The difference between an economy that sorts the information and energy in photons and one that sorts the information and energy in dollars is a slight one in my mind. Economy is ecology.” And conversely, Ecology is economy. (We might not want to place too much trust in Barlow, however, once we discover he was Dick Cheney’s campaign manager in a congressional campaign in the 1970s. Well, I guess if Bob Weir and Jerry trusted him, I can too.)

Is it possible that in the beginning—well, maybe not exactly the beginning, but sometime during the late Pleistocene, before the beginning of that highly uncivilized development called “civilization”—economy and ecology were one in the same and humans understood them—in their “primitive” way—as one in the same?

Humans very early on may have had devastating effects on the natural economy of the planet, the ecosystem. According to one theory, humans—as they emerged from Africa and began to spread over the planet maybe 40,000 years ago—subsisted largely on hunting prehistoric megafauna, such as mammoths, short-faced bears, and Irish elk, and largely succeeded (if that is the right word) in wiping them out by about 10,000 years ago. A competing theory says the megafauna disappeared due to climate change and global warming and drying; but overhunting and climate change, as well as other factors, may have contributed.

Is it possible prehistoric humans may have understood their impact on the natural economy/ecology and taken measures to mitigate it? In any case, the Paleoindians of what is now western North America adapted to the demise of the megafauna by substituting vegetable matter, including acorns, which eventually became their staple foodstuff. Anthropologist Robert Heizer claims the Native Americans of pre-contact California knew as

much in their way about the flora and fauna of their regions as modern biologists and botanists know of animals and plants. The Native Americans had to know these things; their survival depended on knowing. Moreover, following the disappearance of the megafauna, Native Americans depended on a diverse diet of vegetable materials gathered from their surroundings and meat from animals and fish they hunted and caught. Meat was a much smaller portion of their diet as compared to the diet of most modern Americans.

The Paleolithic diet—if it was anything like the modern version of the Paleolithic diet (it actually exists—no kidding—look it up on Wikipedia), which is an attempt to mimic the diet of ancient hominids—consisted mostly of plant material, excluding legumes and grains, with supplements of small amounts of fish and meat. According to nutritionist Staffan Lundberg of Lund University in Sweden, “During the Paleolithic, wild meat, fish, insects, eggs, fruit, berries, vegetables and nuts were consumed in varying proportions depending on the ecological niche. Seeds and beans were rarely eaten and never in large amounts on a daily basis. Dairy products and refined fat and sugar were not available.” This Paleolithic diet may be best for us humans since we evolved eating it, or something like it, for millennia.

The Paleolithic diet raises the question whether our ancient ancestors of the Stone Age may have been better economists than we in the sense that they understood that economy and ecology fit together, and are interdependent, like yin and yang.

Maybe part of the solution to the current environmental crisis we face is to learn a few lessons from the Native Americans and cave men (and cave women) who understood that economy and ecology are the same.

“Cemex” from Page 1

ing, especially in communities challenged by poverty and poor healthcare--so-called Environmental Justice communities.

Another speaks up, “How many people are you willing to sacrifice to the cancer of growth?”

Another speaks up, “Would Cemex be willing to pay for the health impacts on the children in this community, in this area, in this county? Would they be willing to pay for all of the suffering that’s going to happen as an impact from the mine? And the pictures you have there showing what it’s going to

See “Cemex” page 9

Outings Schedule

Be sure to watch our website <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org> because outings will be added during the summer

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 Chair is Marcia Rasmussen, Marcia@BigBaldy.com, 559-332-2419. Please contact Marcia 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.

Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983, email: stevec@sfsu.edu maintains this webpage.

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.



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.

Sat. June 5th

Spring to the Top 3C day hike

Get in shape for summer hiking on the Four Mile Trail from Yosemite Valley up to Glacier Pt. Enjoy a sumptuous barbecue afterward on the lawn of the historic Wawona Hotel. (barbecue optional)

Call leader: Karen Hammer 298-5272

June 12, Saturday

Day Hike (1A) Stroll along the Tuolumne (Yokuts)

Easy 4-mile hike along the Tuolumne River. Meet at the parking lot by the American Legion Hall, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Avenue, Modesto. Meet at 9 AM. Dogs and children welcome. Info., Dorothy -- 209.549.9155.

July 9-11

Friday - Sunday Lake Reflection, Kings Canyon

This is the first trip of our "High Trip" series. Backpack from Bubbs Creek trailhead near Cedar Grove. Camp at 10,000 ft. surrounded by the stunning snow-capped peaks of the Kings-Kern Divide. Total distance 27 mi., with 5,000 ft. elevation gain. Optional day hikes to adjacent alpine lakes up to 12,000 ft., as snowpack allows. Pace will be gentle, with plenty of rest stops. There is a possibility that we could extend the trip to four days, as participants wish. Backcountry Permit fee \$15 per person. Deadline for sign-up is June 9, but sign up as early as possible. This popular trailhead fills its quota early in the season, and we cannot guarantee how long a permit will be available for you. Marcia & John Rasmussen. Marcia@BigBaldy.com or 332-2419.

The High Trip: Backpacking in the Sierra

Dates to be decided.

Watch our website for updates. <http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org> As early as 1901, the Sierra Club began taking grand excursions into the High Sierra, so that ordinary people could see the mountain wilderness that the Club fought to preserve. On a much smaller scale, but with the same ideals, we are planning several weekend and "long weekend" backpack trips throughout the summer. Difficulty will be matched to the abilities of participants. Destinations will be based upon permit availability. Beginning backpackers and youth (with parents) are encouraged to participate. We will have opportunities for more experienced backpackers as well. You MUST sign up and pay any permit fees 30 days before trip. Permits are usually \$15. We like to keep the groups small, so sign up before these trips fill. If you have questions about gear, please ask. We are here to help. Marcia & John Rasmussen. Interested in ANY of these trips? Contact Marcia@BigBaldy.com or 332-2419.

August 13-15

The Greatest Show(ers) on Earth: Meteor Showers in Death Valley.

If you have never seen meteor showers in the desert sky, this is one trip that you should not miss. The moon will set early, leaving the most fabulous display of stars you will ever see. To that, add the Perseid meteor showers streaking across the sky. Plan to stay up late, as the meteors are best after midnight. We encourage you to bring children who are old enough to stay up for the show. We plan to car camp at about 8000 ft. to avoid extreme desert heat. Optional day hike to Telescope Peak (3D) or Wildrose Peak (2C)--or just sleep in and enjoy a lazy day. This is a long drive, so we would like to leave early on Friday. High clearance vehicles helpful, but we can carpool to campsite. Sign up early!

Marcia & John Rasmussen. For more information, contact Marcia@BigBaldy.com or 332-2419.

Outings Leader Training, June 4-6

The National Sierra Club has scheduled an Outings Leader training class at Clair Tappaan Lodge the weekend of June 4-6 for any club members who are interested. The class will include OLT 101 and 201. If you are interested in becoming an Outings Leader, or if you are presently a leader who needs to recertify OLT 101, this is the ideal way to get your training. (Leaders must recertify OLT 101 every four years.) Cost is only \$45, and includes room and board. Please contact the Outings Chair, Marcia Rasmussen, at Marcia@BigBaldy.com if you would like to attend, or if you would like more information.



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

“Cemex” from page 6

be like in 100 years—I can promise every one of you here, you look at the mountain at Tepeztzingo; it does not look like that. It was worse than that—ten times worse than that. And they’ve continued and continued. They made promises that they would only go so far, but they have manipulated the state law and public opinion, and say, ‘You know what, we need more. We thought we needed this much, but we need more.’”

A Choinumni woman, Jody, speaks up, “My people have lived here since the beginning of time. My great grandparents, my ancestors, have been here for years. They have plenty of burial grounds, sacred sites. You don’t know where they are, but we know. You just overlook it. You won’t allow us to go on the land to do our own survey.”

Jennifer answers, “Actually we are donating 40 acres to the tribe.”

Jody answers, “That’s only 40 acres, and it’s the wrong tribe. You didn’t talk with us.” There is an ongoing dispute over whether the Kings River Farm Choinumni Tribe, which Cemex made a deal with, or the

Traditional Choinumni Tribe, Jody’s group, should represent the cultural interests of the proposed mining site.

“You didn’t ask the whole tribe. There’s 250 of us, not just the five that you talked to.”

Jennifer: “Well, maybe we should talk with your people.”

Jody: “We’ve tried. We don’t get any responses—no emails, no letters. You say you contacted my grandmother, Angie Osborne, but we don’t have any records of it.”

Jennifer explains it was the county’s consultant that contacted Angie Osborne. “That was not us.”

The tall man in the gray jacket gestures, and the white haired man abruptly ends the meeting. “We’re concluding now. Thank you all for coming.”

“I have another question,” appeals one of the audience to no avail. The meeting is ended. The people mill about in little groups.

Suddenly a line of three pickups drive in, one a sheriff. Three deputies jump out and one talks with a woman from Cemex. A plain clothes officer with a badge and a handgun on his hip approach the Earth First! group.

“You guys don’t look like you’re from the area. Are you from around here?”

They all answer in the affirmative.

“I’d like to see some I.D.”

After some discussion, the Earth First! people produce I.D.

“I hope Grandmother liked what I said,” Jody says to me.

“I think she did,” I answer and pat her shoulder. “You were great, really terrific.”

“It was a good day,” one of the Earth First! people says to another. “I think so,” says the other. “They know that we are serious now and that we won’t give up.”

I pack up and leave. On my way out, a sheriff’s vehicle speeds up the muddy road. I make way for him. I wonder if anything has happened. No, he’s probably just late for the Earth Day party.

You can still have an impact on this project by emailing or calling the Fresno County Supervisors or sending them a letter. Contact information is available in the phone book or at www.co.fresno.ca.us. You can also write a letter to the editor to the Fresno Bee or any other of the area’s many local papers.