



Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting humane and Practical Solutions for living
with beavers, coyotes and all our local wildlife

Happy New Year everyone.

January 2012

This is a good time to share with you our latest projects and progress, review the year's accomplishments and announce the new inroads our group has made for our area's wildlife. We also have several important volunteer opportunities.

Sierra Wildlife Coalition has come a long way from its origin at Griff Creek, begging a government bureaucrat to spare the lives of four beavers. Placer County has since asked us to do tree protection at the site, and readily agreed to purchase all of the materials required.

Tahoe Donner was the location of our area's first flow device, installed to ease neighbors' fears of flooding. We are so grateful to our anonymous donor for the funds she contributed to purchase all of the materials required, and a big thanks to her husband as well, for putting on his waders on that cold and snowy day to help with the installation. Thanks also go to Bill Houdyschell, the Tahoe Donner Forester, for his willingness to work with us and for also showing up on that cold day with his waders.

Thanks to the many of you who wrote letters, showed up, and spoke at the Truckee Town Council meeting. We got the Town Council's attention, they heard our concerns, and in return they directed their engineers to work with us during and after the upcoming Trout Creek Restoration Project to protect the beavers, rather than "remove" them as originally planned. We learned that a flood of polite public input was a great way to get attention and enact change. Work has begun on the segment behind the lumber yard. Beavers are active and living just downstream from this phase, and may move back into the restored section, so let's keep an eye out for them.

At the request of the Army Corp of Engineers in Martis Valley, we painted more trees with the gritty mixture of paint and sand. Wow! Suddenly *we* are being asked to help.

In addition, Placer County and the engineering group monitoring the water quality of Martis Creek for upstream development at Lahontan and Martis Camp called and asked for our help. We met them at the site and found a location for their steam monitoring gage in an area which would least likely be affected by present or future beaver activity.

We were very happy to respond to a call on the Truckee River referred to us by Truckee Animal Control and the Town of Truckee. A family's aspens and willows were starting to disappear, and we made a home visit armed with tree and scrub protection information. At last report the beavers had moved downstream – a happy ending for all.

Another call came in from a Truckee River resident reporting a pesky porcupine gnawing on his and a neighbor's deck. We drove out to meet the family, and determined the salt residue used as snow melt during the winter was attracting this animal. We supplied a salt block with instructions to gradually move it further and further into the wilderness, and problem solved. These homeowners also reported seeing the willows next to their deck being chewed and drug off by a beaver as they sat there! Then we started hearing more of the same stories from this area, and our next project was launched.

