

Are there herbicides in your drinking water?

Clearcutting – or the removal of nearly all trees, natural vegetation, and plants from a site and replanting with commercial tree species – destroys not only wildlife habitat, but is potentially harmful to human health. After trees are removed, timber companies often spray toxic herbicides. A May 4 Living On Earth investigative report “Clearcutting Chemicals”^{*} interviewed rural community members living near heavily logged forests in Southern Oregon. Residents and their livestock have suffered numerous health problems including still births and lowered immunity. Last year, a chemical exposure expert from the Center for Disease Control, Dana Barr, tested urine from 41 people living near Triangle Lake. She found the herbicide atrazine and 2, 4 -D in every one.

Although atrazine – an herbicide known to cause hormonal changes in women and prevent amphibians from reproducing – is declining in use for forestry applications in California, tens of thousands of pounds of toxic herbicides such as 2,4 -D and glyphosate are still being applied to clearcuts here to prevent native vegetation from growing back and “competing” with the commercial tree species replanted after clearcutting. According to data from the state Department of Pesticide Regulation, nearly 300,000 pounds of herbicides were sprayed in California's forested counties in 2010.

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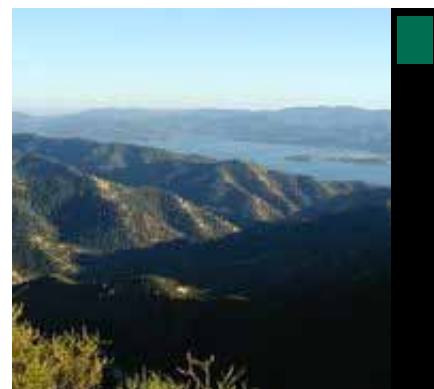
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Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Legislation

Woodland, California - Local environmental groups, recreationists and business owners praised legislation introduced today by Representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi, and Lynn Woolsey to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Conservation Area. Community members have long called for permanent protections for the area, which is a prime recreation spot and home to a wide array of rare plants and animals.

“The Berryessa Snow Mountain Region is a unique national treasure and we have a responsibility to preserve it for our kids and grandkids,” said Rep. Thompson. “Designating the region as a National Conservation Area will preserve the land, help our local economies, and protect a wide variety of plants and animals. This is the right way forward for the region and our communities.”

“We’re pleased that Representatives Thompson, Garamendi, and Woolsey have recognized the natural wonders and recreational opportunities offered by the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region—and the strong desire by community members to protect this scenic treasure so that it can be enjoyed by future generations,” said Sara Husby, Executive Director of Tuleyome. “His National Conservation Area proposal is a win-win for everyone.”



The white water rapids of Cache Creek, Lake Berryessa’s renowned bass fishery, hiking and horseback riding opportunities make the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region a major outdoor recreation destination. Permanent protection for the region would improve management of trails, campsites and other recreation opportunities. It would also increase user education and help draw visitors to the area year-round.

“Protecting this area will help the waterways that so many people already love and use,” said Steve Karr, Chairman of the Board for Putah Creek Trout. “A National Conservation Area goes hand in hand with our ongoing efforts to improve the wild trout fishery in Putah Creek and will help foster better outdoor experiences for visitors and residents alike.”

Outdoor recreation and protected lands are economic drivers. Recent studies by Headwaters economics have found that jobs and real personal income rose in local communities after nearby areas were permanently protected. That same potential is offered by the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

“Permanently protecting the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region makes good business sense,” said Denise Rushing, a Lake County supervisor. “Gateway communities—including many here in Lake County—will benefit from the increased tourism and job creation that a National Conservation Area will bring.”

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Herbicides... continued from page 1

Given that forests are the source of 75% of California's water supplies, perhaps it is time to stop dousing our headwaters with toxic herbicides. The Forest Service has greatly reduced such herbicide use on public lands; now it is time for state-regulated private lands to follow the same principles.

If you or someone you know has potentially suffered from chemical exposure to forestry herbicides, please contact our campaign.



Join our campaign to stop clearcutting this summer. As the snow melts and timber companies rev up their logging equipment, you may want to consider becoming more active in the effort to protect our forests from clearcutting and end widespread herbicide use in industrial forestry. This summer, we

will be out collecting signatures statewide to let Governor Brown know that ending clearcutting and restoring our watersheds should be a top priority.

We are also planning a series of forest tours to learn more about alternatives to clearcutting, such as the Collins Almanor Forest in Plumas County that has practiced selective logging since 1941. Please contact us if you would like to attend a tour, host a speaker from our campaign, help collect petitions and/or join one of our dynamic campaign teams.

To find out more about logging in your backyard, check out the THPtrackingcenter.org website for a list of current logging plans. Nearly four hundred timber harvest plans encompassing thousands of acres of clearcutting have been approved in the past three years alone. Please join our campaign to stop destructive clearcutting while we still have natural forests left to fight for!

Contact Sierra Club's Stop Clearcutting campaign coordinator Juliette.beck@sierraclub.org, 530-902-8407 and check out our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/clearcutting/>

We Love the Sierra Facebook page.

**Living on Earth Cleacut Chemicals Report: <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=12-P13-00018&segmentID=3>*

**The Sacramento Group will host a presentation on the Stop Clearcutting Campaign on June 13. Learn more about the threats to the Sierra Nevada and enjoy some refreshments. SEIU building, 1808 14th St., Sacramento, June 13 at 7pm. For more information contact gari-
rae@me.com.**

Human cleverness has put nitrogen in our waters and released chemicals into the environment with which our tissues have no evolutionary experience. Sure, we've used technology to prolong life and increase our own comfort, but we've also created our own vulnerability.

~ Fred Bahnson

Awards Banquet/Fundraiser an Event to Remember

With 125 reservations, awards presentations that were well deserved and wonderfully accepted, an engaging keynote address, fabulous silent auction and raffle items, the Mother Lode Chapter's Annual Award and Fundraising Banquet on May 5 was the place to be. This enjoyable evening of good company, conversation and cuisine had people smiling—and not wanting to leave when our time was up!

We are forever grateful to the following for their generous sponsorships: Mountain Lion—Bill, Carol, and Eric Leimbach; Fred and Betsy Weiland. Spotted Owl—Tony Loftin; Bob Schneider; Sean



Marilyn Jasper presents Michael Garabedian with the Gary Pichon Award for Wilderness Preservation

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Lake Berryessa... continued from page 1

A National Conservation Area designation would secure continued recreation opportunities in the area while safeguarding the region's natural beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters—which include important sources of drinking water and irrigation for nearby communities. As one of the largest tracts of relatively undisturbed public lands in the state, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region has been named a “biodiversity hotspot.” It provides habitat for one of the state's largest populations of wintering bald eagles and some of the most unique butterflies in the state.

Dozens of elected officials, several government entities, and thousands of individuals have all come out in support of permanently protecting the Berryessa Snow Mountain area.

Visit www.berryessasnowmountain.org for more information.



The Bonanza is the official news publication of the Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter and is published four times a year by volunteers. The deadline for submissions are: February 7 (Spring), May 7 (Summer), August 7 (Fall) and November 7 (Winter).

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Bonanza articles need to be submitted to the Editorial Committee by the deadlines, and should be 400 to 500 words (with photos if appropriate). Send to bonanza@mlc.sierraclub.org.

Clair Tappaan Lodge invites you "Into the Wood"

By Olivia Diaz

Start planning now to get yourself up to the mountains this summer. Clair Tappaan Lodge is proud to announce a series of summer and fall activities including its Eighth Annual Summer Fundraiser "Into the Woods." See the Lodge web page at <http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org/> for directions and click on Activities for a current listing of special programs. The Lodge is easily accessible from I-80.

The fundraiser will be August 17-19 at the Lodge on Donner Summit. For details on the weekend, scroll down the Calendar of Activities page to August 17 and click on "Into the Woods."

This weekend event supports the Lodge as well as its Scholarship Fund for youth groups to participate in the Environmental Education program held at the Lodge. All are invited and the fee is \$155 for all of the activities from Friday afternoon until the Sunday hikes after breakfast (and your bag lunch).



There will be a one-day only fee of \$50 per person for Saturday, including dinner. After dinner on Friday night the Donner Historical Society will present a speaker, followed by the traditional campfire with s'mores and brandy. On Saturday there will be a large menu of hikes with interesting themes organized by Rick Ramos. These have proven to be popular at our previous summer fundraisers. Following the hikes there will be a wine & cheese reception with cello music by well known Nevada City cellist David Eby at Hutchinson Lodge from 3-4:30 pm. At 4:30 there will be a walk to the newly designated "Brody Trees" and dedication of a trail sign for it.

Saturday night speaker will be Harry Weldon, the engineer on one of the 1960s wing additions to the Lodge. Throughout the weekend there will be an Art Silent Auction and a raffle for an overnight stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge and a 50/50 raffle.

I hope to see you there.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-Day, Live-Aboard • Multi-Island Cruises
August 12-14, 2012

- Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park
- Enjoy the frolicking seals & sea lions
- Train your binoculars on rare sea & land birds, whales & dolphins
- Watch for the endangered Island Fox
- Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers & plants found no other place on earth
- Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters, or just relax at sea

\$590

All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs.



To make a reservation

Mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leader
Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.
For more information (626) 443-0706 / jholtzhn@aol.com

This fundraising cruise benefits Sierra Club California

Tahoe Update

Act I of the TRPA assault on the Tahoe ecosystem has begun, with the opening scene featuring the threatened tsunami of Regional Plan documents. That turned out to be seven volumes and 3000 pages with only 60 days to review.

Highlights are chilling: Numbers are mysteriously non-existent, except when there are numbers, and then they are deceptive, selective, unreliable, or based on questionable assumptions. Air Quality gets the biggest hit in this plan – no problem there, says TRPA, don't worry about monitoring, it's not needed any more, because air quality is temporarily better, and don't worry that there will be more emissions from more housing, more cars, more traffic, and more boats. In fact, they reveal that their plan would add significant GHG but don't worry, they decided to only count resident cars, not visitors' cars. Think of it – visitor cars don't emit GHG!

And then there is water quality, which has already been manipulated to show an expected improvement, due to the plan to restore clarity. Except that, the plan doesn't restore clarity, because it ignores the impact from fine sediments and only requires removal of the particles that are much larger in size than the particles that are causing the loss of clarity. Did you follow that? It's a shell game. The water quality plan also won't remove nitrogen because the sources of nitrogen are mostly lawns and golf courses and who wants to be the fertilizer police? Not the TRPA!

Act II starts in September when the Final Plan is released. For more information contact Laurel Ames at laurel@watershednetwork.org.

Activities of the Committee for a Sustainable World Population

Our Committee recently had its brochure on the population problem translated into Spanish and will be looking to publish 1,000 copies for use at our tabling efforts at various events. We decided to include information on vasectomies in both language versions of the brochure. Vasectomy is one of the most effective and safest birth control methods and is a great sexual freedom asset in a relationship.

One of our members, Evan Jones, has done a terrific job showing the film "Mother....Caring for 7 Billion" at several venues this spring. The film is an outstanding treatment of where our human species stands with regard to population and resources. However, we have had technical problems at some showings where we were dependent on others for A-V equipment. Hence, we would like to have our own equipment. We need a projector. Anyone willing to donate a projector please contact Evan Jones at 916-442-2661 or at revwin@yahoo.com. Evan can also be contacted if your group would like to view this film.

A recent *Sierra* magazine article on population was applauded as a good effort to emphasize population growth as a most serious problem. We encouraged members to write and thank the magazine for taking on this issue although a more scientific approach would have made the article better.

At tabling events we are now using a roulette wheel that attracts people to our booth. We give out prizes such as bumper stickers for playing. Some of the bumper stickers are "Make Love-Not Babies," "Overpopulation is Sexually Transmitted." Evan has also been using a metronome which replicates the rapid pace of population increase on the planet at 130 beats per minute. It is truly scary to hear the rate of increase rather than thinking of it in the abstract.

We recently met with Kathryn Phillips, Sierra Club California's Legislative Director and she explained how Sierra Club's lobbying efforts are doing with the current climate in the legislature. We discussed how support for family planning and abortion issues might best be handled. Much of their current lobbying efforts are spent fighting bad bills.

Our CSWP website has recently added interactive demographic maps from the Population Reference Bureau at motherlode.sierraclub.org/population. We will be adding an "Alerts" section to our website where you can take action (signing online petition or sending an e-letter to policy makers) on family planning, reproductive health and sex education issues.

For more information contact Chuck Knutson at knutson1@surewest.net.

Every time we lose a species we break a life chain which has evolved over 3.5 billion years.

~ Jeffrey McNeely

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? Join the Chapter Alerts email list which gives you breaking news about environmental issues so that you can write that letter, make that phone call or send that email or fax to let your representatives and public agencies know your concerns. This email list is low-volume and your email will never be shared with anyone. To be added go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/motherlode-alerts.html> or email a request to info@mlc.sierraclub.org.

CLIMATE RIDE

You can still sign up to enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride in Northern California from Fortuna to San Francisco under towering redwoods, through the Russian River Wine Country, and along the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route—all the while supporting Sierra Club California.

Climate Ride is fully-supported by a team of talented leader-hosts, bike mechanics, medics, and massage therapists. Registration for Climate Ride is \$75 (which includes a beautiful jersey and more), and then you raise at least \$2400 to participate in the five-day, all-inclusive event.

Everyone who registers for the ride gets to choose which organization they will be raising money for – and we hope you will choose Sierra Club California! Visit www.climate ride.org to find out about the route, tips for getting in shape, and finding sponsors for your trip.

Please visit www.SierraClubCalifornia.org to learn about the work the Sacramento advocates do at the Capitol and state agencies. If you would like to learn more about the event or other ways to support Sierra Club California, please contact Vicki Lee at (510) 741-1201.



WWW.CLIMATERIDE.ORG

Annual Lobby Day

Join us in Sacramento for our annual Lobby Day, Sunday, August 19th and Monday, August 20th.

Become part of a team that will help Sierra Club California pass our priority legislation during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol! You will have opportunities to interact with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

This is a two-day event. On Sunday, starting around noon, our advocacy team will train you on how to lobby and brief you on our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon.

Sierra Club California will reserve beds at the Sacramento Hostel for members who are joining us from out of town — you will have the option to sign up to in the Hostel, at no cost to the participant, when you register for Lobby Day. As a courtesy to our participants who would prefer more private accommodations at your own expense, Sierra Club California is also looking into special group rates at a nearby hotel as well as special travel rates for the weekend. Additionally, limited travel subsidies are available by request, based on need and distance traveled, with special consideration given to advocates from targeted districts.

To Register, visit <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/lobby-day-2012>. For questions, contact Annie Pham at annie.pham@sierraclub.org.

Awards Banquet... *continued from page 2*

Wirth. These folks truly helped the Chapter.

A very special thanks also goes out to all the donors of goods and volunteers who helped with the check in and the auction and raffle fundraising activities. The committee members who put it all together deserve a round of applause: Barb Williams, Terry Davis, Marilyn Jasper, Olivia Diaz, and Dale Stocking. However, they all agree that the success of the evening is due to the awesome work of their marvelous leader, Betsy Weiland. Her clear focus and energy kept everyone on task, and she's fun to work with!

The Mother Lode Chapter Awards were as follows: Sid Arnold Award for Outstanding Outings Leadership, Jeff Utberg; Chapter Award for Meritorious Service, The MLC Photography Section; Special Lifetime Achievement Award, Andy Sawyer; Gary Pichon Award for Wilderness Preservation, Michael Garabedian; Luis & LaVerne Ireland Conservationist of the Year, Julie Leimbach.

Visit the Mother Lode Chapter's website for a list of all the Group award recipients at this most enjoyable and successful event.

Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy: Muir's March

What? You haven't laced up your hiking boots yet? Well, here's your chance to hike the backcountry of Yosemite much the way John Muir did and set your imagination ablaze.

Muir's March is a series of extraordinary guided backpacking trips and hikes designed to raise awareness and funds for the campaign to bring the Hetch Hetchy Valley back to life. From July 29 - August 4, 2012 six groups, following various routes, will march across Yosemite and converge atop the O'Shaughnessy Dam to rally for restoration. Some will march for seven days, some will trek for four, while others will join in on the last day for a one-day hike.

To register and for more information, visit: www.muirsmarch.org



The Hiking Pole Rag

By Stan Jones, MLC Hike Leader

Hiking poles, or walking sticks, have come a long ways. Today's poles are lighter, stronger, have great locking levers, some with shock absorbers, molded cork-like handles, and titanium or hardened steel tips.

What users may not be aware of, however, is that what's at the business end of the pole has some noticeable environmental consequences. Steel tips are often very sharp; each pole plant can poke a tiny hole in the dirt trail. The tiny tip can exert thousands of pounds of pressure per square inch, due to its extremely small size. Multiply the thousands of "pokes" that each pole makes in a hike times the hundreds (or thousands) of users of a trail in a season, and you get some noticable trail degradation over time. Folks, we're plowing up our trails.



Rubber pole tips are often 3/4" to an inch in diameter, and offer a far more gentle impact on our favorite trails. An added benefit to rubber tips is greater traction on granite, or other smooth rock. The steel tips often tend to "skitter" across smooth rock when pushed at an angle. The big soft rubber tips are generally pretty "grippy" when pushed down at an angle, and offer the user much greater stability.

Most outdoor shops that sell poles (such as REI) also sell the rubber tips. Shops are happy to help fit the tips to your existing hiking poles. You can also ask them to fit a little 2" or 3" diameter basket to the pole for use in snow, if necessary. Mother nature will thank you.



Standard spikes (left) can be fitted with removable soft rubber tips (below), and are available at most outdoor shops.

Sacramento Area Sustainable Communities Strategy Approved

By Rick Bettis

In mid April the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area council of governments (SACOG) approved the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Sustainable communities Strategy (SCS) for the six County and twenty two City Sacramento Region. SACOG is the Regional or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. All MPO's in California are required to prepare an SCS y SB 375 the Climate Solutions Act of 2008 which is intending to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from light trucks and passenger vehicles.

The MTP is a regional transportation plan intending to identify and estimate funding requirements for transportation related programs and projects through the year 2035. The MTP is updated approximately every five years. SACOG has incorporated the SCS with the current MTP update. The MTP includes approximately 1500 programs and projects with a total estimated cost of \$35 billion between now and 2035.

The projects include road, transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and operations and maintenance as well as air quality improvement programs such as the replacement of older high emission diesel engines for trucks and equipment. The projects and programs are categorized as ongoing or those that will be completed

before 2020 and those to be completed before 2035. Funding for these projects and programs will be from various local, state and federal sources.

The SACOG SCS is planned to result in a per capita reduction unit GHG emissions of 16% per capita, which exceeds that target of 15 % per capita adopted by the California Air Resources Board which is responsible for the overseeing their implementation of SB 375 along with AB 32 the Global Warming solutions Act of 2006. The SACOG MTP/SCS will also result in a decrease in estimated vehicle emissions.

The SCS emphasizes development of Transit Priority Areas (TPA) that are defined as areas within ½ mile of a transit corridor that has or is planned to have transit service with a frequency of 15 minutes or less. These areas will be legible for streamlining of the project environmental review process and priority status for transportation funding.

There will be case studies of five TPA's located in Sacramento City and County, Rancho Cordova and West Sacramento. The SCS can be successful only if the anticipated compact, mixed use infill projects can be implemented. For more information you may contact Rick Bettis at rckbettis40@gmail.com or 916-893-9065.

Sell Your Gold

By Michael Molamphy, Delta Sierra

The mining and processing of gold is infamous as an environmental disaster. Witness the widespread pollution of our rivers and land by mining especially in California's gold rush era. The sorry legacy of man's lust for gold includes cyanide polluting waterways, especially in Northern California.

More recently, the state has prohibited, at least temporarily, dredge/suction gold mining in many rivers. That activity disrupts the life cycle of fish, notably salmon. Water pollution, including toxic residues from prior mining, is inevitable from the miner's activity.

As environmentalists, we should sell all our gold now, flooding the market, and helping drive down prices. Thereby we will decrease pressures for more mining. Prices are high now, it's financially astute to sell gold now. Just be careful to get fair valuation.



An open pit goldmine

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