



Agricultural Commissioner

Local Drought Assistance Programs open for sign up - Inyo-Mono County Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade We did a press release on the 15th when the information was accessible. The USDA release can be found at:

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/af9ee8>

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides partial repayment for livestock losses associated with drought, and extends back to losses from 2012 to present. Producers should contact Betty Hodik of the FSA at (775)463-2855 Ext.102 for signup information.

CONTACT: Nate Reade, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, (760) 873-7860

Community Development

Collaborative Planning Team – Supervisor Hunt chaired a Thursday meeting of federal, state, and local agency directors who discussed planning issues, including an update on potential listing of sage grouse as a threatened species by Steve Abele of US Fish & Wildlife Service. The big news was USFWS’s postponement of public meetings in Minden (April 29) and Bishop (April 30), with no rescheduled dates. Jon Regelbrugge of USFS/Inyo spoke about the upcoming summer season, effects of the drought, and preparation for fishing-season opener. Steve Nelson of BLM updated status of Mono City emergency access road, including BLM’s intent to share in mitigation/rehab measures with Mono County and authorizing immediate removal of current boulder barriers and replacement with safety gates. Steve also noted BLM’s intent to work with Mono County in public outreach for off-highway-vehicle planning if a grant for Hammil Valley is awarded. Heidi Sickler of CDFW provided an optimistic report for fishing opener, noting a generous planting of brown trout in Crowley Lake.

Benton/Hammil RPAC – On Monday evening a well-attended Benton/Hammil RPAC engaged in lively discussions about several issues affecting the community. Topics included the Inyo Forest Plan update, transit service by Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, and utility corridors. Analyst Brent Calloway and Supervisor Stump attended. The Benton community will host a town-hall budget workshop May 27.

Thumbs up for Housing Element – The Housing and Community Development Department informed Brent Calloway this week that the draft update of the Mono County Housing Element meets State requirements. The document is scheduled for Planning Commission review May 8, and its recommendation will be considered by the BOS in June.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is making a final rule to list three Sierra amphibians under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) - The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog are being listed as Endangered Species and the Yosemite toad as a Threatened Species.

The final rule is available for public inspection in the Federal Register today at www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection.

The rule is expected to officially publish to the Federal Register next week on April 29, 2014 and become effective 60 days later on June 30, 2014.

The final rule and other resources will also be posted on our Service webpage: [http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/outreach/Public-Advisories/SierraAmphibian Proposals/outreach PA SierraAmphibian Proposals.htm](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/outreach/Public-Advisories/SierraAmphibian%20Proposals/outreach_PA_SierraAmphibian_Proposals.htm)

I've attached and copied below a news release with more information. Please contact me with questions.

CONTACT: Robert Moler, robert_moler@fws.gov, 916.414.6606

County Administrator’s Office

Employee Picnic survey results – Thank you to the 125 individuals who voted on the preference for the format of the Employee Picnic. The results are in and the current two picnic weekday format received **56.8%** while the weekend single event format received **43.2%**.

Given people expressed interest it looks like we will keep the current two event format. The two events will be in the second week of June most likely Tuesday June 11th in Bridgeport and Wednesday, June 12th in Mammoth.

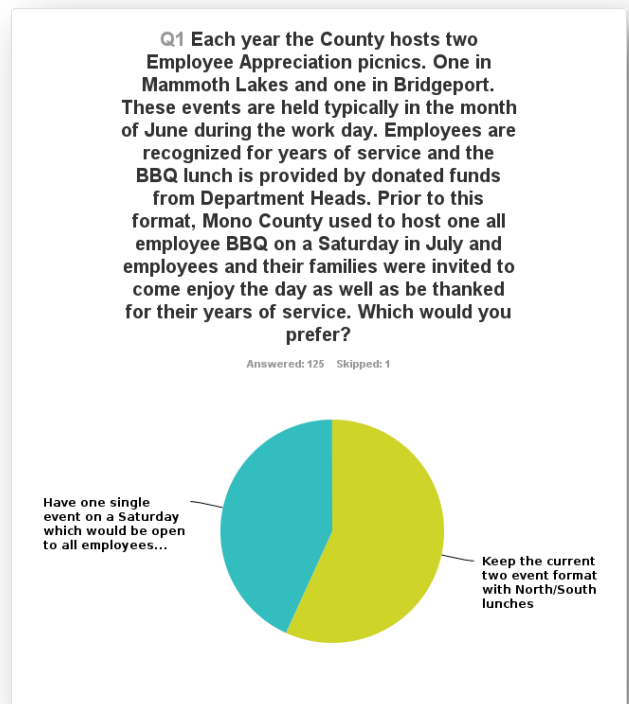
CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Mono Innovation Groups meet – Ideas advance into Strategic Planning and review –These lists will be utilized as part of the all day Staff Strategic Planning Session on May 1st.

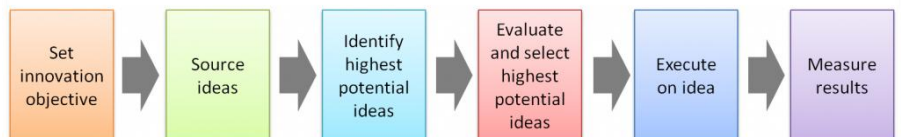
In addition, the currently 10 page (and soon to grow) list of ideas will be grouped under similar categories such as

technology, facilities, staffing ideas in order to help us focus in. Our work will be to focus on the highest return items and see what we can get into place for the next Budget and Fiscal year.

Peoples ideas range the spectrum and it has been great to have the information coming in. On May 1st, these lists will also be part of the day as we work together to build a new Best Imaginable Mono.



The Innovation Process
Employee-Driven Innovation



Keep sending in those ideas! Email them to: InnovationIdeas@mono.ca.gov

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Reminder!! - The all day All Staff Strategic Planning session is on May 1st – Thank you to the attendees of the April 24th Strategic Planning Steering Committee last night who helped finalize any logistical details. We are in the glide path for May 1st!!

Departments are being requested to provide employees maximum opportunity to attend. For those employees unable to attend, we will be bringing the Planning process to them for special session(s) to garner their feedback.



MAY 1st – Mono County Strategic Planning Launch!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

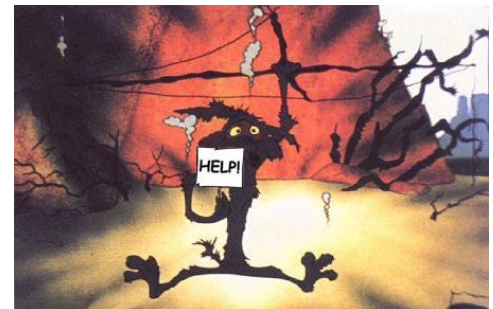
May 1st also signals opening of Fuel wood permit season - Attached with the Board Update is a press Release from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The following excerpts highlight the the process for getting a permit.

“Fuelwood permits, as well as information about current conditions and accessibility to the fuelwood collection sites, may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining, (760) 647-3044
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes, (760) 924-5500
- White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, (760) 873-2500

Fuelwood permits can be purchased at Mammoth and Mono Basin locations between the hours of 8:00 am -11:30 am and noon - 4:30 pm and at the White Mountain Ranger Station between 8:00am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Permits initially will not be available at the InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine. “

CONTACT: Debra Schweizer, USDA, (760) 873-2500



Next time, CAO Leddy should get a proper fire permit

Economic Development

• **Fishing Season Opens Tomorrow! Promotion and marking are in full swing -**

1. The following Mono County fishing television commercial has been airing in the Reno market for the last 2 weeks:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFR9tW9NPig&feature=youtu.be>

2. Facebook Promotions/Posts building excitement and Opener build-up:
3. April E-Newsletter, "Packed to the Gills," was sent to our visitor database of 16,700 on April 15, and was opened by 25.3% of the recipients, well over industry average:
4. Print ad appearing in the Western Outdoor News' Lakes Guide issue (April 25), and California Sportsman, May issue:



5. Fishing Opener Press Release generated the following Media Coverage:

1. NBC Bay Area: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/blogs/worth-the-trip/Hello-Eastern-Sierra-Sonora-Pass-Opens-255686651.html>
2. News Channel 4 Reno: <http://www.mynews4.com/news/local/story/Fishing-season-kicks-off-in-Mono-County/oYGSUUszAEepz2f-5PKjOQ.csp>
3. Stockton Record: http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140423/A_SPORTS/4_04230321
4. San Diego Union Tribune: www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/Apr/23/outdoors-eastern-sierra-trout-opener/2/?#article-copy
5. Western Outdoor News: http://www.wonews.com/t-NorthernCAFreshwater_Walker_042314.aspx
6. Long Beach Press Telegram: <http://www.presstelegram.com/sports/20140416/how-lake-trout-gobbled-yellowstones-cutbows-2014-fishing-derbies-and-events-list>

- **Film Commission** - A prominent vehicle commercial is currently scheduled to shoot in the June Lake area in the first week of May. (The location manager is a fan of Mono County and recently brought another vehicle commercial to Northern Mono County). Filming inquiries have been steady so far this spring.
- **Tourism Website: Hotel Booking Widget Launched** – The Booking.com widget launched this week and is now available on our tourism website homepage at www.monocounty.org. The Booking.com widget allows guests to find lodging and make online reservations with participating lodging partners right from the MonoCounty.org website.
- **National Media Coverage** –
 1. Bodie was on the front page of Yahoo.com last week as one of 13 ghost towns worth visiting: <https://travel.yahoo.com/photos/13-ghost-towns-worth-visiting-1397760664-slideshow/>
 2. Wall Street Journal featured Mono Lake as an example of a great State Park to visit: http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303380004579519610303786586?mod=WSJ_LatestHeadlines&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702303380004579519610303786586.html%3Fmod%3DWSJ_LatestHeadlines
- **Mono County Tourism & Film Commission's Spring Open House** – Save the date for the Commission's Spring Open House scheduled for May 15th in June Lake! A "Meet the Candidates" panel discussion will be part of the event. More details coming next week. **Please note:** The Mono County Tourism & Film Commission April 29th regular meeting has been postponed to May 15.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

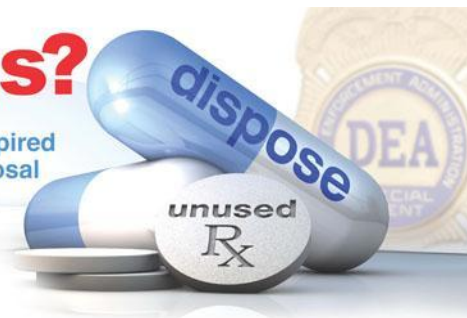
Public Health

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event - Got drugs? Are you looking to get rid of unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications? Unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications can be dangerous to our family, friends, children, and communities if they fall into the wrong hands.



Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 26th,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



On Saturday, April 26th, 2014, from 10:00am –

2:00pm, the Mono County District Attorney's Office, with support of local law enforcement, asks you to participate in the Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event, in accordance with the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Drug Taker-Back Initiative. This

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Prescription drug abuse is on the rise as well as the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to the misuse of these medications. Studies indicate that a majority of abused prescription medications are obtained from family members

and friends, right from the home medicine cabinet. Other studies are indicating that the usual methods for disposing of unwanted, unused and expired medications (such as flushing down the toilet or throwing away in the trash) pose potential environmental safety and health hazards.

Across Mono County, residents and visitors will have an opportunity to get rid of their potentially dangerous, unwanted, unused and expired prescription medications and help prevent prescription drug abuse. Simply remove all personal information from any packaging, or dump all medications into one Ziploc-type baggie, and bring them to one of the four (4) collection sites:

Walker General Store (106651 Hwy 395 – Coleville)
Bridgeport Fire Department (309 Main St – Bridgeport)
June Lake Fire Department (2380 Hwy 158 – June Lake)
Vons (481 Old Mammoth Road – Mammoth Lakes)

This take-back event is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Please help in preventing prescription drug abuse by getting rid of your unwanted, unused and expired medications on Saturday, April 26th!

Written and reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer, Mono County Sheriff's and distributed by Dr. Rick Johnson via Mono-Gram

CONTACT: Dr. Rick Johnson, (760) 924-1828

Sheriff's Office

Fishing and Boating Season is upon us - It is that time of year! Spring has sprung in the Eastern Sierra and that means fishing season is upon us with opening day set for Saturday, April 26th, 2014. With the large number of fishing enthusiasts anticipated to be recreating on and off the waterways of Mono County, the Mono County Sheriff's Office would like to remind boaters, float tubers, fishermen on shore, etc. to think safety first while enjoying their fishing activities.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office continues to operate our Boating Law Enforcement Program under grant funding from the State of California and the Department of Boating and Waterways. The department operates patrol boats across all the major waterways throughout the county, and will be enforcing boating laws and ensuring everyone's safety throughout opening weekend. Please remember to use caution and common sense when operating any type of watercraft for your safety and for the safety of those around you.

Since boating isn't the only way to access and enjoy the many lakes around the Eastern Sierra, the Mono County Sheriff's Office will also be patrolling via ATV the many off-road trails that are currently accessible throughout Mono County. Our Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Patrol Program operates under grant funding from the State of California and focuses on current registration, helmet law enforcement, and the safety of our residents and visitors. The patrol program will also enforce wilderness intrusions and alcohol consumption while off-road recreating. Please be safe when you are enjoying the open spaces of Mono County.

Also, as a reminder to visitors and residents alike, always be prepared for changing weather conditions along with hazardous conditions on some of our lakes. Even though our winter is not

what most would've called heavy, some lakes are softening up due to the recent warm weather. Be aware and use caution around any lakes that still may be covered with ice as they may be dangerous to walk on. Anytime you are experiencing our beautiful county, make sure someone knows where you are headed and be prepared for rain, snow, freezing temperatures, or that perfect blue bird sunny day.

Enjoy yourself this opening weekend and good luck catching the "Big One!"

CONTACT: Jennifer Hansen, (760) 932-5279

Social Services

A message from one of our Partners in Prevention: Wild Iris - *The following is from a presentation to the Mono County Board of Supervisors on April 8th by Susi Baines, Director of Programs for Wild Iris.*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month - According to national statistics, one in four women and one in 33 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Wild Iris served 22 victims of sexual assault in Mono County, providing services ranging from peer counseling, legal and medical advocacy to providing emergency food, clothing and shelter.

Also nationally, a report of child abuse is made every ten seconds, and more than four children die every day as a result of child abuse. In the calendar year 2013, Wild Iris assisted 6 children under the age of 18 for issues connected to child abuse in Mono County. Of those 6, half were victims of sexual assault. According to Unicef, in 2010, more money was spent to preserve native birds in the United States than was spent on preventing child abuse. Reason enough that more awareness about child abuse needs to be done.

Both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month have been annual traditions for many years and are nationwide campaigns. By holding events and conducting awareness campaigns for an entire month, we hope to convey the importance of these issues to the community, to foster action and to let the community know the services that are available to them

To commemorate both months, Wild Iris has planned several events to honor victims and survivors of sexual assault and child abuse. Once again, Wild Iris will host the Clothesline Project, a display that offers a voice to those affected by violence, and a powerful exhibit of personal testimonies. T-shirts hung on the clothesline are designed by survivors of violence, both children and adults alike, or by those close to them, and are a reminder to the community that sexual assault and child abuse happen right here. The Project also helps survivors in their healing process, giving them a way to tell their story and recognize that they are not alone.



The **Clothesline Project** will be displayed for the public to view on Saturday April 26th from 9am-3pm at Minaret Mall and on Wednesday April 30th (All Day) at Mammoth High School.

This month and throughout the year our Youth Violence Prevention Program visits all of our local schools, pre-school through college, to teach about healthy relationships, bullying, healthy boundaries and bystander intervention. We encourage parents to take advantage of our free parenting classes, and in April, we will begin to offer **supervised visitation monitoring** as a way to ensure the safety and security of children visiting with non-custodial parents.

Wild Iris encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Mono County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that our community members have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for themselves and their children. Together we can help promote our community's social and emotional well-being and prevent child abuse and sexual assault within families and communities.

CONTACT: Susi Baines, Wild Iris, (760) 934-2491