

WORDS OF *the* WILD

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Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee

Nevada welcomes new wilderness Pine Forest and Wovoka designated

-- by Marge Sill

In mid-December of 2014 two new wilderness areas were added in Nevada, making a total of 70 for the state with more than 3.5 million acres of wilderness. In a year that saw almost no new wilderness in the United States, this was an enormous achievement.

The 49,000-acre Wovoka Wilderness in Lyon County is named for a famous Indian chief. The area offers not only solitude and the opportunity for year-round primitive recreation, but it also contains thousands of cultural sites and artifacts that are unique to western Nevada, as well as sweeping vistas and rugged heights. This little-known wilderness (except to Native Americans and some locals) has long been managed by the U.S. Forest Service as a roadless area.

An additional 23,000 acres, adjacent to the wilderness, is also now

protected from mining and leasing, bringing the total Wovoka area protected to over 72,000 acres.

The 26,000-acre Pine Forest Wilderness in far northern Humboldt County is an angler's and camper's paradise. Possibly the best-watered Bureau of Land Management area in Nevada, it had been a Wilderness Study Area for decades. Both locals and visitors from California regard it as a wonderful place to camp, hike, and photograph. Many have climbed Duffer Peak, the highest point in the range. The birds, animals, and flora are abundant because of the lakes, streams, and springs fed by snow in the winter.

The Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter--which includes all of Nevada, plus Alpine, Mono, and Inyo counties in CA--now has approximately 8,244,000 acres of wilderness: 3,448,000 acres in

Nevada, and 4,796,000 acres in Eastern California. This is the largest amount of wilderness in a Sierra Club chapter except for Alaska. ~

Editor's note: The National Defense Authorization Act of Dec. 2014, which became the Congressional "vehicle" for various public lands measures at the end of the 113th Congress, was opposed by the Sierra Club, because its losses on public lands issues far outweighed the good features. Two major losses to land privatization which Sierra Club had tried hard to defeat were the transfer of valuable forested lands in Alaska's Tongass National Forest to the Sealaska Corporation for logging, and a large land transfer from Arizona's Tonto National Forest to the foreign-owned Resolution Copper Mining Company. The new wilderness in Nevada was one of the few bright spots in this complex legislation. Another plus for Nevada--the new Tule Springs Fossil Bed National Monument on the north edge of Las Vegas, protecting a stunning wealth of fossils formed over an exceptionally wide geologic time span.

Jarbidge Wilderness grows

The Jarbidge has always been wild, long before it became Nevada's first official wilderness in 1964. In 1916, the town of Jarbidge was the site of the last known 'wild west' stagecoach robbery in the US. The area had been named from the Shoshone word *jarbidge*, thought to be a fierce monster lurking in the canyons.

The Wilderness Land Trust took a major step in further conserving this special wild place recently by transferring seven private parcels, totaling 280 acres, to the Forest Service, for permanent protection as wild land.

Of the seven parcels given to the Trust by an anonymous -- *continued page 3*

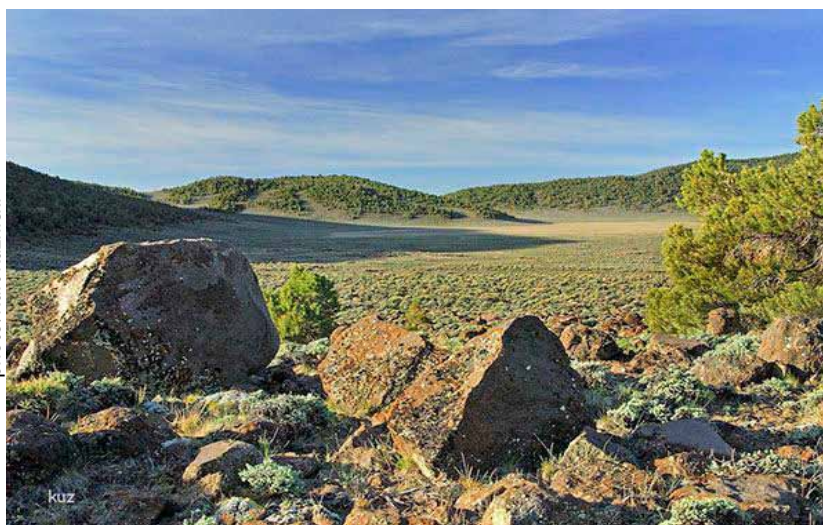


photo: Kurt Kuznicki

Wovoka--early morning

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Our Wild America's Efforts in Nevada

A focus on Gold Butte and Garden and Coal Valleys

-- by Christian Gerlach

Our Wild America Campaign has a new organizing representative in Nevada, based in Las Vegas, who is promoting the Club's efforts to protect Southern Nevada's Gold Butte area as well as the less-known Coal and Garden Valleys, in central eastern Nevada -- some of the most pristine lands in the state.

Our new Nevada staff associate Christian Gerlach was born and raised in Las Vegas, surrounded by some of Nevada's wildest public lands. Some 58 million acres of land—82 percent of the state—is public land. This large public ownership has made Nevada's wild places the communal playground, not only for people who live in Nevada, but for visitors from all over the world. Despite much of the land being natural and wild, Christian has educational work to do to combat serious issues with attitudes of proper stewardship from the general public and local, state and federal government officials.

Christian grew up enjoying family outings to deserts, marshes and forests. His father Siegfried, a German immigrant, taught him to be a responsible steward of the land. His mother told stories of how the once mighty Colorado River flowed through the small farming community in Mexico where she grew up. His parents spurred him to become an engaged and vested community member in the Las Vegas Valley, where he served as community outreach representative for a Latino public relations firm.

As an organizer for the Sierra Club, Christian connects people to the beauty and importance of public lands, through shared experiences in wild settings. Christian helps expand the horizons of the various diverse communities living in Las Vegas and beyond by building active networks of people across the state who will join him and the Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and permanently protect the wild places of Nevada.

Top among the Nevada wild places Our Wild America is working to protect are Gold Butte and the remote

areas of Coal and Garden Valleys in Southern Nevada.

Sierra Club and our partner organizations, Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Friends of Gold Butte, have been working for years to protect the Gold Butte area and promote legislation for a 350,000-acre national conservation area with wilderness within it. (See WOW, Aug 06, Dec 07, Aug & Dec 08, Apr & Dec 09, Apr 12, Dec 12, Apr & Aug 13.) Here, we'll focus on describing the little-known areas of Coal and Garden Valleys.

Coal and Garden Valleys

These broad valleys surrounded by mountain ranges are exemplary of the Basin and Range formations that make up the breathtaking expanses of a large portion of the Interior West. The Valleys area is sometimes dubbed Basin and Range and covers some 1250 square miles. The valleys are ecologically important to wildlife and the White River watershed.

The valleys serve as a wildlife corridor for various protected species and endangered species like the bald eagle, burrowing owl, and the red tailed hawk. The hydrological basins that lie beneath these two broad valleys feed water down the White River watershed flowing through both the Key Pittman Wildlife Management area and Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, and ultimately drain out into the Overton Arm of Lake Mead.

Coal and Garden Valleys are chock full of not only natural treasures, but also cultural and historical resources that are simply unparalleled. The greater area surrounding the two valleys is on the National Register of Historic Places for its magnificent examples of Native American rock art--such as in the White River Narrows Archeological District. There have even been Clovis points that date back 9,000 years found in the washes between Coal and Garden Valleys in the Golden Gate Ridge Gap. Clovis points

are arrow and spear points typical of crafting and design of the earliest peoples of North America, dating from as far back as 13,000 years ago.

The area is also home to the world's largest example of Landscape or Earth art, known as "City" by artist Michael Heizer. Heizer is the son of anthropologist Robert Fleming Heizer, who himself was a native of Lovelock, Nevada. Mr. Heizer was influenced by his father's anthropological field work, which took him to rural California, Nevada, Peru, and Bolivia, and by the work of his geologist grandfather, Olaf P. Jenkins. In 1972, Heizer began construction on a massive installation known as "City" in Garden Valley.

It is because of the unique resources in these valleys that Senator Harry Reid has taken notice and helped lead the charge to protect these valleys. He has introduced legislation to withdraw these vast viewsheds from development like mineral and oil drilling with the use of fracking.

In late February, Senator Reid co-hosted with Congresswoman



photo: Christian Gerlach

Coal and Garden Valleys feature broad "Basin and Range" expanses

Dina Titus a Las Vegas public hearing in which the community voiced to deputy Interior Department director Mr. Michael Connor their love of public lands in the Silver State, emphasizing the need to protect Gold Butte, and Coal and Garden Valleys. The vast pristine beauty of Coal and Garden Valleys truly merits permanent protection so that future generations will also be able to enjoy the undeveloped and wild places left in Nevada and the west. ~

Redwood Chapter cheers Mountains and Rivers New Wilderness proposals for northern California

--by Victoria Brandon

A major new campaign to establish 16 new federal Wilderness areas in the northern part of the Chapter was the topic of a special presentation at the January 2015 Redwood Chapter meeting. Executive committee members were energized by hearing Ryan Henson of California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild) and Jeff Morris from The Wilderness Society describe the wild areas that deserve protection by law. Some of the areas would be brand new wilderness and some would be additions to existing wilderness; all are situated in Jared Huffman's Second Congressional District. The bulk of campaign lands are in Trinity County, and others are in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

This new opportunity for permanent protection of some of our most special places in northern California springs from deep historical roots. When Congressman Mike Thompson represented this area ten years and more ago, he championed the "Northern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act," (the "Wilderness Bill" to most of us.) This legislation passed in 2006 with the ardent support of the Sierra Club, giving permanent protection to 275,000 acres of spectacular wildlands in five Redwood Chapter counties from Del Norte to Napa. At the time, some areas with equally valid wilderness attributes had to be excluded for various land-management reasons, and *all* the potential wilderness in Trinity County was left out because it was not in Congressman Thompson's district.

Fast forward to the 2010 census that led to Congressional redistricting. When the smoke cleared and the ink dried on the map, Trinity County with its handful of voters had been added to the new "coastal" Congressional district now held by Rep. Huffman, who like Rep. Thompson is renowned for his passion for public lands protection. At the same time some tracts omitted from the 2006 bill had become suitable for

wilderness status, for example after completion of restoration projects requiring heavy equipment.

The new opportunity for action was too promising to pass up. A broadly based stakeholder group has been working quietly for more than a year to define eligible area boundaries, identify outstanding natural features, and hold quiet discussions with neighboring private landowners and local tribes. The campaign is called Northwest California Mountains and Rivers, or just Mountains and Rivers for short. The current objective is to canvas the region to collect support letters in order to demonstrate the strong grassroots backing that Rep.



Huffman needs to author legislation.

The 16 areas presently in the proposal are: Bonanza King, Chanceculla additions, Chinquapin, Mount Lassic additions, North Fork Eel additions, Pattison, South Fork Trinity River, Trinity Alps additions, and Underwood in Trinity County; Siskiyou additions in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties; Black Butte River, English Ridge, and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel additions in Mendocino County; Headwaters and Mad River Buttes in Humboldt County. Also, Wilderness in Redwood National Park is proposed for the first time ever.

As presently conceived, the proposal would also designate 15 Wild and Scenic River segments, support

on-the-ground restoration work in the Eel River watershed, and assist the creation of a proposed long distance "Bigfoot Trail" from near Crescent City to the southern Mendocino National Forest.

River segments proposed for protection are South Fork Trinity River— 73.9 miles; East Fork Trinity River— 10 miles, Upper North Fork Trinity River— 11.7 miles, Lower Hayfork Creek — 14 miles, Canyon Creek — 17.5 miles, Virgin Creek — 11.7 miles, Upper Middle Eel River & Balm of Gilead Creek— 13.3 miles, Red Mountain Creek— 7 miles, Blue Creek — 34.5 miles, Redwood Creek in Redwood National Park — 22.8 miles, Little SF Elk River & Salmon Creek in Headwaters Forest Reserve — 6.2 miles; in Mendocino County- Elder Creek — 7 miles, Cedar Creek — 11.5 miles, and East Branch South Fork Eel River (Arcata BLM Resource Area) — 8 miles; and in Marin County, Olema Creek in Point Reyes National Seashore — 8 miles.

There could be changes in this list before bill introduction. Please visit the Mountains and Rivers website, <http://mountainsandrivers.org>, and consider offering a personal letter of support.

In the meantime, Redwood Chapter plans to offer outings into some of the proposed Wilderness areas to give Club members and others a chance to see how special these wild places are. Exciting, isn't it?

If outings leaders from other Chapters would like to plan trips into some of the proposed Wilderness areas to help their participants learn about the wild values we seek to protect, Redwood Chapter can offer some guidance. ☞

(Victoria Brandon is Redwood Chapter Wilderness Chair)

Jarbridge gets a boost -- from p 1

donor in 2013, three are now in the Wilderness, relieving boundary management issues and unifying the protected landscape for wildlife and humans. Four parcels are now in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The trail to Mary's River Peak, the tallest in the wilderness, goes through the newly transferred wilderness parcels.

To learn about the Wilderness Land Trust's work, go to: <http://www.wildernesslandtrust.org/>. ☞

Reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund:

A 2015 key public lands campaign

On September 3, 1964, in the very same session in the White House Rose Garden at which he signed the Wilderness Act, President Lyndon Johnson also signed another piece of legislation that, some claim, has had a greater effect on the ability of more Americans to recreate in nature than has the Wilderness Act.

This was the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which assured an annual stream of funding from offshore drilling revenues for acquiring private lands for priority public uses.

But, unlike the Wilderness Act, it came with an expiration date, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is about to expire, in September of this year.

Sierra Club is part of a Washington, DC-based coalition working to get Congress to reauthorize this valuable funding source. For years, the Coalition has sought full, dedicated funding for the LWCF, so that funding efforts will not need to go through the uncertain appropriations process each year. The Coalition also defends LWCF against any attempts to defund its programs. This year, the reauthorization effort is at the top of the LWCF task list. And defense is vital in 2015.

Sierra Club brings to the campaign *the power of our volunteers across the country* to urge their legislators to support this special fund for acquiring lands our families can use to go for a walk or just enjoy nature.

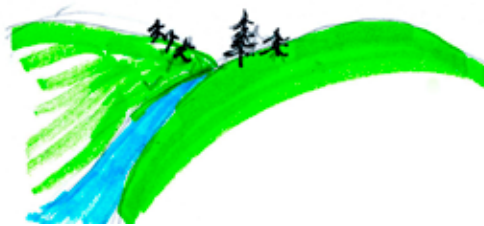
We will let legislators know how this venerable program has specifically benefitted their own states, and their own districts. And we'll remind them that this money is *not* coming out of any taxpayer pockets; it is revenues from offshore oil drilling.

Background

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act was enacted to help preserve, develop, and assure access to outdoor recreation facilities to strengthen the health of U.S. citizens. The LWCF has been the

principal source of monies for federal land acquisition for outdoor recreation by the four federal agencies—the National Park Service(NPS), Bureau of Land Management(BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service(FWS), and Forest Service(FS). The LWCF has two principal programs:

1. Direct federal acquisition of land and waters and interests therein.
2. a state grant program to assist states in recreational planning, acquiring recreational lands and waters, and developing outdoor recreational facilities. The states award their grant money through a competitive selection process based on statewide recreation plans. Unlike the federal lands acquisition, this is a “matching” program, and the states must provide 50 percent of funding for these grants. Grants are provided for outdoor recreation only, not for indoor facilities such as community centers.



Helen Burke design

How the Fund Works

The LWCF is authorized to accumulate \$900 million annually, with most of the money derived from oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

LWCF monies are available for outdoor recreation purposes only if appropriated by Congress each year, the level of annual appropriations has varied widely since the fund began.

Of the total authorized revenue throughout the history of the program (\$32.6 billion), less than half has actually been appropriated (\$15.5 billion). FY2001 marked the highest funding ever, when nearly \$1 billion was appropriated--exceeding the authorized level.

California is the most important state for LWCF. Over the program's 50 years, California has received more LWCF grants than any other state.

What You Can Do:

Recently, 47 Senators – almost half the Senate -- sent a letter to the relevant Senate Appropriations subcommittee asking for “strong and robust funding for LWCF” in the FY 2016 appropriations effort. Both Senators Boxer and Feinstein signed on. Please call Boxer at 202-224-3553 and Feinstein at 202-224-2841 to thank them for supporting LWCF. In the same call, also urge that they *cosponsor* BOTH new LWCF bills below—S. 338 and S. 890:

1. Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) have introduced S. 338, to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
2. Senators Cantwell, WA; Wyden, OR; Bennet, CO; Heinrich and Udall, NM; and Tester, MT, have introduced S. 890, to permanently reauthorize LWCF *and* to guarantee it FULL, dedicated funding at the now-authorized \$900 million annual level. This would free us from the annual uncertain appropriations process.

The House LWCF Appropriations letter closed in mid-March with 193 signers—37 reps from California. **Thank your member of Congress if his/her name is below** and also ask them to cosponsor a House LWCF reauthorization bill when introduced:

Aguilar, Bass, Bera, Brownley, Capps, Cardenas, Chu, Costa, Davis, DeSaulnier (succeeded George Miller); Eshoo, Farr, Garamendi, Hahn, Honda, Huffman, Lee, Lieu, Lofgren, Lowenthal, Matsui, McNeerney, Napolitano, Peters, Roybal-Allard, Ruiz, Linda Sanchez, Loretta Sanchez, Schiff, Sherman, Speier, Swalwell, Takano, Thompson, Torres (new, thank especially); Vargas, Waters.

For more information, or to help in your Chapter: contact a member of Sierra Club's LWCF Task Force: Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527 vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or Alan Carlton, 510-769-3404, carltonal@yahoo.com; or contact staff Marni Salmon 202-495-3025, marni.salmon@sierraclub.org. Also see lwcfcoalition.org. ♻️

It's Sally's Choice:

The San Joaquin River Gorge vs. The Temperance Flat Dam

--by Steve Evans

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell faces perhaps one of the most important decisions as the top steward of millions of acres of federally managed public lands. You can help ensure that she makes the right choice!

Two federal agencies in the Department of the Interior – the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation – are about to duke it out over the fate of the San Joaquin River Gorge, in the Sierra Nevada foothills northeast of Fresno where the scenic San Joaquin River Gorge flows through about 6,500 acres of public lands administered by the BLM for outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. In recognition of the river's outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and wildlife values, the BLM recommended federal Wild & Scenic River protection for eight miles of the Gorge. This preliminary recommendation now goes to BLM Director Neil Kornze and ultimately Interior Secretary Jewell for approval.

But the Bureau of Reclamation, another Interior Department agency, is finalizing its environmental impact report for the proposed Temperance Flat Dam, which would flood the entire San Joaquin River Gorge and destroy its outstanding unique natural and cultural values. According to Reclamation's own estimates, this destructive dam will increase the state's water supply by no more than .2 percent, [*that's two-tenth of one percent!*] while costing \$2.6 billion or more to build (with federal and state taxpayers paying much of the bill.) Reclamation could make a final decision by end of 2015 to proceed with dam construction.

At stake in this classic river versus dam fight is an extensive trail system (including two National Recreation Trails), two campgrounds, and a natural history museum/education center, enjoyed by more than 54,000 hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, campers, and students annually. The

reservoir behind the proposed dam would not only permanently flood these popular amenities, it would drown one of the last free flowing segments of California's second largest river and destroy habitat for diverse wildlife, the unique Millerton cave system,

several Native American cultural sites, and more than 2,300 acres of public land with Wilderness characteristics. (See WOW, Dec 2010, Dec 2011.)

Congress established the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System in 1968 specifically to balance our nation's policy of building dams on hundreds of rivers for water supply, flood control, and power generation, with a new goal to protect some free flowing rivers with outstanding natural and cultural values for present and future generations to enjoy. If the Gorge were a Wild & Scenic River now, the proposed Temperance Flat Dam would be blocked. To secure permanent protection for the Gorge, we must convince Interior Secretary Jewell to recommend Wild & Scenic River protection and to reject the Temperance Flat Dam.

⇒ What You Can Do:

Please send emails today to BLM Director Neil Kornze and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell urging them to affirm California BLM's Wild & Scenic River recommendation for the San Joaquin River Gorge and to ask Congress to introduce and pass Wild & Scenic legislation for the river.

Also urge Secretary Jewell to reject the Bureau of Reclamation's Temperance Flat Dam as too destructive, too expensive, and unable to increase California's water supply significantly. Feel free to use the sample email below. In lieu of emailing



San Joaquin River Gorge above Temperance Flat

Secretary Jewell, you could cut and paste the sample email into this Interior Department public feedback form: <http://www.doi.gov/feedback.cfm>.

And why not join our San Joaquin River Gorge outing, April 24-26? See Outings listing, page 7.

SAMPLE EMAIL

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, partment of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
Email: feedback@ios.doi.gov

Neil Kornze, Director,
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
Email: director@blm.gov

I support the BLM in California's recommendation of Wild & Scenic River protection of the San Joaquin River Gorge, in recognition of its outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and wildlife values. More than 54,000 people each year visit the Gorge to hike, bike, ride horses, camp, and join environmental education programs. All this would be lost if the Bureau of Reclamation is allowed to drown the Gorge by a Temperance Flat Dam.

I urge you to approve California BLM's Wild & Scenic River recommendation for the San Joaquin River Gorge and to propose to Congress legislation to permanently protect this magnificent river, I also urge you to reject the Bureau of Reclamation's Temperance Flat Dam project--a deadbeat, unnecessary, too expensive dam.

(your name, address, phone) ✉

Dave Foreman on extinction of passenger pigeons

In 2014, *Words of the Wild* highlighted the centennial of the death of the last known passenger pigeon and also reviewed a new book by Joel Greenberg on passenger pigeon extinction. As a follow-up, we present the section on passenger pigeons from renowned conservationist Dave Foreman's keynote speech in October 2014, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His words then electrified the audience:

"...The anthropoceniacs, those arrogant folks who think that we have taken over earth, [are] high-fiving each other saying, 'We're gods now. We run the planet. We're going to be good at it, we're going to do a better job, but we are going to get rid of all this trash here.'

As Peter Kareiva, the chief scientist of the Nature Conservancy and a leading anthropoceniatic, said, "The passenger pigeon went extinct, but it didn't have any impact." Well, it had an impact on the passenger pigeon.

It didn't just go extinct. **We slaughtered it!** That was **a sin**, and it's a sin to say the passenger pigeon "went extinct", because that absolves us and our foreparents of blame. Let's just look at the passenger pigeon. In 1803, John James Audubon sat on the banks of the Ohio River, and for three days and three

nights, the sky was dark from horizon to horizon as a single flock of passenger pigeons flew over. He estimated there were two billion birds in that one flock. By the time of the Civil War, there were still billions of passenger pigeons.

My family--in Kentucky at the time, they had gone there with Daniel Boone--were used to the great passenger pigeon flights. Everybody thought they could never end, but then the telegraph began to call hunters in when there were great pigeon nestings. By the last great pigeon nesting, not of millions and millions of birds, but of only 250,000 birds, along the Green River in Kentucky, the hunters came in. They slaughtered the pigeons, maybe five thousand escaped, 40,000 were left on the forest floor to fatten the hogs that were herded in, and 200,000 were loaded up in barrels and shipped on the railroad back to Baltimore to be sold on street corners.

There was a derailment on the track ahead, the pigeons rotted and... were dumped into a ravine, in West Virginia. It was the end of a living storm, and the last passenger pigeon in the wild was shot in 1903 in Ohio. So all hail the man or boy that did that, for he was the true soul of the American pioneer.

The last passenger pigeon, named Martha, died in the Cincinnati zoo, a hundred years ago. I have often

wondered about Martha, born in a giant nesting with a million other passenger pigeons, flying through the air as this living storm that made deer run for cover just by the beat of their wings, being surrounded by all of these other passenger pigeons. What an incredible, loneliness she must have felt. Just an emptiness. When that darkness finally came to her: did she see before her closing eyes the great flocks to which she had been born?

So, to say the passenger pigeon became extinct and it had no impact, to me, **is one of the most grievous sins we can make. It's a wicked thing to say or to think.** We have to have a much greater hearted relationship with the world around us and all the wild things in it. Do we have the generosity of spirit and the greatness of heart to share earth with our neighbors, our fellow leaves on the tree of life? Can we rise to that?" ♪

(Ed: Bold face emphasis added to denote where Dave raised his voice vehemently, passionately.)



California coast marine sanctuaries expanded—big time

After more than a decade of effort by California lawmakers, the Obama administration in early March approved a giant expansion of two marine sanctuaries north of San Francisco.

The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries will more than double to be in total nearly the size of Connecticut. The area off the coast protected for one of the planet's most prolific ocean ecosystems will now extend north to the waters off Mendocino County.

The plentiful bird and sea life around the Farallon Islands was first protected in 1981. The 2,220-square-mile expansion to north and west covers ocean where an upwelling of cold water brings nutrients to shallow coastal areas. That

encourages intense plankton blooms, reefs and sponges that support fish, marine mammals, and birds. It is one of four such areas in the world.

Democratic Congressional leader Nancy Pelosi urged President Obama to expand the sanctuaries administratively—in part to honor the retirement of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, from Petaluma. Rep. Woolsey, along with Sen. Barbara Boxer, had repeatedly promoted legislation to protect the area. The expansion had strong local support but was opposed by the oil and gas industry.

Sen. Boxer, who plans to retire from the Senate, said she considers the expansion one of her top legacies, according to the San Francisco *Chronicle* (Mar. 12, article by Carolyn Lochhead.)

From late 2012 the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration held seven well-attended local hearings on the expansion proposal. Public comments got the final plan to expand the sanctuaries farther up the Mendocino coastline.

Now tripled in size, the two sanctuaries protect a vital feeding area for white sharks, 36 marine mammals species, hundreds of thousands of seabirds, newly discovered deep sea corals and fish habitat, education programs for children, and continuation of sustainable fishing.

The Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary plans a Celebration Festival at Gualala Point Regional Park in Sonoma County, Sunday, June 28. See Outings listing, p 7. And visit www.farallones.org. ♪



Outings



Support wilderness the Sierra Club way!

--May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. -- Edward Abbey (from Range of Light Group newsletter)

April 18 -- Sat

Machesna Wilderness Hike

Santa Lucia Chapter all-day outing, with probable route from American Canyon Campground to the pond, then over to Machesna Mountain cutoff, then down the Coyote hole before the Machesna descent. This is not a beginner hike. R t distance 12–15 miles with 2400–3000 ft elevation gain. Bring lunch, ample water, snacks; dress for the weather. Meet **8 a.m** at Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita. Call, reserve with Gary Felsman (805)473-3694.

April 23-25 – Thur - Sat

Death Valley Wilderness Restorat'n

Help CNRCC Desert Com. clean up two non-historic military plane wrecks near Hunter Mtn. 4 WD required, possible carpooling. Meet Thur pm junction Hwy 190 and South Saline Valley Rd. Work Thur afternoon and Friday. Short hike Thur to reach work site; Fri, 2-mile moderately strenuous hike. Probably hike Sat. Primitive camp, bring food, water, personal gear. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, (661)944-4056.

April 24-26 – Fri - Sun

San Joaquin River Gorge

See what would be lost if the Temperance Flat Dam gets built. Join our car camp, hike, view wildflowers, and brainstorm on ways to protect this magnificent river. For info about the camping trip or the campaign to save the San Joaquin River Gorge, (see article p. 5), contact Steve Evans, Friends of the River: sevans@friendsoftheriver.org, (916)708-3155.

April 25-26 -- Sat - Sun

Carrizo Plain National Monument

Work on Sat, remove or modify fence sections to facilitate mobility of pronghorn antelope. Sun, Caliente Range hike or plains tour at choice of group. Good way to combine car camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wild area. Contact leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310)477-6670. Desert Committee.

May 1-3 -- Fri - Sun

Manzanar/Lone Pine Lake

Join Mojave Group creekside camp in High Desert near Lone Pine Fri. Sat, moderate

6 miles rt hike with 1600' gain, from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, then happy hour, potluck, and campfire. Sun, caravan to Manzanar WWII Japanese internment camp north of Lone Pine. Group size limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), letter-sized SASE, phone, email, and rideshare preferences to Leader, Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, (760)868-2179, Goody2shz@yahoo.com.

May 22-25 – Fri - Mon

Black Rock Rendezvous

This annual event is a “Great First Trip to the Black Rock” -- with speakers, guided tours, hot springs, rocket launches, rock hounding, Dutch oven cook-off, drawings, etc. HAM radio activity. Cosponsored by Friends of the Black Rock, BLM and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Family event, RVs, trailers ok. Primitive camping. Dogs on leash, pick up after them. For info go to: www.blackrockrendzvous.com. For questions and to sign up: David Book (775)843-6443.

June 28 -- Sun

Farallones Sanctuary Celebration

Celebrate expansion of Gulf of the Farallones at a festival at Gualala Point Regional Park, in scenic Sonoma County, 11 am-3 pm. Other events will be held throughout 2015. (See article p 6.) Visit www.farallones.org or call 415-561-6625 x 314.

July 10-13 -- Fri - Mon

Nevada Wilderness Service

Savor summer in eastern Nevada's scenic Highland Ridge Wilderness, just south of Great Basin National Park. We camped there among the aspens 3 years ago and once again partner with BLM's Ely office wilderness staff on useful service in a fine mountain wilderness. Join us! Details on specific work later. Central commissary offered. Contact Vicky Hoover.(415)977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.



photo: Fabi Gamboa

Outing Report: The CA/NV Wilderness Committee's annual service trip with wilderness staff of BLM Needles field office took place March 27-29 in the Old Woman Mountains; we camped at the edge of the wilderness on land managed as the Old Woman Mountains Preserve by the Native American Land Conservancy, and built them a nature trail past lush Mojave desert vegetation and picturesque granite rock outcroppings. We also visited the Painted Rock Native American site. ☺



photo: Vicky Hoover

Documenting beavertail cactus blooms

Next Wilderness meeting June 6, 2015, Reno, NV Joint meeting with Friends of Nevada Wilderness

The next meeting of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee will take place Saturday June 6, 2015. Lots going on these days for Nevada wilderness and for varied issues around our region. Join us and get with the wild action. A fine hike in the vicinity is planned for Sunday. For details, agenda, and other info, contact Vicky: vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org See you in Reno.



Last spring, **Words of the Wild** served readers an appetizer, with an article by Jonah Raskin on “The Wilderness of American Literature.” Now, you can partake of the full course meal Jonah has prepared for us – his new book that delves into detail and intriguing further ideas. Professor Raskin’s new book not only elaborates on his remarks earlier but explores in detail the often conflicted relationship of writers to the wild American landscape throughout our history. (WOW April 2014)

The earliest writings about this “new world”, this “earthly paradise” made wilderness into an integral part of the American myth. Among the early settlers, John Smith wrote of virgin land/ hideous land. William Bradford wrote of hideous and desolate wilderness. Raskin gives us the New England Puritans; also Henry Hudson, Roger Williams, Mary Rowlandson, Cotton Mather. He points to the influence of writings of explorers, like Lewis and Clark. With the 19th century the meat of his sustenance, Jonah devours Fenimore Cooper, Willa Cather, Jack London, and more. “But the heart

of the book are writers of the American Renaissance—Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Melville, Whitman and Dickinson,” admits the author himself. He serves up a whole chapter devoted to Mark Twain.

The dualism of the connection with wilderness is a dominant theme—a longing for the wild when it’s gone paired with a steady deliberate effort to vanquish and fend off wild nature. Terror and fascination at once. The title, “a terrible beauty” speaks to both sides—the title taken from a line in a poem by Yeats “A terrible beauty is born...” Melville’s writing illustrates the double whammy: “warmest climes but nurse the cruelest fangs” or “Skies the most effulgent but basket the deadliest thunders.” Attitudes toward the original American inhabitants, the Indians, are also conflicted – from “the noble savage” to cruel captors.

Whether positive or ambivalent, the historic relationship with wilderness is closely tied to American ideals of freedom and non-conformity.

Many women writers are featured, noting the special nurturing

or romantic element they wove into the concept of wilderness. As for example, Lydia Maria Child, and Catherine Sedgewick writing about mid-1800s. Twentieth-century writers are not neglected either.

The theme of wilderness is elaborated beyond the physical image of an unharnessed landscape, to the symbolic idea of the wildness within the human spirit; that theme is especially pronounced in the discussion of Emily Dickinson. It is notable that the book’s title is not “The Literature of American Wilderness”, but the Wilderness of American Literature. There may be more ways to get to the Wilderness than we normally imagine. ∞

A Terrible Beauty: The Wilderness of American Literature, 2014. 337 pp., detailed bibliography. Paperback \$15.95, e-book \$7.95. Regent Press, Berkeley, CA, www.regentpress.net.

-- reviewed by Vicky Hoover

WORDS OF the WILD

The Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, an issue committee of the CA/NV Regional Conservation Committee, advocates for preservation of unroaded, undeveloped public lands in a wild state, through legislation and appropriate management, and stewardship and wilderness study outings.

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