



Tehipite Topics

January 2008 ❧ Vol. 54, No. 1

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Wilderness Bill Not What it Seems

by George Whitmore

Tehipite Chapter members need to be aware of a new bill that has been introduced in Congress, which will impact the Mineral King portion of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, as well as the Redwood Canyon area. This bill would designate new Wilderness areas in Mineral King and Redwood Canyon. At first glance, the bill may seem to honor former Congressman John Krebs' leadership in the 1970s by naming the new Wilderness in the Mineral King area as the "John Krebs Wilderness." But there is a problem. It turns out that the current proposal would dishonor John Krebs by stripping the Mineral King area of protections which it presently has. Questions have been raised as to the Sierra Club's position.

Let's look back in history at how and why Mineral King came to be protected.

In 1965, the U.S. Forest Service issued a prospectus calling for proposals to develop a ski complex in Mineral King. Walt Disney Productions won the competition with their proposal to build a massive development consisting of numerous ski runs cleared through the forests; hotels, gift shops, and restaurants in the valley bottom; and mountain-top restaurants located on the Sequoia National Park boundary, so diners could have a "wilderness experience" as they sipped their aperitifs. The plan included a snow avalanche management program to ensure that nature did not get the upper



Mineral King Valley

hand and kill too many tourists. In order to ensure a profit for Disney, the taxpayers of California were to have provided a four-lane highway into the remote area.

In 1978, under the leadership of local Congressman John Krebs, Mineral King was transferred from Sequoia National Forest to Sequoia National Park, putting the controversy to rest and providing for Mineral King to be preserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Now, in 2007, a bill (H.R. 3022) has been introduced into the House of Representatives, sponsored by Democratic Congressman Jim Costa and co-sponsored by Republican Devin Nunes.

Unfortunately, the maps which accompany the bill call for exclusion from Wilderness designation of a one-mile-wide swath through the center of the Mineral King valley. This has been proposed in order to make it possible to remove timber under the guise of "fuel reduction." This land has been identified as being of Wilderness quality, and the trees are presently protected from logging. Passage of this bill into law, with the present maps accompanying it, would result in the degradation of lands which are currently protected.

There are a number of other objectionable provisions which were inserted into the bill at the insistence of various

See *Wilderness Bill*, page 4

No January General Meeting

“Barbara Boxer’s Office on California’s Environment in Politics”

February 20th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)
7:00 P.M.

January 26th - Tehipite Chapter Awards Banquet at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Ron Stork will speak on Central Valley Rivers (see page 5).

February 20th - Barbara Boxer’s office on California’s Environment in Politics.

March - No meeting

April 16th - Helen Gigliotti on Tibet. Don’t miss this!

May - no meeting

June 18th - To be announced.

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 13th, at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 P.M.
Rod Webster's home
345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meetings

Third Thursday of each month
Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

Thursday, January 17th

General Meeting

Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall

Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and air quality

This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

Thursday, February 21st

General Meeting

Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza

General Plan update for the City and County of Merced

Laptop Needed

We are in need of a laptop to use with our newly acquired projector. It doesn't have to be fancy. If you are upgrading, please consider donating your old laptop to us for our programs.

Outings

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate car-pools.

Help Put Wild Pacific Salmon on the Road to Recovery



Right now, the federal government is allowing four costly, outdated dams on the lower Snake River in Washington State to drive wild salmon to extinction while limiting opportunities for recreation and clean, renewable energy alternatives. Sierra Club and the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition have launched a nationwide effort to collect and deliver tens of thousands of comments in the form

of letters, photos, art, and video that urge your decision-makers to...

GIVE A DAM FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Resolve the Pacific salmon crisis in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The Columbia-Snake River basin, spanning six western states, was once home to the most abundant runs of

See Salmon, page 4



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Wilderness Bill, from page 1

interest groups, who are either uncomfortable with the concept of Wilderness, or flat out opposed to it.

There is nothing in the bill which would add to existing protection of our natural resources, but there are many things in the bill which would degrade existing protections.

John Krebs' excellent contributions to the protection of our natural heritage while he was in Congress would be dishonored by enactment of this bill into law.

Because the true purpose of the bill has been concealed, people who normally assume that a Wilderness designation is always a great idea have supported the bill. Only now are they discovering that there is more to this bill than they had realized. They are beginning to question why they should support the bill. And they are asking why the Sierra Club is not opposed to the bill. ↩

By the time our readers see this article, the situation may be quite different than it was at the time of writing. For additional or updated information, please email George Whitmore at geowhit1954@comcast.net.

Salmon, from page 3

salmon and steelhead in the world – as many as 16 million wild fish returned each year to these rivers and their tributaries. It is a very different story today: all runs of salmon and steelhead in the Snake River are either already extinct or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This year, just four Snake River sockeye survived to return to their spawning grounds in the mountains of central Idaho.

Four fish.

On October 31, the federal government released their “anything-but-new” Draft Salmon Plan for the Columbia-Snake Basin. The three previous salmon plans were thrown out of federal court for violating the Endangered Species Act and failing to protect salmon and steelhead. Unfortunately, this draft is yet another blueprint for the extinction of Snake River salmon and the continued waste of billions of taxpayer dollars on inadequate, failed recovery measures. Wild Pacific salmon are a national treasure – supporting ecosystems, wildlife, fishing communities and recreational opportunities. We deserve a federal salmon plan that guarantees real recovery, not another expensive path to extinction. Help us send a resounding message to Congress, calling for leadership and a science-based salmon plan that recovers our imperiled salmon.

With your help, we can fix this. Dam removal will restore 140 river miles and reconnect salmon to more than 5,000 miles of pristine habitat. Healthy runs of salmon can again support jobs and recreation. This will be the largest river restoration project in U.S. history, an enormous win for salmon, ecosystems, and river lovers everywhere. Our success depends on grassroots voices and action in Congress. With your efforts and your Senators' leadership, you can help solve the crisis on the Snake River.

Here's how you can help deliver a huge response from across the country.

STEP 1: Go To <http://www.GiveaDamforSalmon.org/sierraclub>

Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 26th

Ron Stork, a former member of our Chapter, will be the featured speaker at our Awards Banquet, where he will present "Rivers Run Through It: Central California Rivers and You." For the last 15 years, Ron has held the principal responsibility of organizing Friends of the River's flood management advocacy efforts in the American River watershed. Ron has worked on Central Valley and California flood management issues, serving on the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) California Floodplain Management Task Force, on working groups of the Corps/Reclamation Board Sacramento & San Joaquin Basins Comprehensive Study.

Recently, he served as a member of the independent review panel chaired by General Gerald Galloway on "A California Challenge – Flooding in the Central Valley," a report to the DWR. He has also worked with major water-quality challenged rivers as well, serving on the DWR/Department of the Interior Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program. In his spare time, Ron can be found ambling along mountain trails or floating western rivers, searching for rare wildflowers. Plan to join your friends on January 26th at the Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet.



Banquet tickets are \$25.

Checks should be made out to "Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Mail to
Ron Mackie
1617 Highway 49 South
Ahwahnee, CA 93601

Start time is 6:00 p.m. on January 26th at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1610 E. Shaw Avenue (east of Cedar).

There are three entree selections. Please indicate your choice when you send payment for the banquet. The restaurant needs to know this information in advance. Please choose from the following.

1. Meatballs & Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce
2. Spinach & Cheese Ravioli (vegetarian option) topped with Savory Tomato Sauce
3. Breast of Chicken Fettuccine

Dinner includes entree; salad; bread; dessert; one bar drink of beer, wine or a soft drink; and ice tea/milk/coffee at the table upon request.

For more more information, call Ron Mackie at (559) 683-0293 or email rmackie@sierratel.com.

Sierra Club Election for Board of Directors – *Vote!*

It's Sierra Club election time again! The Tehipite Chapter recommends a vote for Larry Fahn, Jerry Sutherland, Jim Dougherty, Lane Boldman, and Clark Buchner in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club's Board of Directors.

The election begins in early March. Your vote counts! ❧



Trip leader Walt Taguchi relaxes in during a cross-country ski outing to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, December 30, 2007. Photo by Don Gaede.

Outings Schedule

Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbord606@yahoo.com and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

January 12th - Saturday

Cross-Country Skiing–Intermediate
Destination depends on weather.
John Cameron (559) 896-6919

January 12th - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) Easy
Millerton Lake shoreline on SJR trail.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

January 19th - Saturday

Showshoe (2B) Moderate
Snowshoe to Dewey Point for a spectacular view of Yosemite Valley Floor.
Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

January 19th - Saturday

Cross-Country Skiing–Intermediate
Location to be determined, weather and Snow permitting.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 1st - 4th

Friday - Monday

Car camp. Desert cleanup day followed by a hiking day.
Participate in a BLM-organized cleanup of Chris Wicht Camp on Saturday, then day hike to Panamint City Sunday. Call for more information.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

February 2nd - Saturday

Day Hike (1A) Easy
Lewis Fork of Fresno River, Cedar Valley to Red Rock Falls
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

February 2nd - Saturday

Cross-Country Ski Lesson–Beginners
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 10th - Sunday

Snowshoe
Five-mile round trip to a beautiful vista at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park. This trip can be easy or strenuous, depending upon snow conditions. Leader will bring hot chocolate and Joe-Joes.
Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

March 1st - Saturday

Cross-Country Ski Lesson–Beginners
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

July 11th - 13th

Friday - Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hikes
Hike Saturday (2C): Dinkey Wilderness (3 Sisters Peak)
Hike Sunday - optional (2B): Coyote Lake. Non-aggressive dogs welcome.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

August 1st - 3rd

Friday - Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hike
Hike Saturday (2B): Cliff Lake from Courtright Reservoir
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971





SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—January 11^h for the February issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Been on a Sierra Club outing lately?
Send us your photos!

Salmon, from page 4

Explore: Take a look at the website's features.

Take Action: Sign onto the Comment Drive.

STEP 2: Distribute this website widely to all your friends and family.

Ask them to take part in this national campaign and spread the message far and wide.

STEP 3: Submit Creative Comments, Art, Photos, and Video.

Wild Salmon Art Contest:

<http://www.giveadamforsalmon.org/images/art.flyer.pdf>

Submit Your Photo!

<http://www.giveadamforsalmon.org/images/photo.flyer.pdf>

Submit Your Video!

<http://www.giveadamforsalmon.org/images/video.flyer.pdf>



clair tappaan *a lodge close to nature*

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

For more information about the Lodge or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.