



# Tehipite Topics

October 2009 ☞ Vol. 55, No. 8

[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)



## What the Heck is A Carbon Footprint?

Education Battle ahead for the PUC



Image from thelocalsavingsdirectroy.co.uk

*By Melinda Warner*

What is a carbon footprint? What does it mean when a utility company says we are having a “power alert?” Is there any relationship between how we use energy in the home and climate change? Does anyone even care, and how much really?

These are some of the questions the California Public Utilities Commission recently asked a small number of California residents in a statewide resident survey. As a field researcher hired to interview some people selected to participate in this interesting project, I found myself questioning how much I really know. I started thinking about how important energy saving strategies are in my own home.

Lots of people may know about simple measures such as energy saving light bulbs and turning off lights when they are not in use. But few people consider steps such as improving insulation, weather stripping, unplugging lights, or really understand why they should even bother.

Study participants were asked to examine their motivations for saving energy. Money is number one. The consequences for future generations or for the world at large figured only dimly in their lifestyle choices. Only if there is a perceived “big” energy savings do people consider Energy Star appliances. Even then the price of the appliance was the real bottom line in the purchasing decision.

Things got a little strange when people were asked to address the topics mentioned in this article’s first paragraph. I don’t think anyone understood the term “carbon footprint,” and I came to realize that I don’t fully either. To explain the relationship between energy use in the home and climate change, one respondent told me that his understanding was that appliances of all sorts put off heat, and that contributes to heating the earth’s atmosphere. It sounded like a reasonable answer, but I then wondered if he was right or not. To save money he also limits most use of appliance to “off-peak” hours. He was the most astute and concerned of all the people I talked to; however, his television

set was turned on (and unwatched) the entire hour I was there.

In another home, when the discussion got around to the number of televisions and game systems a family had, the head of the household somewhat guiltily admitted that all the kids had their own televisions and game systems in their bedrooms, while the mom and dad were running around turning off lights behind the kids! Sheesh!

Which leads me to another point – people don’t want to be inconvenienced in order to save money. Turning off power strips or unplugging things is an easy step, but how many people are really doing it? While my interest is aroused in ways I can save energy, I am ashamed to say I haven’t enthusiastically gotten into the habit of unplugging everything I can. I do plan on buying some energy saving window coverings and sealing off a couple of leaky doors to the outside.

Recently, I participated in a free energy audit offered by the City of Fresno (call 621-8059 to schedule yours). This audit showed me that my own gap of understanding is a little embarrassing, although I certainly do care. While I am sure many readers are aware of the more technical aspects of energy issues, and can explain a carbon footprint, I am probably not far off from the average American consumer in my energy awareness.

The California Public Utilities Commission conducted this statewide study to find those gaps in consumers’ understanding and then find a way to reach, educate and motivate consumers about this serious issue of reducing energy consumption. We have all heard some figures about how much more energy the U.S. uses compared to the rest of the world. We have come to think we are entitled to all the energy we want and to heck with everyone else. Can a few well-crafted messages change this mindset and make us more conscious of our energy use? I am not sure, but I certainly hope so.

*See Energy Survey, page 6*

# Chapter General Meeting

## Tuolumne River Trust Presentation

Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 pm

University of California Center

550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno - (across from Fashion Fair)

Jesse Roseman, Central Valley Program Director for the Tuolumne River Trust, will be talk about several projects, including a presentation on this past spring's Paddle to the Sea. (photo right)

This three-week journey from the Sierra to the Sea began with kayakers on the Clavey, one of three remaining unregulated rivers in California. It continued with rafting on the Wild and Scenic upper Tuolumne at extremely high flows. The heart of the journey was a series of canoe legs in the Central Valley that attracted hundreds of participants, before heading down the San Joaquin River, through the Delta, and ultimately arriving in San Francisco by sea kayak. Along the way, the Trust highlighted threats to the Clavey, park development in the Valley, ways forward for the agriculture and environment water conflicts, and the Delta's health. Extensive pictures of the trip and details of their campaign work will round out the evening.



### Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

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

Come and find out about what our chapter is doing behind the scenes and how you can get involved.

**All Members Welcome!**

### Volunteer Corner

**No more cookies?** This may be our fate at our general meetings. Rae Marx, who has been helping out for years is leaving as hospitality volunteer. This can be a fun job and only takes a few hours a month. Anyone interested? Thanks Rae. You will be missed.

John Flaherty



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# Merced Group

## Merced Group

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## Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, October 1st

Rod Webster's home, 7:00 P.M.

345 E. 20th St., Merced

The conservation meeting is first and lasts 30-40  
minutes

## Merced Group General Meeting Thursday, October 21, 7 pm

The Merced Group's General Meetings are held in the fall at Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St. in Merced (corner of M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College). Meetings are on the third Thursday each month and start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished around 8:30 or 9:00. Refreshments and friendly, thoughtful conversation provided.



## Potluck and Movie Night

Thursday, October 22

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. Potluck begins at 6 PM, movie begins at 6:45 PM. For directions to this Yokuts Chapter event, contact host Elaine Gorman, (209)524-7630 or goford@sbcglobal.net for directions to her home.

## The Voice of our Founder

John Muir wrote the following journal entry in 1869, near Pilot Peak (a few miles SW of the boundary of Yosemite NP), while he was herding sheep for a rancher named Delaney. In his Writings (published 1911), it is part of *My First Summer in the Sierra*.

“July 2. Warm, sunny day, thrilling plant and animals and rocks alike, making sap and blood flow fast, and making every particle of the crystal mountains throb and swirl and dance in glad accord like star-dust. No dullness anywhere visible or thinkable. No stagnation, no death. Everything kept in joyful rhythmic motion in the pulses of Nature's big heart.

“Pearl cumuli over the higher mountains clouds, not with a silver lining, but all silver. The brightest, crispest, rockiest-looking clouds, most varied in features and keenest in outline I ever saw at any time of year in any country. The daily building and unbuilding of these snowy cloud-ranges the highest Sierra is a prime marvel to me, and I gaze at the stupendous white domes, miles high, with ever fresh admiration.”



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
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# Lobby Day Report 2009

by John Flaherty

August in Sacramento. Each year Sierrans have the chance to spend two days lobbying our State legislators and trying to help valuable bills get noticed and possibly passed. If you are frustrated with the progress in Washington, try this next year. Sierra Club is really an effective force in California and some of our actions have started national changes. A small part of our dues goes to this effort (two paid lobbyists)

We started out on Sunday, August 23, meeting together and learning how to lobby, and which bills we are supporting. This year the four bills focused on two topics - Renewable Energy and saving our State parks.

1. **Renewal Energy: SB 14** (Simitan) and AB 64 (Krekorian), both of which would require electric utilities to get 33% of their power from clean, renewable sources by 2020.

2. **Save our State Parks. - SB 372** (Ke-hoe) and SB 679 (Wolk), whose purpose is to establish public processes to protect parks from inappropriate uses.

On Monday we met for a few minutes with each of our representatives. We had four citizens from our group with each of us starting out unsure of what we were doing and ending up positive (and feeling good) about what we did. No experience is necessary, only caring about our environment and wanting to make a difference is important. Want to try it next year?

Midway through the day, Sierra Club California presented our Byron Sher

Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in environmental protection by California public officials. This year's honorees are Senator Fran Pavley and Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols (ARB Legislative Director Rob Oglesby accepted the award on Nichols' behalf). We honored Senator Pavley and Chair Nichols for their path-breaking work in passing and implementing California's major laws to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Senator Pavley addressed the very appreciative activist group.

It did not take long for our Lobby Day to bear fruit: On Thursday, August 27 the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 14 and SB 679, so they joined SB 372 on the Assembly floor. Then Senate Appropriations approved AB 64, which now moved to the Senate floor.

The Sierra Club staff in Sacramento has a very tight budget. If you feel you can contribute anything to help their efforts, the address is Sierra Club 801 K Street #2700, Sacramento, CA 95814 Attention Annie Pham.



Tehipite Chair John Flaherty and Gary Lasky at Lobby Day (third row)

Edward Abbey:  
"Growth for Growth's sake is the ideology of a cancer cell."

# TEHIPITE & YOKUTS CHAPTER OUTING SCHEDULE

*October 3, Saturday*

*Chewing Gum Lake Emigrant  
Wilderness (Yokuts)*

Day Hike (2B) Approximately eight mile hike, from Gianelli to lovely Chewing Gum Lake to Crabtree at elevations of about 7,000+ with a steep climb at the beginning. . Swimming is an option, if warm enough. Bring lunch, ten essentials, and money for dinner on the way home. Meet at Denny's parking lot in Oakdale at 7:45 a.m. Monica Casey (209)996-0058 or hikerlady1955@yahoo.com Co-leader TBA

*October 4 - Sunday Annual Hike to  
TwinLakes and George Lakes(2A)*

The last two years we've enjoyed fall colors among the aspens, light dusting of snow on the trail, and spectacular mountain vistas.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

*October 10 - Saturday  
Idaho Lake  
Day hike (1B)*

This short hike is in the Kaiser Wilderness Area. Though short, it is challenging because it is almost all cross-country. Rain cancels. Call or email Gerald Vinnared for details at (559) 431-5780, or gvinnard@cvip.net

*October 31st, Saturday  
Day Hike (3B)*

"End-of-daylight-savings Annual Trek", YNP (Yokuts)

Venture down Yosemite creek. Approximately 10-11 mile r/t hike with 1,350 elevation gain on the return. Bring lunch, drinks, and rain gear in case of bad weather, plus other essentials.

Meeting place will be at the Fruit Yard, located at the intersection of Yosemite Ave. (hiway 132) and Geer Rd. (east of Modesto), at 7:00 am. Contact Yokuts leader Randall Brown at 209.632.5994 for further details or to sign up.

November 7th - Saturday

*Yokuts (Modesto) group outing  
Day hike (1A)*

Chaw-Se, Indian Grinding Rocks State Park and Black Chasm Cavern  
See State Parks before they close! We will check out Black Chasm Cavern near the town of Pioneer (Hiway 88) then head over to Chaw-Se for lunch. We will spend some time in the museum, walk through the reconstructed Native American village, and walk the 1.5 mile nature trail. Bring appropriate outer gear (be prepared for rain/cool weather), lunch, beverages, shoes that you don't mind getting muddy, and \$\$ for entrance fees/carpooling. Parents with kids OK. Depart from Modesto at 8 am.

Contact Yokuts leader Elaine Gorman, 209.524.7630 or goford@sbcglobal.net to sign up.  
Check chapter website for hike updates

## Community Events

*Movie: The American Southwest; Are We Running Dry?*

Fri, Oct 2 at Fresno State - 5:30 pm  
Dr. David Zetland from UC Berkeley will be the discussant/speaker.

The movie begins at 5:30pm in the new Peters Auditorium next to the Student Recreation part of the Save Mart Center.

*Three Rivers Green Home Tour  
Sun, October 4, 2009*

*Presented by Three Rivers Environmental Weekend Crew*

Description: Five homes in Three Rivers will be on the tour. Included in various homes will be solar heated floors and water, straw bale construction, ICF construction, historic adobes, earthen roof, use of passive thermal mass, lavender gardens and more. Benefit TCCRG Fee: \$15 per person, or \$25 for couple

### 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 Dave Wallace at wagga@comcast.net. 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](http://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.

Pre-register for the first tour group beginning at noon by phoning Malinee at (559)561-4149. Pre-register for the second tour group beginning at 1:00 p.m. by phoning Mona at (559) 561-4676. We will meet at the Three Rivers village Credit Union parking lot to form car pools for the tour caravans. For more information, contact: Mona Fox Selph, (559) 561 4676, snowmoon@snowcrest.net.

*Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference, Tahoe, October 16-18.*

Tehipite Board Member Chip Ashley will participate in a panel discussion, "Shades of Green: Renewable Energy Development in the Sierra." [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org)

(above three events not sponsored by Sierra Club)

I observed in my talks with people about energy that there is a lot of interest out there in solar energy, but the costs are prohibitive for the average person. Few people know much about government or utility programs to analyze or implement energy efficiency in the home, although there are several out there. One such program PUC has is The Single-family Solar Affordable Solar Housing (SASH) program, which provides solar incentives to single family low income housing; the SASH program is administered through the SASH Program Manager, GRID Alternatives, and has a meager budget of \$108 million, state-wide.

Renters and landlords present a different challenge. People who rent an apartment or house have no monetary incentive to invest in energy saving appliances they don't own or install dual or triple pane windows or beef-up insulation. An investment like solar panels is out of the question. Neither do the owners of rental property have a reason to improve their property's energy efficiency, since they don't pay the energy bills. The PUC also has links to information for owners of low-income housing, including rental property, with a program called MASH. I wonder who is approaching these property owners and helping them wade through the paperwork and understand how they can benefit from some of these programs? PG&E, for instance, seems to direct considerable resources to offsite transmission lines (opposed by many of our members) instead of taking a more active role in helping people generate their own solar power on their rooftops.

The CPUC's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) provides incentives to support existing, new, and emerging distributed energy resources, but since 2007 has stopped funding photovoltaic projects and has emphasized instead wind and alternative fuels. Their eight-

year impact report suggests our state has enough photovoltaics installed to power about 109,000 homes. Much more needs to be done.

Some webinar classes are available through the local utility. One coming up in October is on the basics of solar water heating and can be attended either October 6 from 11 am to 12 pm or October 20, from 6 to 8 pm. This Web-based seminar will provide an overview of the design, specification, and installation aspects of Solar Water Heating systems for both commercial and residential applications. To participate in this Web-based seminar, go to <http://pge.conferencing.com>. Click on "Participant Login." Enter 4159730770 for the meeting number.

The PUC directs inquiries on solar programs to the energy providers, which in a way seems to me like shirking the responsibility to educate consumers. It is possible that we will see more outreach from the PUC to consumers in the coming months, based on the findings of this study. Submit your comments or ideas to the Topics at [tehipitetopics@gmail.com](mailto:tehipitetopics@gmail.com)



## *Support Sierra Club California*

Sierra Club California's new director, Bill Magavern, has come up with a 10-point plan for our state. Your Sierra Club membership only gives \$2 to Sierra Club California, so direct contributions are important for our state.

1. Take on Global Warming: We will continue to advocate aggressive plans to address global warming – and the wildfire, uncertain weather and health risks that it will bring to our great state. We will hold polluters accountable for the emissions that cause global warming.

2. Power up Clean, Healthy Energy: By 2020 we want a third of our energy to come from clean, renewable power sources.

We need to unplug our addiction to fossil fuels.

3. Fight Fire with Policy: Smart fire planning. Legislation is pending that would prevent counties from approving "suicide subdivisions" in dangerous areas without fire protection. Some places are just too dangerous for homes, and should be left intact for wildlife and clean water.

4. Save Water, Safeguard our Future: The lowest cost water solutions such as conservation and cleanup of polluted drinking water will protect fish and wildlife while making sure we have enough water for everyone.

5. Remove Toxics from our Lives: Sierra Club California is working to make sure our governor signs legislation that would give the state more power to stop pollutants that contaminate consumer products.

6. Get Kids Outdoors: The proposed "No Child Left Inside" Act would connect the kids who need it most with outdoor recreation and education opportunities proven to increase both physical activity levels and test scores.

7. Move Public Transit Forward: Public transit agencies don't have the funding to provide timely, safe, productive service. Sierra Club is working with the governor to try and restore funds lost to budget cuts and move forward on a high-speed rail route to connect northern and southern California.

8. Grow Smarter: Sprawling communities where people can't walk safely from place to place contribute to global warming, air pollution and environmental health.

9. Protect Wetlands: California has lost a shocking 90 percent of its wetlands. Wetlands provide important wildlife habitat, filter our water and help bury some of the gases that cause global warming. We need a safety net for these environments.

10. Stand in the Way of Harm to Wildlife: From preventing oil spills to setting aside wildlife corridors that allow animals to migrate, Sierra Club California is advocating measures that help our wildlife and working with Governor Schwarzenegger to secure his support.

# Rafting the Rogue

By Heather Anderson

Just back from four days on a very green river—green because the Rogue River is in southwest Oregon, and because there it rains every day (according to one Californian). One weather forecaster put it this way, “Sprinkles this morning; showers in the afternoon.” There are more colors of green west of Oregon’s Cascade Range than I can mix on my palette, especially on north facing slopes: many kinds of pine and fir, cedar, oak, colorful red-bark madrone, maple, and mock-orange. Not least are the lush stands of rhododendron and poison oak (if you are allergic, you will learn quickly to identify the latter in any stage or season). Grottos of fern, mosses and fungi are plentiful beside the rocky streambed.

The numerous mammals did not make themselves known at river’s edge during daytime, but hidden in the dense foliage are black bears, coyotes, cougars, bobcats, deer, elk, otters, raccoons, beavers, and squirrels. We did see the egret, blue heron, red-tailed hawk, many osprey, and some “regal eagles,” but I missed seeing Muir’s and my favorite, the ouzel. From time to time, families of stately Canadian “honkers” cruised by in single columns.

Previously, I hadn’t known much about the Rogue—that it originates in the Cascade Mountains on the slopes of Crater Lake and spills into the Pacific near Gold Beach. About a million years ago, it began cutting its westward course deeper into rock as the Pacific Coast Range was being uplifted. Consequently the river became transformed from a quiet stream to a raging, frothing torrent of whitewater.

Before the 1800’s, the area was popu-



Photo from the Grants Pass and Josephine County, OR Chamber of Commerce Website

lated by the Takelma, Tutuni, and other Indian groups, collectively known as the Rogue River tribes, whose diet included the abundant trout, salmon, and steelhead. By 1900, they were driven out by French fur trappers, who called them the “coquins,” or rogues. About 1851 gold was discovered and the area became overrun with miners, traders, and settlers who were able to take advantage of the 640 acre give-away Land Act. Rafting began in the 1920’s; and in the 30s many Hollywood stars found inspiration and recreation there.

My son is an experienced rafter. Rafting includes not only the hard labor of rowing (I tried it for only 3 pulls), but perceptively reading the river to decide how to respond to the river’s unique seasonal and water-level antics. Our boat was a 16 foot inflatable rubberized raft with central oars. We encountered everything from Class 1 (requiring little or no skill); Class 2, with some rough water and rocks (requiring basic maneuvering skills); and Class 3, with whitewater, waves, a small drop (requiring experienced maneuvering skills); and perhaps one Class 4 at middle Rainie Falls (long, difficult rapids, narrow passages, turbulent water requiring careful maneuvering). Class 6 (considered unnavigable and possibly resulting in serious injury or death) was not for us. I was impressed with how

smoothly we went around large rocks and over big waves. It looked easy, but I was grateful for our experienced river guide.

My 12-year-old grandson ran most of the river very competently in his “rubber ducky,” a kind of small maneuverable kayak.

We had good campsites with delicious camp dinners prepared by my daughter-in-law, so my only chore was doing dishes. I didn’t even bother to set up a tent unless it looked like rain; I love sleeping under a starry sky. We only had a briquette campfire one night. I copped out on swimming because river water was almost too cold, and there was always a cool upstream wind.

I am grateful for the river restrictions, since, with so many summer rafters, it is important that both camp etiquette and conservation be enforced.

The Rogue, 84 miles of it between Grants Pass and Gold Beach, was one of eight rivers to be designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The river is regulated upstream by Lost Creek Dam so that commercial outfits can safely run scheduled trips from late May through early October. The Rogue is renowned for its incredible scenery, biodiversity, and world-class fishing, as well as whitewater boating. It was designated one of America’s most endangered rivers in 2008. Proposals to clear-cut old-growth forest along tributaries threaten to choke the river with sediment and destroy the Rogue’s wild quality. Nationally, endangered rivers need our help; we can work together to protect them (see [www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org).)





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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month. Submit material to [TehipiteTopics@gmail.com](mailto:TehipiteTopics@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Tehipite Chapter is holding elections in November. Anyone who wants to suggest a name for the upcoming elections for

executive committee next month, please submit them to John Flaherty. Also, prospective candidates can run by petition. For more information please feel free to call our chair, John Flaherty, at (408) 464-5141.

## Pacific Fisher Meeting

By Richard Kangas and Tom Eliason

On July 14 at the U.C. Center, biologists from U.C. Berkeley presented their findings on the condition of the Pacific fisher. The percent of Pacific fishers surviving this year was significantly less than the previous year. If the decline continues, there will certainly be calls for placing the Pacific fisher on the endangered species list.

During the Bush administration the Fish and Wildlife Service studied the Pacific fisher for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Their findings warranted listing, but the administration did not list the species. The fisher's status was left as "warranted but precluded." The Obama administration has not yet listed the fisher.

Listing the fisher will place more restrictions

on forest management. In recent years the U.S. Forest Service has encouraged thinning projects. But thinning removes canopy that is needed by the Pacific fisher. The Forest Service is carrying out these studies on the fisher in hopes of finding that thinning does not harm this animal significantly. They believe that predation, road kill, and disease will be shown statistically to be more threatening to this species than thinning.

In only its second year, the study has a long way to go before the whole picture can be seen. If dire predictions come true, listing as a threatened or endangered species is likely.

The study itself might negatively impact the fisher. Apparently numerous camera traps and radio-collared fishers are being used in this study. During the presentation quite a number of predators—dogs, mountain lions, bobcats, ring-tail cats—appeared in images taken by cameras placed at the sites. In one image a black lab was eating the bait. Could fisher bait be attract-

ing predators to the locations?

The lack of porcupines may significantly affect fisher populations. Porcupines are one of the fisher's preferred foods. To avoid quills fishers attack porcupines face-first. After a kill, the fisher flips the prey on its back and eats the belly area. This behavior predator-prey relationship has certainly long been important to the fisher, so it is likely this source of protein is critical to greater success of this mink-like carnivore. One of the biologists suggested that porcupines should be reintroduced into the Southern Sierra Nevada as food for the fisher population. He said porcupines were eradicated from the 1950's to 1980's because they eat the cambium of a certain quality under tree bark and thus kill trees.



Image from [www.sherpaguides.com](http://www.sherpaguides.com)