



# Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting humane and practical solutions for living  
with beavers, coyotes and all our local wildlife

Sierra Wildlife Coalition Update

May 2011

We are excited to announce we have installed our first water flow-control device! It is in Tahoe Donner, and was made possible with the help of the Tahoe Donner Association Forester and a very generous private donor. Thanks also to Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions for the instructional DVD and advice on construction and installation.

The Forester, Bill Houdyschell, was very impressed, and said he'd be installing more of these in Tahoe Donner himself, if or when the need arises. The materials cost less than \$250, so we look forward to being able to install more of these ourselves, whenever and wherever they may be needed in Tahoe and Truckee.

We are attaching some photos of the installation. Please notice that because the device is underwater, you cannot see it unless you look very carefully. This underwater design does not distract from the natural scenery and is less likely to be disturbed or vandalized. Go check it out yourself! The dam is at the intersection of Skislope and Alder Creek roads, near the west end of Tahoe Donner. Take Northwoods out to Fjord, then left on Alder Creek Road to the first left, Skislope.

We have also painted several groups of aspens just upstream from the beaver dam with a mixture of latex paint and sand to discourage the chewing and damage that nearby homeowners are concerned about. A photo of these trees is also attached and you will see that by matching the paint to the color of the bark, the painted trees are indistinguishable from the others. We then distributed letters and flyers to nearby homes and spoke with some residents explaining the workings of the flow device while also providing the tree protection "recipe." We made certain that there was also plenty of information included on why the beavers are so important for our waterways, forests, and wildlife.

Mary and Sherry interviewed with Bill Jensen, Publisher of Squaw Valley Times and producer of "Around Tahoe" on our local Outside Lake Tahoe TV. Bill, a long-time animal welfare advocate, has a brand new segment "Tahoe Terra" devoted to environmental issues at Tahoe. The very first will be about Sierra Wildlife Coalition. Look for it on cable TV - Channel 13 in North Lake Tahoe, 12 in South Lake, and 14 in Truckee, starting in June and continuing to show for several months. Thank you, Bill! The exposure should educate the public, generate new interest in beavers, and encourage more volunteers to help with our projects.

Speaking of volunteers – When it comes to beavers, tree damage seems to be a major concern. We will be calling for volunteers for the next painting party, so if you can help, please reply to this email with your name and contact info, and days or times best for you. We have a pretty good time out there, and we always involve food. We are looking forward to a busy summer of helping residents and visitors learn about and enjoy all our local wildlife, and we have already made so much progress!