



Sierra Wildlife Coalition

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

Sierra Wildlife Coalition - Summer 2013

Happy 4th of July to everyone!

Sierra Wildlife Coalition will be at the **Truckee Tahoe AirFair & Family Festival** at the Truckee Airport, this Saturday, July 6, from 10am to 4pm. There will be dozens of booths, and air shows all day, lots of fun for the whole family, and we hope to see you there. Here are a few updates from last winter and spring:

Last month we returned to the **Native Species Festival** at the **US Forest Service's Taylor Creek** site (near Camp Richardson), and we are establishing new contacts with the Forest Service. Beavers have lived in Taylor Creek (where the Forest Service has their fish profile chamber) for decades, but in the winter of 2011-12 they built a new dam closer to the trails and displays. The Forest Service spent many hours repeatedly pulling apart that dam, concerned with possible flooding. We had hoped to have our volunteers help install a pond leveler, which would have solved any flooding issues, but weren't able to convince all the bureaucracy before fall. The Forest Service eventually tore out the entire dam in late fall - we are hoping that the beaver family was able to move downstream where other beavers have a series of ponds where Taylor Creek goes in to the Lake. We've seen more beaver activity this spring, so we're hoping for a better outcome this year!

Unfortunately last winter up to 4 beavers were killed in **Tyrolian Village** (above the Incline Village ski area). We had been working with Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) since summer 2011, and had installed culvert protection fencing, to prevent beavers blocking a culvert near a sewer line. But the homeowners got a depredation permit without consulting IVGID about alternate solutions to their concerns. We have since met with the maintenance manager, who has promised to work with us and use non-lethal methods to solve any problems in the future. Once the bank near the sewer line is properly reinforced (as it should have been to start with, since it is actually IN a creek drainage!), beaver ponds will actually help prevent erosion and stabilize the creek. Fortunately the beaver dams up- and down-stream of Tyrolian Village were left alone.

