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CLUB

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enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

November-December Newsletter

Next Meeting: Greg Giusti on Forest Health

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at 6:00 PM on Wednesday November 13, in the Round Room at the Mendocino College Lake Center, 2565 Parallel Dr in Lakeport. Emeritus University of California Community Extension Advisor Greg Giusti will give a presentation on forest management from a fire recovery and resiliency point of view. We'll be discussing subjects such as how to determine when to replant burned areas and when to let natural regeneration take its course, best practices for avoiding introduction of invasive species, and whether it's better to attempt to restore the plants that existed in an area before a devastating wildfire, or to shift to those that may be better adapted to a warmer, drier climate. Please bring your questions—Greg has answers. As always the meeting is free and the public very cordially invited.

Walker Ridge Update

As previously mentioned, earlier this year Lake Group learned that a project to construct a wind generation facility on BLM land at Walker Ridge just north of Highway 20 was once more under active consideration. Three previous proposals of this sort have been abandoned by their developers, most recently in 2013.

Although the Sierra Club supports renewable energy projects in concept, it also recognizes that they may have unacceptable effects on wildlife, air and water quality, and other resources. On Walker Ridge the risk of contaminating two watersheds with asbestos and mercury seems high, impacts to biological resources including birds, bats, and butterflies may be severe, and rare endemic plants could be at risk. There are other concerns as well, including impacts to Double Eagle and Spring Valley neighbors, visual blight from Mount Konocti to the Sutter Buttes, and violation of nationwide

**Holiday Party
Friday Dec 13:
details inside**

restrictions on allowable uses of acreage purchased with Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations.

Lake Group representatives attended a scoping workshop on the reincarnated project in July, and signed on to detailed scoping comments submitted by Tuleyome to the BLM in collaboration with several other environmental organizations. Those (con't)

(Walker Ridge, con't.) comments suggested that even though the identified project site was entirely on federal land and therefore subject to review under the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA), impacts to neighbors and to adjacent private lands meant that evaluation under CEQA was also advisable.

We have now received a request from the county to submit additional comments as part of a supplementary CEQA process. Although it is unclear just where the county's jurisdiction lies, this additional opportunity for input is welcome, though limited by an extraordinary narrow window for comment submissions—a bare two weeks!—and lack of public involvement. Aside from reiterating a number of environmental concerns, Lake Group's letter recommended that the request for review be recirculated with at least a 45 day comment deadline, and that the county conduct at least one public scoping meeting to give neighbors and others a chance to weigh in.

Please stay tuned!

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

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*ExCom meetings are held at 6:00PM on the fourth
Wednesday of the month, at locations that vary. All
members are cordially invited to attend, but
requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time
and location*



Highland Springs Equestrian Center

707-279-1903

*Horse Boarding in a Sublime Setting in the Wine Country
8900 Wight Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451
Paul Marchand and Juliana Vidich
www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com*

We're having a party!

Lake Group's annual holiday party has been scheduled for 6PM on Friday December 13, at Deb Sally's house, 2862 Rose Lane in Clearlake.

As always this festive event is completely FREE and will be organized as a semi-potluck, with the Club providing a choice of main dishes. Guests should bring beverages and a side dish, salad or dessert to share as well as their own re-useable plates, glasses, and eating utensils.

Please RSVP by calling Victoria at 994 1931 or sending an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

305 North Main Street
707.263.5787

Outings

NOVEMBER 10 -- Sierra Club hike on the Redbud Trail to Baton Flat. Traverse a meadow, cross Cache Creek, usually low - but recommend water shoes to cross if there has been a lot of rain. Wind up a ridge, enjoy fall oak woodlands, and vast views from the high ridges. Bald and Golden Eagles can be sighted from the area if lucky as we hike to Cache Creek, then we'll double back the same route. This area had fires a few years back and is still in recovery. Friendly dogs on leash allowed. Bring snack, water, hiking boots and binoculars. Carpools: Meet 10:15-10:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Company or 11:00 am at trailhead. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-295-6773 or 707-987-9040. tikaljak@yahoo.com rain cancels.

DECEMBER 7 -- Sierra Club hike on the Glen Eden Trail to vantage point and return. This is a moderately difficult, 5 mile out and back hike partially along a dirt road with some steep trail areas with a combination of wooded and open areas and a 1500 ft elevation gain. H-5-C rated hike. The top gives a 360 degree view of Clear Lake and Snow, Cow, and Hull Mountains. Meet at the Glen Eden Trail Head on Scotts Valley Road at 9:00 am. Bring plenty of water and lunch to eat at the top. Hiking boots advised. Well behaved dogs on leash are okay. Hike Leader: Paul Farley. RSVP to Deb Sally, Assistant Leader, 707-235-9011. Heavy rain cancels.

Help Wanted: Outing Leaders. No experience needed, just a love for brisk exercise in the out-of-doors. There are many good reasons to become an Outing leader, including an opportunity for autocracy: as leader *you* get to choose where to go, and when. Interested? Get in touch with Outings Chair Deb Sally at 235-9011 or enviracat1@gmail.com

Help Wanted #2. Volunteers are needed to help hand-pull an infestation of noxious invasive Goats Rue in Eightmile Valley on Cow Mountain at the headwaters of Scotts Creek. If you can lend a hand please contact Lake County Resource Conservation District Project Coordinator Larry Ray at nativeplantguy@msn.com.

2020 Sierra Club Calendars

Lake Group has both wall and appointment versions available at the discounted price of \$14. To be sure of getting as many as you want (they make great gifts) reserve in advance by contacting Cheri at cherisierraclub@gmail.com or 263-5787. Calendars will also be available at the November 13 community meeting in Lakeport, our holiday party on December and at Watershed Books, 305 N. Main in Lakeport.

Let's Go Digital

Lake Group members are invited to help fight deforestation by receiving this bimonthly newsletter electronically rather than on paper. To get it as an email attachment in pdf format instead, send a request to join the "Lake Group Paper Free" list to vbrandon@lakelive.info—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.



Sierra Club Lake Group
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