Wildlife Wanderings

There’s both good news, along with some “cautionary” stories, related to wildlife issues. Here are some stand-out summaries:

Before it was signed into law, the proposed Congressional Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus text—over 2,000 pages—had horrific “riders” in place that would have undone critical wildlife protections. One was called, the “War on Wolves” which, along with other politically-based listing decisions, was one of a number of attempts to target wolves and sabotage the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Due to awesome work by elected Congressional representatives, aka “wildlife champions,” the “War on Wolves” and some anti ESA riders were deleted. On a negative note, the bill was not perfect for wildlife (for example, the greater sage grouse is not protected), but it was a win...for now.

These positive turns of events, however, are only temporary. The next fight over appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019 has already started. Wildlife will be in the crosshairs again unless citizens make their voices heard loud and clear. [Photo credit-USFWS Nat’l Digital Library]

Another item that was not signed into law due to Herculean work by dedicated people will keep in tact the current prohibition for any federal funding or spending to support USDA horsemeat inspections. This one is highly controversial, but wild horses have been the target, in part because oil and other energy “exploration” proponents want those wild animals off federal lands (as do many ranching operations) for their private profit-making operations to proceed. The down side is that the round ups, as expensive and unnec-
Placer Group Events and Outings Calendar

Note: Events listed here include those of the Sierra Club and other local events of interest. Only Starred (*) activities are sponsored and administered by the Sierra Club. See page 6 for important conditions.

April 4, May 2, June 5, and July (TBD due to holiday)*: First Wednesdays, 7 pm, Placer Group Ex-Com meets for members only. Location TBA. Contact any ExCom member or check the Placer Group website to confirm location.

April 11: (Senior Section) Hike (1A) American Canyon, Dead Truck, WST Loop, approx 5 mile loop, elev gain about 900 ft. We’ll make a few creek crossings and a gold rush site along our route. Have lunch, water, and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln Way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:30 am. Leader: Sheila Toner 530-886-0673.

April 12: 1-3 pm, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife’s “Conservation Lecture Series,” will present, in person (1416 9th Street, Sacramento) or via webinar. Registration strongly advised. For information, visit: www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/lectures

April 24: 6–8 pm: Placer County Sustainability Plan, Presentation and workshop. Loomis Veterans Memorial Hall, 5945 Horseshoe Bar Rd, Loomis, CA 95650. For more info, visit: www.placer.ca.gov/sustainplacer

April 28: 4-11 pm: Stand with the Bear River, a benefit for Bear River Legal Defense Fund. (see flyer at left). For info, call 530-320-6841 or visit www.SaveBearRiver.com

May 11: “Forever Muir,” Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center. Muir’s great-great grandson, Robert Hanna, will present the history of Muir himself and take the audience on a very personal and close-up look. For more information, see page 4 or visit: www.zoomaru5.com/alleventsdata.php?id=190219&display=&eportal=appac

May 16: (Senior Section) Hike (1A) Empire Mine. Hike approx 4.5 to 5 mile loop. Elevation gain approx 300-400 ft. Bring lunch, water and essentials. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln Way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:30 AM or at 10:15 in front of the horse trailer parking lot by Penn Gate at Empire Mine. No dogs. Rain cancels. Leader: Sheila Toner (530) 886-0673.

The world has not to be put in order: The world is order incarnate. It is for us to put ourselves in unison with this order. Henry Miller, Sexus
MUIR EVENTS: April 27 at Sierra College and, May 11 at Auburn State Theater
Lee Stetson as “John Muir is Back, and Man! Is He Ticked Off!”

Friday, April 27, 2018 / 7:30PM / Dietrich Theater / Sierra College Rocklin Campus. Tickets: General $15 / Senior, students $10. Tickets at the door or by going to https://www.brownpapertickets.com. For more information contact Jennifer Skillen / jskillen@sierracollege.edu / (916) 766-07926

Join acclaimed actor Lee Stetson performing as “John Muir is Back, and Man! Is He Ticked Off!” In this powerful and delightful one-man play, Muir is once again roaming his beloved planet - but now as a deeply troubled and bitterly disappointed spirit. Muir returns to express his love for nature and his frustration with us.

Despite a lifetime devoted to preserving wild lands and wildlife, his success as Father of the National Park system, and his vision in founding the Sierra Club, he finds before him today’s unimaginable environmental evils. He sees his beloved glaciers rapidly melting, his “plant people” disappearing, and the daily inexcusable extinctions of his “fellow mortals.” He is righteously ticked off, and is now on an intense search to find those responsible - “Lord Man” and his minions. He implores us to become better beasts. The conservation movement lives on in this often hilarious and sometimes passionate plea to keep the spirit of John Muir alive.

Stetson’s one-man play is guaranteed to captivate everyone in the audience. Stetson has performed various works that he has written on the life of John Muir throughout the United States, Europe and Japan.

ROBERT HANNA – Growing Up Muir

Back by popular demand, Robert Hanna, great-great-grandson of John Muir tells his and the family’s intimate story. Details: Auburn State Theater / May 11 / details at Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center, 985 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA (530) 885-0156 / http://livefromauburn.com

Are you a nature lover? Do you enjoy trekking in the wild, especially for a good cause?

Island Hopping in
Channel Islands National Park—2018

April 8-10; May 6-8; June 10-12; July 15-17; August 19-21; September 23-25; October 21-23

Enjoy a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The coast, $675, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks and beverages. A ranger/naturalist, assigned by the national park will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

Those who bring, or rent, kayaks will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser for the California Sierra Club PAC. Contributions to the California Sierra Club PAC are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

For more information, contact trip leader: Joan, (624) 443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com.

To make a reservation, send a $100 check made out to the California Sierra Club PAC and mail to Joan Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Payments may be made via PayPal (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CASCPAC).
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Essary as many claim them to be, will continue. Wild horses, as well as “retired” racehorses and others, are auctioned off and trucked/ shipped to other countries in what is known as the “slaughter” or “kill pipeline.” Citizens are demanding that wild horses and burros be protected and humanely managed.

Update: Lawsuit Demands Granted with Cyanide Indiscriminate “Bomb” Poisoning of Wildlife

Back in October of 2016, the Placer Group Sierra Club sponsored a showing of the award-winning documentary, “EXPOSED—The USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife” at its public General Meeting. The film exposed US Wildlife Service’s (US WS—operates under the USDA) program that horrifically kills millions of wildlife species via “M-44’s” and the poison “Compound 1080.” These are essentially baited “bombs” that explode sending powdered cyanide into the face, eyes, nose, and mouth of whatever animal is lured to eat the bait (or human who may be curious as to what an unmarked object is along a trail).

In 2011, even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warned that M-44’s could poison non-targeted wildlife, some of which were either listed or being considered for listing. The EPA requested that a formal analysis of the poison us bomb impacts be conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Services (US FWS)—a separate agency. After six years, with no action taken by either US FWS or US WS, an Endangered Species Act lawsuit was filed by the Humane Society of the United States, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Wildearth Guardians.

On February 28, 2018, with a federal court judge presiding in Montana, the case was settled. The court order is for US FWS to analyze all impacts of M-44’s and Compound 1080 and complete the study by December 31, 2021. Although the plaintiffs might have preferred stronger stipulations, this is a first step—the nose under the camel’s tent—to stop reckless, indiscriminate, and cruel killing of targeted and non-targeted animals with “bombs” that also put humans at risk.

For more information on M-44 use in America, visit: http://predatordefense.org/m44s.htm

www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/placer April –June 2018