

# WORDS OF the WILD

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

## Birthday of Wilderness: *Get ready for the BIG ONE*

-- by Vicky Hoover, co-chair Wilderness50 National Planning Team

Next Wilderness meeting Sept 22-- see page 6

September 3, 2012, coming up soon, is the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Wilderness activists will raise a glass and give three cheers to the Wild Places.

But even as they do so, they are thinking ahead: "Only two more years till THE BIG ONE!"

Yes, when the Wilderness Act turns 50 on September 3, 2014, celebrations around the country will mark this major American cultural and environmental achievement.

*Put 2014 on your calendar for a big birthday celebration.*

Already, Sierra Club, other wilderness groups, and the federal agencies are getting ready for the 50th anniversary. A Wilderness50 national planning team, composed of representatives from national environmental organizations with a wilderness focus and the four federal wilderness managing agencies, has organized to assure activities around the country.

The overarching goal for the anniversary celebration is to make the concept and benefits of wilderness better known to the American public. Toward this end, local events to publicize and promote wilderness are planned in as many states as possible.

The Sierra Club's national Wildlands and Wilderness Team

is spearheading the Sierra Club's role and has set up a subteam to organize efforts in Chapters across the country. Two of the four team members are from California – Vicky Hoover and Alan Carlton. They're joined by Sharon Stephens, MN, and Jeff Clay, UT. So far, 42 out of the Club's 64 Chapters have identified 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coordinators.

### Californians and Nevadans to celebrate

We need more Chapters in California and Nevada to participate! Chapters in our region that already have anniversary coordinators are:

- \* Kern-Kaweah – Joe Fontaine;
- \* Los Padres: Jerry Connor and Jim Hines;
- \* Redwood: Victoria Brandon;
- \* Santa Lucia: Cal French;

\* Toiyabe Marge Sill (north) and Par Rasmusson (south).

That leaves a lot of other Chapters where we seek volunteers. Activists such as Cindy Buxton and Ann Fege in San Diego have expressed interest, but coordinating help is really needed for each Chapter. *Can you help?*

Example of specific activities to promote wilderness that can be planned locally include displays in museums and art galleries, a wilderness booth at the county fair, urban walks *for* wilderness in the city park, longer outings to wild places, an essay or photo contest in the local paper, a concert with music on a nature theme, etc. Ideas are solicited!

The Sierra Club Outings program will be involved in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at all levels.

Chapter coordinators aren't in this alone. They can work with other local or regional environmental organizations, and with representatives of the involved federal agencies. Forest Service has staff on both the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests, for example, who are eager to work with volunteers.

### Background:

Signed into law in 1964, the Wilderness Act established America's National Wilderness Preservation System. There are now over 100 million acres nationwide in the system--added by Congress over the years--with

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# Berryessa Snow Mountain Campaign goes to Congress

-- by Charlotte M. Orr, Tuleyome, and Angel Martinez, Sierra Club

more to come. Wilderness designation is the strongest and most permanent protection from development that our laws offer for wild Federal public lands. Fully one half of the nation's entire wilderness system is in Alaska. Wilderness areas include

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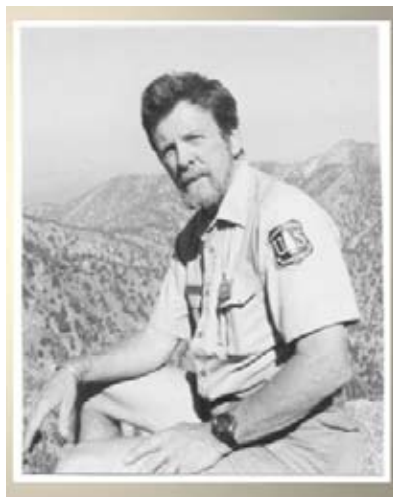
## Put 2014 on your calendar for a big birthday celebration.

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wild places in national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and western lands of the Bureau of Land Management.

Why is Wilderness significant? This uniquely American landmark is both an environmental and a cultural achievement. The American spirit of rugged individualism was born of wilderness—as settlers forged westward, ever farther from “civilization”. The Wilderness Golden Anniversary will celebrate our country’s historic agreement to forego in certain special places the prevailing trend toward development and let nature dominate – forever.

Please join the Sierra Club Wilderness50 team at [http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Wilderness\\_Act\\_50th\\_Anniversary](http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Wilderness_Act_50th_Anniversary). ##



The late Geoge Duffy, longtime Angeles National Forest wilderness ranger, inspired wilderness advocates by his bold vision for a grand national 50th anniversary wilderness celebration.

**Great news!** On July 11, 2012, Senator Barbara Boxer introduced S. 3375, The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act. If passed, this bill along with H.R. 5545 (which was introduced on May 8 in the House by Representatives Thompson, Garamendi, and Woolsey) will secure permanent protection of 319,300 acres of federal public lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

In late June, representatives from Tuleyome, a regional non-profit spearheading the Berryessa Snow Mountain campaign, along with Sierra Club Mother Lode and Angeles Chapter members and other coalition members, traveled to Washington D.C. for Great Outdoors America Week. This trip was a great opportunity to meet with members of Congress Mike Thompson and John Garamendi to thank them again for sponsoring this legislation to protect our region’s public lands. We also met with staff of other members of Congress to tell them about the Berryessa Snow Mountain campaign and ask for their support.

Sara Husby-Good, Executive Director of Tuleyome, says, “Tuleyome and our partner groups are pleased that Senator Boxer and our Representatives have recognized the natural wonders and recreational opportunities offered by the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and that they have taken steps to safeguard this regional treasure for current and future generations of Californians.”

Bob Schneider, Mother Lode Chapter Conservation Chair and Senior Policy Director for Tuleyome, agrees that the proposed designation is all about the future: “We hope that the region will remain much as it is today with important ecosystems protected, better managed recreational opportunities consistent with that goal, and enhanced economic opportunities for local communities,” says Schneider.



Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA1) rides on the West Peak of Snow Mountain

Sierra Club has endorsed and promoted the Berryessa Snow Mountain campaign from the beginning. The California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee has passed a resolution in support.

### Working together to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region

In 2008, Tuleyome and partners began organizing for the permanent protection of the public lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. Groups including the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, The Wilderness Society, California Wilderness Coalition, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Back Country Horsemen of California, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and others have joined forces to permanently protect the region’s 319,300 acres of federal public lands for existing and future generations. It is not often that hikers, campers, conservationists, bicyclists, horseback riders, off road vehicle users, and others come together to agree on a vision for public land protection; but this proposal is one in which everyone is invited to a seat at the table. These stakeholder groups realize the importance of working together to protect our region’s -- go to next page

photo: Bob Schneider

# Berryessa Snow Mountain

-- from page 2

treasured landscapes, while providing better managed recreational opportunities for the public.

How will a national conservation area help? A National Conservation Area will create an identity for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. At present the region's public lands are a hodge podge of separate jurisdictions – managed by various state and federal agencies, without coordination. A national conservation area will create a framework for the Bureau of Land Management, Mendocino National Forest, and Bureau of Reclamation to work together to manage these public lands in a coordinated way that will allow much deserved attention to their natural qualities.

The region is an ecologically unique and special place, often referred to as “a hot spot within a hotspot” because it is rich in species found nowhere else in the world, where biodiversity is under threat.

The key plant communities of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region include rare serpentine plant communities, oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian habitat, and red fir forest.

There are real threats to the wild splendor of this landscape that need to be addressed. Invasive species, mercury pollution and unmanaged recreation impact these public lands. Another threat is frightening on many levels. “Illegal marijuana grown on public lands is a very real problem in this region. It is a serious threat, and it is very scary,” says Tuleyome's Sara Husby-Good. She is referring to the Mexican cartels growing illegal marijuana on public lands for exportation. These plantations damage hundreds of acres of public lands; they demolish undergrowth; use pesticides (some banned in the U.S.) that poison and kill surrounding wildlife; and leach

lethal chemicals into surrounding water sources. These plantations are not only environmentally devastating but pose danger to unsuspecting recreationists. A national conservation area will attract more attention and probably funding to this region, and mandate preparation of a specific management plan that can help federal agencies eradicate this serious threat.

## National Conservation Area will benefit local economies

There are potential economic opportunities with permanent protection of these public lands. In 2011, Headwaters Economics, an independent,

cited economic benefits from national conservation area designations include increased tourism and immigration; resulting in economic diversification, property enhancement, lower public service costs (taxes) and more recreation.

## Summary

Protecting this special place in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region will encourage tourism, increase recreational opportunities, highlight local businesses, and create a desirable place for people to live and work. The proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area has gained strong support in Lake and Napa counties, and the cities of Winters, Davis, Calistoga and Clearlake passed unanimous resolutions of support.

“One of the most impressive aspects of this campaign has been the amount of support surrounding the designation,” says Angel Martinez, Campaign Coordinator at Tuleyome. “The backbone of this campaign is our local communities--the small

business owners, local recreation groups, and local residents.” Tuleyome and local Sierra Club groups are continuing outreach in Yolo, Lake, Napa and Mendocino Counties to build support for the designation.

Details about the campaign, including fact sheets, maps, pictures, conservation information, and supporter lists can be found online at [www.berryessasnowmountain.org](http://www.berryessasnowmountain.org).

*Charlotte Orr is a member of the Sierra Club Yolano Group, and in May 2012, she began working on the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area campaign for Tuleyome.*

*Angel Martinez works as a Campaign Coordinator for Tuleyome. He is also a Board Member for the North Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Sierra Club Yolano Group Management Committee. ##*

photo: Bob Schneider



Annie's Rock above Cold Canyon in the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area

nonprofit research group, produced a set of case studies assessing the economic performance of local communities adjacent to various national monuments in the 11 western states. Their peer reviewed research demonstrates that conserving public lands helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that attract new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities. Their report states that local communities next to public lands saw their own prosperity on the rise. As an example, since the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains designation as a National Monument in 2000, there has been a 32 percent increase in jobs, 35 percent personal income growth, and real per capita income growth by one percent. The most commonly

## Comment on Lake Tahoe Basin forest plan by August 29

In mid July, the Forest Service held four public meetings on its new draft management plan, released June 1 for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), 154,000 acres of public lands surrounding Lake Tahoe. Two meetings at South Lake Tahoe and two in Kings Beach on the north saw agency staff explaining the draft plan. Diverse conservation organizations, recreation groups, outdoor businesses and concerned citizens were present to call for strong protection for Tahoe's forests, watersheds, wildlife, wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers. Sierra Club attendees, while disappointed at the



Deputy Lake Tahoe Basin Supervisor Jeff Marsolais discusses draft plan at public meeting

lack of opportunities in the meetings to air their concerns, heeded the agency's points that written comments—as specific as possible—will be the most effective way to influence the final plan.

This draft plan is the first of plans expected soon for nearly all California national forests; and the strength of public comments here will definitely influence the Forest Service to offer more or less environmentally beneficial future plans.

Thus, the Club's Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats team asks all who care about the unique Tahoe area to send a comment letter by email or mail to the Forest Service. Personalized, individual comments, *as site-specific as possible* will work best!

Here are talking points to choose from for incorporating—in *your own words*—into your comments:

Start by stating what areas you personally like to visit, why you care about protecting Lake Tahoe's forests, watersheds, wildlife, wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers, for example:

- water quality in Lake Tahoe, and the drinking water from the Truckee River.
- the recreation opportunities and wild places you like to go in the national forest.
- the sustainable economy of the region, and any connection you have to it.

Then thank the agency for some good aspects of the draft:

- Recommending the Upper Truckee River for Wild & Scenic designation;
- New emphasis on letting some wildfires burn naturally;
- A focus on watershed management and restoration;
- Enlarging several Identified Roadless Areas (IRAs);
- Increasing public transit access to many trailheads.

**General comments on Lake Tahoe**-- one of the most magnificent places in the world.

- The Lake Tahoe Basin forest plan is an excellent opportunity to protect some of the last wilderness and ancient forests in the Tahoe area.
- The forest plan will cover most of the Lake's watershed, and thus Forest Service decisions could help or hurt the effort to keep Tahoe blue.
- These forest lands are the upper watershed of Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River, which provides drinking water for thousands in California and Nevada.
- The natural beauty of the landscape – including forests, rivers, and extensive trail systems – is a key economic driver for this recreation-based tourism destination, bringing in more than \$1 billion to the local economy, with about \$140 million of that going to state and

local taxes.

**Forest protection and ecological restoration:** The forests of the Lake Tahoe basin have suffered from decades of logging and fire suppression. Ancient forests in the Lake Tahoe Basin have been reduced by approximately 95 percent. Development in the basin has already eliminated about 75 percent of its marshes, 50 percent of its meadows and 35 percent of its stream habitats. Therefore, the forest plan should carefully protect the few remaining old growth forests, large trees and streamside zones.

- The Forest Service must restore Tahoe forests to a more resilient and healthy condition through the reintroduction of fire while at the same time reducing the threat of dangerous fire to the communities in the Tahoe area--Tahoe City, Homewood, South Lake Tahoe, Crystal Bay, Kings Beach, Brockway, and more.
- I am concerned about the plan's removal of the former Old Forest Emphasis Areas. Ancient and old growth forests are rare in the Tahoe basin and should be protected.
- I am opposed to the plan's exemptions for removing large trees over 30 inches in diameter without having better wildlife protection measures in place that consider the ecological value of larger trees as critical wildlife habitat.
- The Forest Service should evaluate any vegetation treatments so that they do not unintentionally harm wildlife habitat, watersheds, soils or other natural resources.
- Spotted owl populations should be protected, and the established Protected Activity Centers and Home Range areas should be primarily managed to provide habitat for them.

**Wilderness:** Wilderness designations give undeveloped federal land the highest degree of protection and give the best assurance for the long-term ecological health of the lands. The forest plan offers a rare opportunity for the agency to recommend new wilderness to Congress.

- I am disappointed that the draft

## Help boost Forest Service protection for California's world-famed lake basin

--from previous page

- forest plan did not recommend wilderness for any new areas in the Tahoe Basin. I support wilderness recommendations for the Dardanelles Roadless Area, with its important meadow systems like Big, Meiss and Bryan Meadows; for two sections of the Freel Roadless Area-- Trimmer and Hell Hole (with its Trout Creek drainage) and for the Granite Chief Wilderness Addition, with the important North Fork of Blackwood Creek.
- I support managing the Mt Rose and Lincoln Roadless Areas on the Nevada side without motorized use to maintain their wild pristine condition.

**Wild And Scenic Rivers:** Wild and Scenic River status protects free-flowing rivers from dams and other water diversions that can damage entire ecosystems.

- The draft plan's Wild River recommendation for the upper Truckee River is good but should be expanded to include the river's tributaries, which also support the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.
- I would like to see a thorough assessment of other potential wild and scenic rivers in the Basin, especially a re-evaluation of the eligible 24 miles of the Lower Truckee River, between Lake Tahoe and Reno, which depends on Truckee River water. Protecting the river in adjacent jurisdictions, like Tahoe and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, needs to be included.

**Climate Change:** Climate Change is already having definite impacts in the Lake Tahoe Basin that will likely increase over time.

- I'm pleased the plan recognizes the significance of climate change and its impacts, but I want to see more action provisions to mitigate or adapt to changes like less snow and

- more rain; habitat loss, etc.
- I urge the Forest Service to consider and make specific plans to address the vulnerability of wildlife species impacted by climate change, mountain meadows and the need for their restoration, snow pack loss and the impact on water, wildlife and recreation;
- The plan should provide corridors connecting protected areas, such as the Granite Chief and Desolation Wildernesses, so that native wildlife stressed by climate change may move to higher, cooler temperatures;
- Roads are stressors for wildlife; the agency should consider reducing rather than increasing roads.

**Recreation:** The Lake Tahoe Basin



photo: Sarah Matsumoto

Big Meadow in the Dardanelles Roadless Area that deserves a wilderness recommendation

is widely used for varied recreation activities for residents and three million visitors throughout the year. Lake Tahoe recreation should be accessible to everyone but should be managed in a way that will not damage the environment.

- I am disappointed that the plan fails to address motorized recreation in winter—this is a crucial, major aspect of Tahoe use. The draft plan, defers consideration of over-snow travel and completely disregards the impact of snowmobiles;
- The Forest Service must consider rights of quiet recreationists and add desperately needed nonmotorized winter areas for skiing and snowshoeing. The safety of children snow playing and that

of cross country skiers and snowshoers is compromised without adequate places free of winter motorized use.

- The draft plan offers no “backcountry” designations closed to snowmobiles on the north side of Lake Tahoe; the final plan should provide a quiet quadrant including most or all of the area between Route 267 and Route 50 on the east side of the lake—in particular Chickadee Ridge and Brockway East.
- The plans should evaluate numbers of quiet recreationists compared to motorized users.

**Public Participation during the Forest Planning Process:**

Lake Tahoe's future is of concern to millions of people; it is essential for the Forest Service to map out a public participation process that fully engages the broad public who use and value the Lake Tahoe Basin—including both residents of local towns and also of more distant major urban areas in California and Nevada.

- I urge the Forest Service to extend the public comment period and hold additional public meetings in other cities such as Reno and Sacramento.
- The Forest Service should consider needs of two classes of forest users who cannot speak for themselves—wildlife and future generations. ##

**Send your comments by August 29:**

*Email comments to:*

<comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us>

Subject: “Draft Land Management Plan”

*Or mail written comments to:*  
Draft Land Management Plan  
LTBMU  
35 College Dr.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

For more information about the plan and the public meetings, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/###ForestPlanRevision>.

## Dan Heinz, Nevada wildlands advocate

Dan Heinz of northern Nevada died peacefully at home April 30, at the age of 75. A “tough, bearded outdoorsman of the first order,” Dan’s storied career as a U.S. Forest Service ranger led to another in conservation, in defense of wild lands and wildlife. Dan cultivated activists like he shepherded the land at the high mountain home in the Pah Rah Mountains he shared with his wife, Karen Boeger.

He was a co-founder of non-profit organizations American Wildlands and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and served as board member of many other conservation organizations, including the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. As an outfitter, guide and black powder enthusiast, his hunting stories have been recounted around many a campfire. In



addition to his five children, John, Anne, Joan, Madonna and Mark, 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren, he leaves Karen, her children Patrick and Carolyn Tanner, and granddaughter Ruby of Reno. Donations in Dan’s honor will be gratefully accepted at Backcountry Hunters & Anglers or any conservation organization of the giver’s choosing.

-- From the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, May 8, 2012.

A celebration of Dan’s life was to be held August 4 at Washoe Pines Ranch, south of Reno. ##

## Inventorying Wilderness Characteristics in Nevada

-- by Shaaron Netherton

photo: Kirk Peterson

Five hardy souls are spending their summer out exploring some of Nevada’s best kept wild secret places looking for ‘wilderness character’ on undeveloped Bureau of Land Management (BLM) areas. Some of these magical places include Emigrant Peak, Volcanic Hills and Tule Peak. The inventory crew’s detailed explorations will provide the basis for timely and high quality data about lands that have wilderness character that they will provide to the staff of the BLM’s Battle Mountain and Carson City District offices. Both of these districts are in the process of initiating new land use plans that will guide how these public lands are managed into the future. The Battle Mountain District encompasses about four counties in central Nevada (Lander, Eureka, Nye and Esmeralda). The Carson City District includes several counties as well (southern Washoe, Douglas, Carson City, Mineral and Lyon). The BLM is required by law to keep up-to-date inventories on all of the resources they manage including wilderness.

Funding for this Citizens’ Wilderness Characteristics Inventory effort is coming from a grant and is being coordinated in partnership with Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Wilderness Project. The data is being collected using the BLM’s Wilderness Inventory Manual 6310. This includes providing individual route evaluations, photo logs, and details about each of the specific wilderness characteristics which the agency must catalog: size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

At the end of the season, the data collected by the crew will be turned into formal reports that will be given to the BLM along with briefing presentations to the BLM district’s management team and planners. The bottom line of this effort



Inventory crews study wild lands around Castle Peak in central Nevada’s Monte Cristo Range

is to help identify lands with special wilderness character and protect them for recreationists and wildlife and for future generations to enjoy unspoiled Nevada’s beauty and solitude. ##  
*(Shaaron Netherton is executive director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness)*

### August 26 – Sun 3 to 5 pm Women, Wilderness and Wine

Come to a fun and informative Great Old Broads for Wilderness afternoon Special Event in Reno—cosponsored by Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Free, informal social gathering of Broads, Bros, and friends. Meet Great Old Broads’ board and staff. Bluegrass music by Quirky. Learn how you can help local wild public lands. Patagonia at 8550 White Fir, Reno west side (go to the OLD outlet side of the building). RSVP to [ellen@greatoldbroads.org](mailto:ellen@greatoldbroads.org).

### Next Wilderness Meeting Sept 22

The next meeting of the Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Wilderness Committee will take place on Saturday, September 22, in Fresno, CA, 10 am to 5 pm. Thanks to the Tehipite Chapter for hosting at the Greater Fresno Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, at 1444 Fulton in downtown Fresno (detailed direction on RSVP to chair). Expanding diversity in wilderness involvement will be on the agenda--and mcu more. Join for fun, timely presentations on wildlands topics, networking, lunch, --followed by joint dinner. A Sierra hike nearby Sunday. Contact [Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).



# Outings

Support wilderness the Sierra Club way!



## September 14-16 – Fri - Sun Santa Rosa Public Lands Day

Join Friends of Nevada Wilderness on this stewardship outing in Santa Rosa Ranger District-Paradise Valley, to clear trails to help a vital riparian area in northern Nevada's Santa Rosa Range for National Public Lands Day. *Family-friendly!* Contact Pat Bruce [pbruce@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:pbruce@nevadawilderness.org) or (775)324-7667.

## September 15-16 – Sat - Sun Bright Star Service and Hike

The Bright Star Wilderness Area, north of Ridgcrest, has been impacted by both trash and by illegal ORV trespass. On Sat assist BLM Wilderness Resource Specialist Marty Dickes putting up barriers, concealing illegal routes, and placing signs. Sunday hike in wilderness to visit Cortez Creek and monitor a cherry-stemmed corridor. The ponderosa forest and chaparral offers a delightful diversion. Leader: Craig Deutsche, Desert Committee; [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), (310)477-6670.

## September 21-23 – Fri - Sun National Public Lands Day *two choices in Nevada:*

**#1: Trego Hot Springs:** A family-friendly Friends of Nevada Wilderness Stewardship outing on the edge of the Black Rock Desert playa about 4 hours n. of Reno. Lend a hand for your public lands for National Public Lands Day. Contact Pat Bruce, see Sept 14-16.

## September 21-23 – Fri - Sun #2: Black Rock Desert

To celebrate National Public Lands Day, join Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter in service work in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA. All meals except lunch provided. For details contact Graham Stafford (775)686-8478, [graham@grahamstafford.com](mailto:graham@grahamstafford.com) or Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness [pbruce@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:pbruce@nevadawilderness.org).

## September 29 – Sat Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Cow Camp post-and-cable fence installation—join this Friends of Nevada

Wilderness stewardship event - to protect wildlands of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, largest refuge in the Lower 48. For details, contact Kurt Kuznicki--[kurt@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:kurt@nevadawilderness.org) or (775)745-3119.

## October 6 -- Sat Southern Nevada Trails Day

Henderson, NV at Cornerstone Park: Come down for the fun at southern Nevada's largest annual trail event. Contact Kurt Kuznicki--see Sept. 29.

## October 7 -- Sun Tarantula Trek for families

Join a great S.F. Bay Chapter family walk 9 a.m.- noon – good for children of all ages and accompanying adults -- as we explore an easy trail in search of Mount Diablo's exciting and sometimes scary but (mostly) harmless big spiders. Learn how Native Americans and pioneers used plants and trees along our route. Meet local Children in Nature Collaborative members and think about how our groups can work to get kids outside into nature. Cost: \$6/vehicle State Park entrance fee; bring liquids, snacks, and good walking shoes. Meet at Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center; [Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, Mount Diablo State Park](#). Leader: Ken Lavin; contact Wilderness Committee co-sponsor Vicky Hoover (415)977-5527.

## October 13 -- Sat Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Join Friends of Nevada Wilderness to help plant native shrubs and trees at Corn Creek in this stewardship volunteer project to help US Fish & Wildlife Service enhance vegetation in Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Contact Kurt Kuznicki--see Sept. 29.

## October 13-14 -- Sat - Sun Carrizo Plain serve & hike

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators and we'll either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate their mobility. Sat work day, then camp with pot-luck dinner. Sun, group choice, either hike in Caliente Range or tour popular viewing areas

in the Plain. Leader: Craig Deutsche, see Sept 15-16.

## November 2-4 – Fri - Sun Death Valley Service Trip

Desert Committee work project with NPS Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on park restoration activities. Projects to be determined but likely to include fence removal. Camp at Mesquite Springs, north of Stovepipe Wells. Arrive Fri and work part of afternoon, continue Sat, with potluck Sat night. Sunday may be work day or recreation. Leader: Kate Allen, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), (661)944-4056.

## Trip report: Eastern Nevada Wilderness Service Trip

July 26 to 29 saw Sierra Club wilderness committee volunteers on their annual event with Ely's Bureau of Land Management wilderness staffers John Miller and Emily Simpson in the Highland Ridge Wilderness, just south of Great Basin National Park. From base camp in a charming aspen grove at 8200 feet at the edge of wilderness, the crew put up three trailhead barriers at wilderness access points to welcome hikers and horsemen and keep out motorized vehicles. They hiked one day up to a ridge route planned to connect an obscure historic trail with the present trail system in Great Basin Park. More agency staff joined the group part time and pitched in vigorously with work too. Effective work, good food and drink, good company and scenically spectacular surroundings provided an outstanding long weekend. ##



photo: John Miller BLM

Highland Ridge route rehab crew poses after some hard work

When Gene Rose, long time environmental reporter for the Fresno Bee, retired from his newspaper job, he turned to writing books about the mountain range whose peaks dominate the eastern skyline from his Fresno home, and which molded his own passion -- the Sierra Nevada. Gene has written about the Tioga Road, about the battles for the San Joaquin River, and more. In his new book, Kings Canyon, America's Premier Wilderness National Park, he entertainingly and meticulously chronicles a saga of exploration and advocacy for a Sierra area less publicized than Yosemite.

Early native Americans left few records, but the settlers who displaced them left in journals, newspapers, or letters many accounts of their efforts to explore this remote Sierra region. It's these early written accounts that provide the basis for Gene's absorbing details. We relive the days of Sanger larger than Fresno,

of "riding the flume" to Sanger; of Millwood as a center of logging, and of the difficulty in reaching Cedar Grove in pre-road days -- and the hazards of getting between Simpson Meadow and Tehipite Valley.

We see how changes in the Central Valley, such as the coming of the railroad, led to ever increased demands for Sierra resources--greater efforts to exploit and grab Sierra resources--timber, minerals, livestock forage, and, of course, water.

Muir's several trips to Kings Canyon are described in detail. Well known travelers like Brewer and Theodore Solomons are included, but the fascination of this book is stories of the less-heralded early Sierra denizens and wanderers. We enjoy intriguing tidbits of lore about obscure adventurers whose names we may recognize only because they're attached to natural features of the Sierra today: Charles Converse, Frank Dusy, Simpson, Dinkey the dog, John Atwood Rodgers, Ranger Richard Bigelow, Lou

Winchell, Peter Kanawyer, John Fiske, railroader D. K. Zumwalt, Judge William Wallace, Joe and Marion LeConte, "Little Pete" Giraud, Howard Longley, Bolton and Lucy Brown, Charles Shinn, Engineer Ellery, "Putt" Boyden, J. F. Wright, Frederick Wales, W.B. Wallace, USGS Surveyor George Davis, and more.

Early Sierra Club Kings Canyon outings appear, along with individuals who influenced these --Will Colby, Walter Starr, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, Norman Clyde and the Sierra Club's 14,000 Club. We follow the long, intertwined campaigns to build the road to Cedar Grove and to make Kings Canyon a national park, stressing the role of Harold Ickes and the way the campaign brought the young David Brower and Ansel Adams into the limelight.

Liveliness of narrative easily overcomes occasional editing flaws, including typos. Paperback, 140 pp. including photo section, detailed end notes, and index. Published by Sequoia Natural History Association, 47050 Generals Highway #10, Three Rivers, CA 93721. \$24.95; members receive 15 percent discount. <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/> ##

## 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 sponsors stewardship outings.

- Chair, newsletter editor: Vicky Hoover (415) 977-5527
- Vice Chair: George Barnes (650) 494-8895
- Judy Anderson (818) 248-0402: wilderness management
- Cassie Barr (510) 336-7022: San Fran. Bay Chapter coordinator
- Victoria Brandon (707) 994-1931: Redwood Chapter coordinator
- Joyce Burk (760) 252-3820: Southern CA forests
- Cindy Buxton (619) 934-0323: San Diego Chapter coordinator
- Alan Carlton (510) 769-3403: CA Wilderness Coalition liaison
- Jim Dodson (661) 942-3662: political liaison
- Jim Eaton (530) 756-7518: Wildlands Project liaison
- Steve Evans (916) 442-3155: Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Joe Fontaine (661) 821-2055: Wilderness Watch, Kern Kaweah Ch.
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FIRST CLASS



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