

Happy New Year to all from Sierra Wildlife Coalition! Dec.2015

We've had a busy summer and fall since our last Newsletter in June – Time to catch up!

The US Forest Service site at Taylor Creek in South Lake Tahoe kept us hopping – Once again Toogee Sielsch, now our Director of S. Lake Tahoe Projects, saved the day. Water levels fluctuated all season with releases from Fallen Leaf Lake (apparently the only lake in all of California with extra water!). Toogee, with some help from Dwayne Crenshaw, notched beaver dams to keep trails dry in May and again in August, and then helped add a 3rd pipe to handle the extra water to both of our Pond Levelers in the main beaver dam by the Stream Profile Chamber and in the lower pond by the boardwalk. All was calm for a while.



Then he put in a record 36 days straight starting Sept. 25 all through October, for the fall Kokanee salmon run, notching all the beaver dams from the Rainbow trail all the way down to the Lake to assure easier passage for the fish. However, for unknown reasons, very few Kokanee showed up this year. At least then there were fewer bears and thus fewer problems with tourists taking selfies! (Toogee Sielsch at left)

Sierra Wildlife Coalition really had some great media coverage this last year –

Toree Warfield (Toree's Stories) wrote a very informative article about our group and beavers that was in all the local papers – Sierra Sun, Bonanza, and Tahoe Tribune – on September 3, "LEAVE IT TO THE BEAVER, Tahoe Beaver Population Thriving at Lake Tahoe, thanks to local volunteers". Toree's webpage link: www.saveourplanet.com/leave-it-to-the-beaver.html Just in case you missed it. Toree also published another great story about Coyotes (the other animal in our logo) in all the local papers October 15 – thank you Toree!

Also in October Tahoe Weekly Magazine published an excellent article by Tim Hauserman, "ENJOYING THE BEAUTY OF BEAVERS", again very informative and positive, highlighting the beaver dam on the Truckee River and benefits of beavers to the ecosystem. You can find that at the Tahoe Weekly's <http://thetahoeweekly.com/author/tim-hauserman/>

More media, this time TV - Chris Buckley, KOLO, Channel 8 in Reno, interviewed Toogee, representing SWC, November 20th about beavers that the City of Sparks had unfortunately already killed, without considering non-lethal measures. Toogee made our case, and the City responded to our emails, brought us in, and committed to doing the right thing next time. Terri Hendry of KRNV, Channel 4, also covered the story, as did the Reno Gazette Journal. We have volunteers monitoring Sparks Ditch, so we can catch any future beaver activity BEFORE it becomes a problem, and work with the city of Sparks on simple solutions.

Let us know if you see any potential beaver issues in your 'hood!

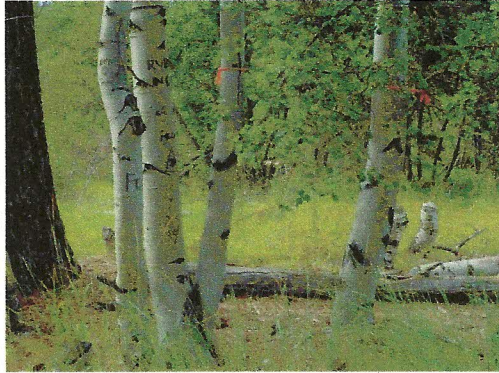


My dad's gonna be on tv

We continued our volunteer work all around Tahoe and Truckee all summer and fall -



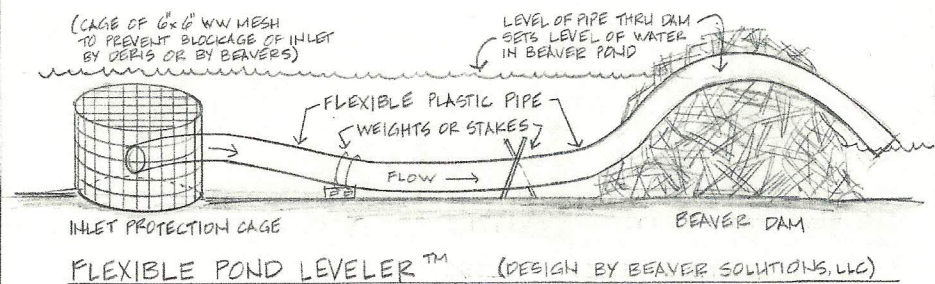
Ted and Sherry (with Toogee) protected trees at Taylor Creek with abrasive sand-paint. We've now sand-painted over 30 trees there – and the beavers haven't touched them! We also sand-painted trees across the channel from Tahoe Keys with Dana Spencer, another stellar volunteer.



The two trees with red ribbons in the right photo have been sand-painted. It's hard to see the paint, unless you look closely.



We monitored all our installed Levelers – in Tahoe Donner the Pond Leveler on upper Trout Creek kept getting clogged up, which backed up water onto a section of boardwalk... after many attempts, and help again from Dana, we were able to pull the grasses and mud away from the inlet cage, then place a larger cage over the existing inlet cage → (which was too small!) to prevent any debris, or the beavers, from blocking the pipes.



The Pond Leveler in Tahoe Vista works fine, but with the drought, the pond didn't fill up enough last winter, and dried up both this summer and last, so the beavers did not return. With our latest snows, the pond is really full, and we are hoping to see beaver tracks up from the Lake again (these are from November 2013).

We enjoyed meeting locals and visitors at our booths at Earth Day in Squaw Valley and the Native species Festival (May) and Fall Fish Festival (Oct.) at Taylor Creek. Sherry gave a presentation to over 100 folks at the outdoor amphitheatre at Taylor Creek (with photos of the Taylor Creek Beavers) on July 31, then drove that night to Martinez for our booth at the Martinez Beaver Festival August 1st!

We hope everyone is enjoying the holidays, and wish you all the best for the New Year – Don't forget to let us know about any and all beaver activity in your own neighborhood, that's the best way to prevent problems and help our beavers (and other wildlife) thrive!

PS: Coming soon - our SierraWildlife webpage! But don't forget to follow us on Facebook.