



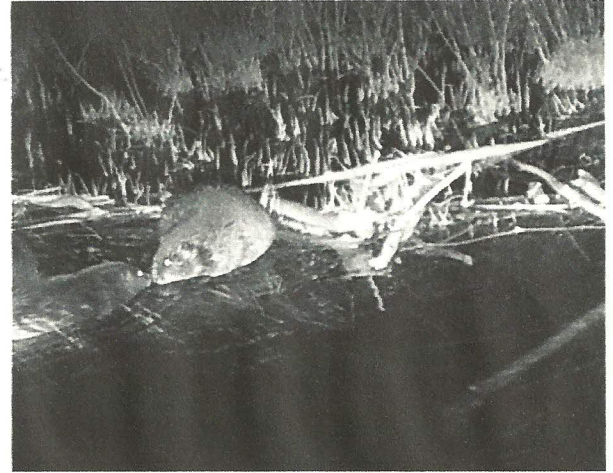
# Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting Humane & Practical Solutions for Living  
With Beaver, Coyotes and all our local Wildlife

## Late Summer Newsletter - 2019

Once again, a busy spring and summer have slipped right by, and again we were busy working with the Forest Service and homeowners to mitigate any problems from beaver activity.

Over the winter we monitored beaver activity at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center near S. Lake Tahoe, and we were able to catch the local beaver family with well positioned trail cameras. The family mostly stayed downstream from the main trail and Stream Display, especially in spring when the water in the creek was quite high from our late storms. There is plenty of great habitat and lots of willows to eat in the wetlands going to the Lake, and they even brought sticks to eat over to the side of the meadows, below the overlook. Beavers gather a large stash of sticks in the fall, and store them underwater, near their lodge (or lodges, they can have more than one) to have food during the winter.



*Beaver pair at Taylor Creek Visitor Center*



In July we answered a call from a South Lake Tahoe homeowner, concerned about beavers chewing an aspen grove that had been planted by her father when she was a young girl in the early 60's. She had just lost her home and one of her three cats, barely escaping with her life from the Camp Fire in Paradise, California. We helped her protect the grove, 50+ small and medium trees, with gritty sand-paint. There has been no chewing since, and the SWC has made a friend for life!

*Beaver kit (youngster) with extra body fat, they float higher in the water*

Also in July, we answered a call from the Forest Service about a pond in the SE corner of Tahoe, near Rabe Meadows. Beavers found the pond to be great habitat, and were busy adding some small dams to enlarge it. However that activity was starting to flood a popular trail that is right next to, and even partly below, the pond. Sierra Wildlife Coalition again to the rescue – we scoped out the situation, and figured out the best location for a Pond Leveler, a pipe and cage system to allow water to flow thru the dam, to lower the depth of the water and prevent flooding. We met Forest Service personnel at the site, and their two young men dug notches thru the beavers' dam for 2-6" pipes, while we brilliantly floated the inlet protection cage (which prevents the beavers from plugging the pipes) to the site with pool floaties! We had constructed the cage back in March for just such a situation. With a couple of adjustments, the pipes are doing their job and trail is (mostly) dry.



*(above) Pool 'noodles' or 'floaties' woven thru inlet cage to float it to site*



# Sierra Wildlife Coalition

Promoting Humane & Practical Solutions for Living  
With beavers, coyotes and all our local wildlife

## Late Summer News 2019 (cont'd)



*(Toogee floating inlet protection cage and 2-6" pipes to Pond Leveler site inside the willows)*

We answered a last minute call from the Tahoe Institute of Natural Sciences (TINS) in August, and SWC Co-Director Toogee Sielsch was honored to sit in for Sarah from TINS to lead a wildlife tour at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center. About 40 people enjoyed seeing and hearing about all the wildlife in the area, and one of the local beavers even came out from under the bridge right under everyone! However, when the beaver glanced up and saw and heard everyone, he quickly disappeared back underwater.

Also in August, the good folks from the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC), who work to restore watersheds throughout California, and promote beavers as the best tool to do that, collaborated with local agencies to present a meeting: Restoration for Willow Flycatcher using Beaver Restoration Techniques. It turns out that beavers are almost always present at endangered Willow Flycatcher sites – the little birds need large meadow areas, with lots of surface water and willows, which the beavers are happy to provide. We sent OAEC locations and maps of local beaver sites, and we took Kate Lundquist and Brock Dolman of OAEC on a tour of beaver sites in the South Lake Tahoe area.

Every year the Sierra Wildlife Coalition participates in a number of wildlife/ecology festivals doing public outreach to help humans live in coexistence with wildlife, and this year has been no different! So far we've had a booth at the Taylor Creek Native Species Festival, Taylor Creek Bird Festival, Squaw Valley Earth Day celebration, Sugar Pine Point State Park Tails and Trails festival, the Martinez Beaver Festival, the STEM tent at the Truckee Air Show, and will soon be closing out the season with our booth activities at the Taylor Creek Fall Fish Festival, Saturday & Sunday October 5th&6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



2019 has turned out to be a great year for the Sierra Wildlife Coalition being given a voice in local, national, and international media. In February we were asked to provide some wildlife cam footage of the Taylor Creek beaver family building a dam, and Tahoe bears walking across that dam. This footage was used in the Banff Outdoor Film Festival International Film Tour selection "Beaver Believers" by Sarah Koenigsberg. In April we did a TV news interview about bears on Fox News 40 of Sacramento, California. Also, released in late August, SWC Co-Director and spokesperson Toogee Sielsch was featured in the opening minutes of the Capital Public Radio/NPR podcast "Tahoeland" episode about bears. Toogee is also featured in, and submitted all the video footage for, a video companion to the "Tahoeland" bear episode. The podcast can be heard at:

<http://www.cpradio.org/news/tahoeland/2019/08/29/bad-news-bears/>

And the video can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijS02-G4mMk>

*Thanks for your support, and keep us posted on any beaver activity in your neighborhood !*