



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.

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The **Town of Truckee** has started restoration of **Trout Creek** (you can see the restored section just below the bridge and their sign, where the main road crosses the creek before heading up to I-80 and Glenshire Drive). Beavers have had dams below there for years (with very pretty stable ponds just below the nursery) and decided they liked the restored creek - unfortunately their new dams were starting to flood some of the new vegetation, and Truckee has been removing them. We hope to work with Truckee on a non-lethal solution, and have been corresponding with the town engineers. We may need volunteers to help plant trees to replace any damaged ones - we'll let you know!

Pond levelers we installed with the crew in **Tahoe Donner** on both upper Trout and Alder Creeks continue to work well and have prevented flooding of trails. However, someone pulled out a small section of the Alder Creek dam near the trail, which created a secondary channel which does flood a low spot further down the trail... and also pulled out a similar break in a downstream pond that is not near a trail at all.... we need local Tahoe Donnerites to keep an eye on that, and let us know if you see any further damage.

Our pond leveler at the **CA Tahoe Conservancy's restored wetlands in Tahoe Vista** also continues working. But it looks like Snow Creek will dry up even sooner this year than last (we installed the leveler when the creek was completely dry last fall, and beavers returned as soon as rains came :-). Crossing our fingers that this beaver pair will have a safe place if/when the water level drops, and return again.

There are other great beaver ponds and wetlands on **Martis Creek** where it goes into Martis Lake in Truckee, the upper part of **Blackwood Creek** on west shore, and all along the **Upper Truckee River** in South Lake Tahoe. In fact, we have beavers in most streams around the Lake and Truckee, so it's hard to keep track of everyone. We need all of you to keep an eye out in your own neighborhoods and let us know how your local beavers are doing. Drop us an email or a photo! And see our **Facebook page** at **Sierra Wildlife Coalition** for latest beavers news, local and around the west, and other news on wildlife, updated almost daily (hence fewer of these emails :-). We want to work with anyone and everyone to prevent beavers and other wildlife from being killed, and to promote humane and practical means of living together.

And together, we can do this!

Thanks, your friends at Sierra Wildlife Coalition