



Board of Supervisors

June Lake responders continue to receive thanks - - **Supervisor Tim Alpers** attended the June Lake Public Utilities District to ensure that everyone who lent a hand to help prevent the summer fire from spreading received proper County Kudos.

Thank you to Supervisor Alpers for providing the pictures. On the left is **Jerry Allendorf**, President of the JLPUD. On the right is **Chris Jackson**, JLPUD employee who went above and beyond the call of duty during the fire at the water treatment plant.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Boating and Waterways Facility Grant may provide Mono County opportunity - **Supervisor Alpers** was forwarded this information and staff will be reviewing this to see how we can access this funding source best. CAO Leddy will be meeting with Dicks Nolls on Monday morning to gather additional information.



The Non-Motorized Boating Facility Grant is a no-match grant intended to create, improve, or renovate **public non-motorized boating access** on public property. The grant may pay for engineering, preparing regulatory permit applications and paying permit fees, and construction inspection.

The grant does not pay for CEQA/NEPA or the applicant's costs to administer the grant. The major grant requirement is that the grantee agree to operate and maintain the improvement for the purpose originally intended for a period of no less than 20 years upon completion and acceptance of the project by DBW. Almost always, the grant applicant needs to be either the landowner or the long-term lessee of the property. Specific questions about your project ideas or the application process should be directed to Keren Dill at keren.dill@parks.ca.gov or at (916) 327-1809. Below is the webpage link to the Division of Boating and Waterways Non-Motorized Boating Facility Grant program:

<http://dbw.ca.gov/Funding/Facilities.aspx#BLFG>

The actual grant application can be found at this link along with application instructions. This same link has instructions and the actual application for the DBW private marina loan program.

CONTACT: **Steve Watanabe, P.E., Supervising Civil Engineer**, Department of Parks and Recreation, (916) 327-1785 steve.watanabe@parks.ca.gov

Community Development

International Sage Grouse – Efforts to collaborate with other agencies to prevent the listing of our local sage grouse (Bi-State Population) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act continued this week as staff participated in an International Sage Grouse Conference at Salt Lake City. Wendy Sugimura is attending in person, and Brent Calloway is participating remotely in a special live-streaming venue at the

Lee Vining Community Center, sponsored by Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership. Friday's session includes a presentation on the "Success in the Bi-State Population."

Mono Basin RPAC – At Wednesday's meeting, the RPAC discussed the completion of the Mono City emergency access road, reviewed the Inyo National Forest's proposed Motorized Transportation System Modifications, and conducted a final review of the Mono-Yosemite Trail report. Supervisor Alpers gave an update of BOS activities, including the investment policy and the proposed National Park Service fee for Yosemite. **Tony Dublino** also presented another thorough status report on Conway Ranch, including next steps such as the annual report and short- and long-term planning processes.

June Lake Community Conversation – The June Lake CAC will conduct a Special Meeting Nov. 18 at 6 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. community conversation on June Lake's character. Diverse points of view are welcome for discussion in a safe space -- what is appealing, what should be transformed, and what is the essence of June Lake? The focal point for discussion will be the Draft Idea Book created by Opticos Consultants, available for viewing at <http://monocounty.ca.gov/planning/page/character-inventory-design-guidelines-opticos>.



It's Our Community and Main Street!

So, What Does That Mean?

Join a community conversation about June Lake's character!
Diverse points of view are welcome for discussion in this safe space.

- What is appealing, what should be transformed, and what is the essence of June Lake?
- Does the Draft Idea Book capture June Lake?
- What is the Draft Idea Book missing? What looks good? What should be changed?

WHEN: November 18th at 7:00-9:00 pm
WHERE: June Lake Community Center

The Draft Idea Book is available at:
<http://monocounty.ca.gov/planning/page/character-inventory-design-guidelines-opticos> Copies will also be provided to local businesses and the library.

-Hope to see you there!

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1804

Forest Plan Revision public meeting next week in Bishop – These "open house" styled meeting is primarily informational to share the issues and concerns the agency heard during the recently completed scoping phase. The meetings is an opportunity for the public to hear discussion how those issues and concerns are being used to frame a conceptual range of alternatives.

- 6:00-8:00pm - Thursday, November 20, Inyo National Forest, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Tallman Pavilion, Sierra Street & Fair Drive, Bishop, CA



In addition, here is a news release from the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region that shares some important information as it pertains to Forest Plan Revision:

US Forest Service, conservation groups reach agreement

Contacts:

Forest Service	John Heil	707-562-9004
DOJ	Wyn Hornbuckle	202-616-0903
Sierra Forest Legacy	Susan Britting	530-295-8210

*Center for Biological Diversity
Earthjustice*

*Justin Augustine
Greg Loarie*

*503-910-9214
415-217-2000*

US Forest Service Press Release - VALLEJO, Calif., October 23, 2014 -- The U.S. Forest Service and environmental plaintiffs signed a settlement agreement on Oct. 9, ending a decade-long legal battle over the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework Forest Plan Amendment, which affects management of the Sierra Nevada national forests in California. A coalition of conservation organizations led by Sierra Forest Legacy and including the Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, filed suit in early 2005 claiming that the 2004 Framework plan failed to adequately protect old growth forests and associated wildlife species and was not consistent with national environmental laws. They were represented by legal teams from Earthjustice and the Sierra Club.

A consideration in settlement discussions was the Forest Service's current effort to revise the forest plans in the Sierra Nevada under the 2012 Planning Rule. All parties are interested in moving forward with plan revision collaboratively, and have agreed upon some of the topics that will be considered in the current revision process. Updating these forest plans will provide an opportunity to reassess understandings of environmental conditions and take into account new science. The conservation strategies, included in this settlement agreement, will be a useful tool in this process.

In mid-2013, after years of court hearings, appeals, and the development of a voluminous court record, the Forest Service and the environmental groups began productive discussion on several key issues, including conservation of at-risk species, the need for increased fire use as a part of forest management, and conservation of post-fire forest conditions. The settlement agreement documents ([click here](#)) include creation and analysis of conservation strategies for the Pacific fisher and the California spotted owl, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the increased use of managed fire for ecological benefit, and analysis of forest plan components for post-fire, complex early-seral habitat.

"Over the years we have found that Forest Service scientists, Forest Service leadership, and conservation groups, while not in perfect agreement, are beginning to share many of the same concerns over conservation of at-risk species, the positive role of fire as an ecological disturbance process in forest environments, and the need to improve management of post-fire habitats," said Susan Britting, Executive Director of Sierra Forest Legacy. "This Settlement Agreement allows us to promote an 'all-lands' approach by using the best available science to improve forest resilience while protecting at-risk species".

"We're encouraged to see collective movement towards conservation of the ecologically important wildlife habitat created by fire," said Justin Augustine with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We look forward to working to make that happen so that at-risk species will be able to thrive on our public lands."

"The parties decided it was a better use of time and resources to sit down, roll up our sleeves and work on an agreement on these issues that were of concern to all of us," said Barnie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service. "Collaboration is a hallmark of this region. We're excited about this agreement and what this means for all of us moving forward."

*For more information on at-risk species, fire and early seral forests go to: www.sierraforestlegacy.org;

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/black-backed_woodpecker/index.html

County Administrator's Office

Creating Your Playbook: Four Steps to Create a Positive Workplace Training being offered on December 4th - We spend most of our waking hours at work; yet we spend little time creating a positive and engaging environment.

In this session you will learn:

Reminder!

- The importance of a positive work environment.
- Four basic principles of creating a positive work environment.
- Actions you can take with your coworkers and customers/clients to create a positive and engaging work environment.

This “catch the energy” session is based on the principles that are in action each day at the world famous “Pikes Place Fish Market” in Seattle, WA.

Trindel Insurance Fund presents this engaging and enlightening program for all employees and critical for anyone in a leadership role. After this session you will be confident in your ability to create a more engaging and positive work environment.

Thursday, December 4, 2014
Lee Vining Community Center
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 am

Space in this class is limited to the first 40 RSVPs – Please save your spot with me via email smesserlian@mono.ca.gov. **You must have department head approval to attend.**

CONTACT: Sarah Messerlian, Risk Manager, (760) 932-5405

Attached is a SAVE THE DATE flyer for three regional workshops that will address local governance considerations associated with implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are organizing these workshops in collaboration with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Water Foundation (CWF). The workshops will include an overview of the recently enacted Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Act) and explore approaches and considerations to local governance.

The workshops are targeted for senior local government and water agency decision makers from medium to high priority groundwater basins. The dates and locations are January 26 in Willows, February 4 in Tulare County and February 5 in Stanislaus County.

We are planning to provide you with additional details regarding the meeting venues, registration and agenda by mid-December.

CONTACT: Karen A. Keene, Senior Legislative Representative - Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources, (916) 327-7500 x511

Employee commute survey completed – 154 people from 8 agencies weighed in on the survey for the Employee commute interest. After reviewing the results with Eastern Sierra Transit Director John Helm, there appears to be 54 people who are interested in further discussion. A follow up survey to those folks who volunteered their email address will go out shortly and we hope we can stir up enough folks for both a Bishop to Mammoth Van pool as well as an Antelope Valley to Bridgeport service.

Thank you for your participation. If you signed up to be contacted, you will get a link by 11/26/2014.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

All staff Holiday Party to be held on December 17th in Lee Vining! It's always good to mix it up a bit so this year rather than having our split staff North and South holiday party – we are going to host the first all staff Holiday party!



On December 17th from 1:30 pm to 4:00pm we will have our annual potluck and employee appreciation event. We are making it later in the day for folks to be able to travel and enjoy the fellowship of all of the employees who can make it.

This event will be a late lunch and give folks the time to enjoy each other meet some new faces. Department heads will be helping underwrite the cost of the event. Stay tuned for more details and pencil in December 17th for a time to come together in Lee Vining!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

The Strategic Plan moving forward! – On November 13th at 4:00pm, the Ambassadors and Steering Committee Crew met and shared the feedback from the first wave of department meetings. We were joined via phone by Beth Conley who is taking that feedback and incorporating into the next draft. Below we have some additional meetings coming up.



We are keeping the focus on taking your ideas and getting them into the Draft. Once we have been through in hearing from all of you we go to the Board and then to the community for additional input. It is moving along and the information and participation is critical.

Here are some additional Department or program meeting where we are still getting great feedback:

<u>Dept/Program</u>	<u>Ambassadors</u>
1) Facilities	Erin/Jason

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 2) Benton Landfill | <i>Erin/Dylan</i> |
| 3) EMS | <i>Stacie K./Ted</i> |
| 4) Community Development | <i>Megan/Kirk</i> |
| 5) Clerk's Office/Assessor's Office | <i>Megan/Kirk</i> |
| 6) Benton Road Shop | <i>Erin/Dylan</i> |
| 7) District Attorney | <i>Stacie K.</i> |

Next Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting will be Thursday December 4th at 4:00pm at the Lee Vining Community Center.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Recycled Tires money can help fund County projects - The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) administers a competitive grant program to provide opportunities to divert tires from landfill disposal, prevent illegal tire dumping, and promote markets for recycled-content products. The Tire-Derived Product Grant (TDP) Program is a reimbursement grant designed to use TDPs for repurposing projects such as pathways, landscaping, mats, playground surfacing, curb stops, and ramps.



Any public entity may apply and applications are due by December 4, 2014. For additional information and the application, visit:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Tires/Grants/Product/FY201415/default.htm>

Please forward this information to park districts, Veterans Memorial districts, schools, and others that may be interested within your county.

CONTACT: Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, RCRC, (916) 447-4806

Thank you to Chief Humiston for bringing us this information -- **Bodie highlighted on Direct TV!** - **American Supernatural: The Curse of Bodie** is on the Weather Channel 362, next showing is November 15th at 5:00 PM. Don't freak, although it is listed under American Supernatural: The Curse of Bodie, the focus is its history, the Sierra Mountains, weather, and mining.

Other dates/showings are:

11/15 5 PM
 11/16 9 PM
 11/19 12:00 AM
 11/20 9 PM
 11/22 4 PM

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Mono County Courts have deeper furloughs – Please see attached information from Hector Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Mono County Courts. The Courts, due to budget constraints will have 17

furlough days or **136 hours** of unpaid leave and shut down doors. The Courts notice is attached for your use.

As an aside, ***Thank you*** to our County employees for their flexibility in use of their furlough hours to ensure maximum public access. We will be posting information to the County website in coming weeks. Thanks to the county employees and managers, most departments will be ensuring furloughs are not disruptive.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

Economic Development:

- CDBG consultant, Jeff Lucas, presented potential federal funding source programs available to help support small business at the Tourism/Film Commission meeting on Oct. 28, as part of an overview provided by staff regarding next steps in the draft Economic Development Strategic Plan process.
- Alicia and Jeff successfully completed an Economic Development Certificate program in Fresno, Oct. 27-30, conducted by Fresno State University School of Business, and California Academy of Economic Development.
- Alicia attended Mammoth Mountain's Town Hall event on Nov. 10 at which Rusty Gregory outlined some of the primary reasons behind the purchase of Snow Summit and Bear Mountain.
- On Nov. 12, Alicia also participated in a Mammoth Lakes Economic Development and Planning Commission workshop on Economic Development.

Film Commission:

- COLA Event - Alicia Vennos, along with Tourism Commissioner Steve Morrison, attended the California On Location Awards event which is hosted by FLICS (Film Liaisons in California) and is something like the Academy Awards for the state's Location industry. Alicia also attended the annual general meeting of FLICS.
- Last spring, a commercial for PowerAde was filmed at the Benton Crossing Road and on Hwy. 120 East. While on location, the director visited Mono Lake and is now interested in bringing another production here in early December. Here is the PowerAde commercial for your viewing pleasure: <https://www.interdubs.com/r/acafilms/?al=kk6q9N&an=>
- Bodie was featured on two major television programs recently, starring the eloquent and knowledgeable local Bodie historian, Terri Geissinger: The Weather Channel on Nov. 2 (trailer only) - <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=867566386597202&set=vb.603277046359472&type=2&theater> and on CBS on Oct. 26 (full episode) - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-spectres->

[of-americas-ghost-towns/](#). Many thanks to Terri Geissing and to Ranger Josh Heitzmann for their assistance with these productions.

Tourism Marketing:

- Advertising: Winter Fishing campaign “*Fishing, continued...*” is underway (see print ad).
- Collateral: The annual Mono County Visitor Guide is in process and will have a fresh new design this year; the advertising sales effort is almost complete.
- Social Media: The county’s Tourism Facebook page is now at 34,000 fans with high levels of engagement. The three Fall E-Newsletters sent to our visitor database of about 20,000 had an average “open” rate of 20%, well above industry average.
- Alicia attended Mammoth Lakes Tourism’s Open House on Nov. 12 -- an excellent 3-hour presentation regarding the marketing impact of MLT’s strategic plan.
- Alicia and Liz attended the IAVC planning meeting on Nov. 13 – there is interest in changing the name of the Inter-Agency Visitor Center to something more relevant to the traveling public. As well, short- and long-term goals for the IAVC were discussed.
- The next Mono County Tourism & Film Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19 at the Mono Lake Committee Conference Room at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 924-1743

Public Works

Facilities crew working away on late season projects - The Facilities division is making a late construction season charge as we have 3 projects currently in progress.

- The **Crowley Lake Ball field Concession Facility** is progressing nicely with the siding being installed, roof on, and doors installed. The building is quite close to having the exterior complete and moving inside to tackle the interior. Many thanks to John Hauter, who has been the point man on this project, for all of his hard work and focus.



- The **Memorial Hall ADA Bathrooms** are well on their way as you can see by the attached photos. Kudos to Jason Davenport for taking the point on the complex plumbing portion of this project and Claude Fiddler for tackling the intensive structural component on this project. Our apologies for any inconvenience the Construction is causing.

- The **Annex II Generator project** is underway and will provide emergency backup power for the Bridgeport servers, cooling units for the servers, as well as the phone system.
- **Chalfant Park weed mitigation.** Thanks to Mike Booher for providing inmates in the on-going effort to eradicate the weeds. Billy Czeschin from facilities said the inmates were hard working, very thorough, and did a great job. Thanks again.



CONTACT: Joe Blanchard (760) 932-5443

Sheriff's Office

1. We received a very nice note from family and friends of an individual that the SAR team rescued several months ago when he got separated from his hunting partner. They were very appreciative of the effort the team gave, along with members of other teams that came from out of county to assist. The SAR team also received a nice monetary donation as well.
2. The Eastern Sierra Peace Officers Assc. had a completion shoot again this year. Mono County Deputy John Pelichowski defended his title and was victorious once again in 2014. Deputy DeGeorge also competed and also did quite well.
3. I met with Sheriff-elect Braun this week, as did Lt. Mike "Air" Booher on a separate occasion, for transition of administration and sharing of information.
4. Staff met this week with Mineral County Sheriff administration regarding cooperative law enforcement between our two agencies.

CONTACT: Ralph Obenberger, (760) 932-7549

Social Services

SART Meetings (Sexual Assault Response Team) - Did you know that several departments work together to respond to sexual assaults and child abuse in Mono County? Mono County Sheriff's Office, Mammoth Lakes Police Department (MLPD), the District Attorney's Office and Social Services staff meet once a month to discuss sexual abuse cases as well as incoming child abuse reports. The meeting helps the different agencies organize investigations around breaking-news and sensitive cases, and keeps atypical family situations from falling through the cracks.

In one recent example, we were able to connect a several-years-old MLPD case to a suspect in a current child welfare case, and the new information allowed the D.A.'s office to adopt a more aggressive strategy toward interviewing and protecting all of the children involved. In a remote area where services are sometimes limited, SART members feel that working together in this way helps all of us provide more comprehensive and more thorough service to our clients.

CONTACT: Heather Edwall, Social Worker, (760) 924-1775

Open Enrollment Begins Tomorrow, November 15! Open enrollment for 2015 health insurance plans through Covered California begins Nov. 15, 2014, and ends Feb. 15, 2015. More than 1.3 million Californians chose health insurance through Covered California during its historic first open-enrollment period, for coverage in 2014. Millions of others learned that they qualified for free or low-cost health coverage through Medi-Cal. Covered California will later announce adult and family dental options available through Covered California, along with health insurance options for small businesses.



Consumers can now use the 2015 Shop and Compare Tool on the Covered California website, at www.CoveredCA.com/shopandcompare/#calculator, to look at plans and products in our area and to get a preliminary estimate of costs and premium assistance. Medi-Cal enrollment for those with qualifying incomes is available year-round. To see if you qualify for Medi-Cal, or for questions in about health insurance coverage in general, call our office at 760-924-1770. We're happy to help!

CONTACT: Francie Avitia, Program Manager, 760-924-1789

Health Reform Resources - Answers to ACA Questions: On the eve of the second open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act, the Kaiser Family Foundation released an updated collection of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) providing detailed answers for consumers, and the navigators and brokers who assist them. The searchable collection includes nearly 300 up-to-date responses, answering new questions about plan renewal, cancellations, and continuing financial assistance.



The FAQs also offer guidance for understanding 2014 federal income taxes in the context of the health law, addressing potential penalties for not obtaining coverage, exemptions to the individual mandate, and other subjects. Answers have been updated to key questions about how the law applies to the marketplace and Medicaid eligibility, and offers guidance for immigrants, people with variable incomes and others in special situations.

CONTACT: Kathy Peterson, 760-924-1763



Foster Parents Needed!

Make a difference in the life of a child! The quest to recruit new foster care homes in Mono County continues! The next Foster Parent Orientation meeting will occur in Mammoth at the end of this month. Foster Parents are needed for long-term, as well as short-term care. Short-term care can consist of emergency overnight placement of a child, or just a few days, until alternative arrangements can be made. As the Foster Parent, you get to determine the level of support you are able to provide.

Learn more by attending the upcoming Foster Parent Orientation Meeting, **Tuesday, November 18, 2014 5:30pm- 7:00pm at the Benton Community Center**

CONTACT: Marlo Preis, 760/924-1793

Staff from Reno Veterans Administration coming to Bishop - December 6, 2014, 9:30 to 12:00 pm, Bishop City Hall.

Information will be provided on medical and mental health services in Reno, NV, and in our local town! Registration for My Health-e-Vet & E-benefits.



Please RSVP to icvso@inyocounty.us or call 760-873-7850.

Veterans and their families; this is a one-time event. Please be there!

CONTACT: Yvette Mason, 760/873-7850



Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action - Upcoming Food Distribution: Dates for mobile food pantry. Please be advised that due to holiday closures, food distribution dates in November for the mobile food pantry will be held on the following dates:

Mobile Food Bank , Thurs Nov 20:

Walker ~ 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Antelope Valley Senior Center, 399 Mule Deer Rd
Bridgeport ~ 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Medical Clinic, 1000 Twin Lakes Rd
Lee Vining ~ 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Murphy's Trailer Park, Space #8

Mobile Food Bank Fri Nov 21:

Mammoth Lakes ~ 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mammoth Creek Park on Old Mammoth Rd
June Lake ~ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 120 Alderman St

CONTACT: IMACA Main office at (760) 873-8557

2014 WISH TREE - Beginning Friday, November 7, 2014 IMACA will have applications for the annual Wish Tree Program available. This program provides holiday gifts to children 13 years of age and younger who are in low income households throughout Inyo County and the Chalfant Valley.

Applications are available:

- In Bishop: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the IMACA office (218 S. Main St)
- In Lone Pine: Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the IMACA office (120 S. Main Street in the Chamber of Commerce Courtyard)
- If you would like the application mailed to you, please call 1-800-541-1822 or 760 873-3001

Completed applications **must be returned** by **Monday, November 24, 2014**.

CONTACT: Ashley Diaz, Program Manager, 760-924-1789