



# Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting Humane & Practical Solutions for Living  
With Beavers, Coyotes and all our local Wildlife

## Spring/Summer Newsletter - 2018

Well, summer is almost upon us again. Our local beavers took advantage of the mild winter, (until the snows of March and the rains of April that is) and kept 'busy as beavers'!

So Sierra Wildlife Coalition and other volunteers were also kept busy, protecting trees from beaver chewing throughout the winter. The most common complaint about beavers is chewing on trees that people don't want chewed, causing up to 70% of kill permits issued. But there are simple solutions! Besides fencing, we have been very successful using a gritty mixture of sand and paint on trunks – just common playground sand mixed into non-toxic exterior latex paint (in a color to match the trunk). We've protected dozens of aspens (the beavers' very favorite) for the US Forest Service, other agencies, and homeowners all around the area.

Back in October we heard from a wildlife friend that beavers were chewing trees in their homeowners' common space along a creek, in south Reno! The homeowners met us, with their landscape crew. The crew quickly learned how easy it is to protect trees with sand-paint, and proceeded to do all 'our' work for us! The homeowners also gave us a generous donation, so many thanks to the Donner Creek Association!



The aspen on the left (with a ribbon) is sand-painted, the right one is not.

Then in February, we were alerted to a situation at Washoe Lake State Park that was on the local TV news. Beavers were chewing and leveling many of the large cottonwoods that line the south end of Washoe Lake. Nevada State Parks was considering fencing to protect the trees, until our South Lake Tahoe Director, Toogee Sielsch, contacted them and explained that sand-painting was easy and economical. Our star volunteer, Dwayne Crenshaw, also came up with a really efficient technique using a paint sprayer designed for textured paint – this was especially effective on the rough bark of the cottonwoods, and he and Toogee protected as many trees as the rest of us put together! Many thanks to the State Park rangers for being open to a different solution, and then quickly organizing a dozen volunteers to help. Channel 4 in Reno covered the event – copy and paste this link: <http://mynews4.com/.../volunteers-use-sand-paint-to-stop-beav...>

And the beavers were also busy chewing aspens at the USFS Taylor Creek Visitor Center – We met with the Forest Service at their South Lake Tahoe offices in February to discuss tree protection. They may have crews or volunteers available, and hopefully we can show them how easy it is to sand-paint trees, and then get their help to repaint trees done in 2014 – some of the paint is beginning to flake off, especially with these last two wet winters.

We also got calls from homeowners in Glenbrook and Meeks Bay, asking for information about protecting trees – we are so happy that word is getting out that there are easy solutions for any problems with beavers! Be sure to let us know of any beavers chewing in your neighborhoods, so we can then work to solve problems before they arise!





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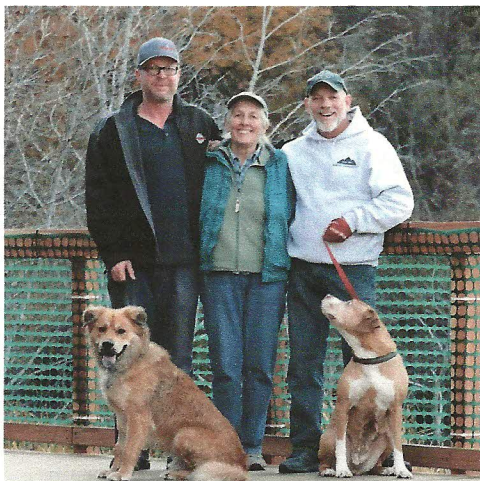
Taylor Creek Beaver Dam Site April 22, 2018  
Water still high from earlier rains

At right Taylor Creek Beaver Dam last fall →  
See the bear on the left side?

Last fall there also was an excellent article in Moonshine Ink (a great local Truckee paper) "Getting ready for winter: Lessons learned from North America's largest rodent" by Eve Quesnel. A very well-researched article on beaver biology and benefits to watersheds:

["http://www.moonshineink.com/mountain-life/getting-ready-winter"](http://www.moonshineink.com/mountain-life/getting-ready-winter)

Those early April rainstorms did wash out the beavers' main dam near the USFS Stream Display at Taylor Creek – but they relocated downstream in the wetlands toward the lake, where there are lots of smaller beaver dams, several older lodges, and plenty of willows for food. We heard of other beaver dams that washed out with those heavy rains, but too much water is not a big problem for beavers, especially in spring, when greenery is coming up and food is available (and not under snow).



SWC "Board Meeting" at Taylor Creek –  
Dwayne, Sherry, Toogee with Max & Lily

On to summer! After a very busy booth at the Earth Day Festival in Squaw Valley in April, we have several Festivals coming up. June 23 is the Native Species Festival at the USFS' Taylor Creek, with lots of interesting wildlife booths. We're headed down to Martinez, Sat. June 30 for the Annual Beaver Festival (yes, they have beavers in their small creek right downtown) always fun, with music and games for kids.

In July we will again present "The Beavers of Taylor Creek" at the USFS amphitheater at Taylor, Friday, July 20, at 8pm. Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup> we'll be back for the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Tales and Trails" Festival at Sugar Pine Point State Park on west shore – this was really fun last year, lots of great booths, good food and story-telling. Check our reminders on Facebook for events.

*Contact us anytime with any questions or concerns about beavers or other wildlife!*

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