



Sierra Wildlife Coalition

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

Happy Spring-Summer 2015!

June 6, 2015

It was an unusual winter, to say the least. With very little snow, we were kept busy monitoring all seven of our installed Pond Levelers, especially the three at the Forest Service Taylor Creek Site near South Lake Tahoe. In case you missed our Facebook page updates:

Water flows in Taylor Creek remained very low through November and December, and the creek was both low and frozen over in early January. But with January rains, the Forest Service had to release extra water from Fallen Leaf Lake, which feeds Taylor Creek, causing huge fluctuations in water levels. Several times water was high and flowing across the entire beaver dam, and across the trail in several places. Our newest volunteer Toogee Sielsch and friends came to the rescue, and made a notch in the far side of the main beaver dam, which lowered the water, and more importantly, kept the main flow over on the far side, away from the trails and the Stream Profile Display.

Water releases continued to fluctuate in February, were low in March, but high again by April. Toogee made a 2nd notch in the main dam, and we've met several times to keep that and other overflows open, and to make sure all pipes in the Pond Levelers are open and flowing freely. (Note - the beavers will be able to fill the notches as the water gets lower.)



And Lindsay Gusses of the Forest Service has installed a new sign at Taylor Creek!

The Sierra Wildlife Coalition is credited with helping keep their trails dry and the beaver dams intact. (SWC also protected about 2 dozen aspens with sand-paint.) And finally the beavers are given credit for “supporting healthy wetland ecosystems by naturally filtering sediment from entering Lake Tahoe”

Our other Pond Levelers in Tahoe Vista and Truckee's Rock 'n Rose Nursery are doing great. But beavers had plugged the outlets to the Leveler in Tahoe Donner on Trout Creek. They have been busy on the dam, extending it past the ends of the pipes. We cleared the outlets, and the pond is now well below the nearby boardwalk – hard to keep up with these busy beavers! Once again we would like to thank the staff at Tahoe Donner for all their help and cooperation.



In other news, the crews repairing the bridge at Alpine Meadows should appreciate the new beaver dam all across the Truckee River just upstream from River Ranch. The dam keeps water even and low in the construction area, although there is water flowing through the beaver dam, as is typical. Meanwhile, the long upstream pond created by the dam will provide a welcome home for fish and wildlife this summer.

We enjoyed meeting folks at our SWC Booth at **Earth Day Festival in Squaw Valley** in April and again at the May 30 **Native Species Festival at USFS's Taylor Creek Site**

Next up, join Sierra Wildlife Coalition for an evening presentation on the **Beavers of Taylor Creek at the Taylor Creek Amphitheatre, Friday, July 31, 8pm**, part of the USFS's series of Friday night programs right at the creek.

The next day we'll be at the **Martinez Beaver Festival**, near the bay in Martinez on August 1st – always fun!

Looking forward to September's **Dog Day in the Park** in Tahoe Vista, then October's **Fall Fish Festival** back at **Taylor Creek**, S. Lake Tahoe



As always, please keep your eyes open for beavers in your neighborhood – they are in most of our creeks – We can easily deal with any beaver-created issues, as long as we know in time! Don't forget to 'Like' us on Facebook (website coming soon!)

Thanks, your friends at

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