

# Range of Light Group – 8/26/09 ENews

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club  
Inyo and Mono Counties  
P. O. Box 1978, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*NEW \*\*\*\* T-SHIRTS AND TOTE BAGS!\*\*\*\*

We now have **Range of Light t-shirts available**, beautifully designed by John Muir Laws, \$20 (includes tax). Also, Sierra Club lightweight **tote bags** for groceries or whatever, \$5. Get yours at monthly meetings, or call Mary K, 934-0355.

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\*\*\*\*YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The **Range of Light Group Executive Committee** (ROLG ExCom) meetings are usually the first Monday of the month and are open to all members (no meeting in September – next October 5). You may bring or submit items for discussion at any time. To join the ExCom as an elected officer or committee member to help with membership, conservation, outings, administration, or any area you find interesting, contact Malcolm, 924-5639, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). ROLG ExCom officers and Committee Chairs are listed on the website <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>.

Please **consider serving on the ROLG ExCom**. Nominations are required by October and elections are in December. If you are interested in joining the ExCom, please contact our Nominating Committee: Shalle Genevieve – [marshalle@earthlink.net](mailto:marshalle@earthlink.net), Malcolm Clark – [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), or Wilma Wheeler – [wilma.bryce@verizon.net](mailto:wilma.bryce@verizon.net).

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\*\*\*\*TAKE ACTION

- The Forest Service will be hosting a drop-in open house meeting to discuss proposed improvements to the **Bridgeport Ranger District Travel Management System**. The proposals include adding 210 miles of existing routes to the designated motor vehicle route system, keeping all 1300 miles of currently designated system routes open to motor vehicles, and restricting motor vehicle use to these designated system routes. **Bridgeport, Fri., Aug. 28, 5-7 pm Memorial Hall, 100 Sinclair St.** More: David 775-884-8132 or [http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/bridgeport/tm\\_bp\\_index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/bridgeport/tm_bp_index.shtml)
- **Walker River Basin acquisition program DEIS** – U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation: Since 1882, diversions from the Walker River have resulted in a 149-foot drop in Walker Lake's surface elevation, resulting in poor water quality and very high total dissolved solids, threatening the lake and its associated ecosystems. On July 29, the senate approved their version of the 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The Desert Terminal Lakes portion of the bill would allow the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement an Acquisitions Program including water leasing and acquisitions from willing sellers, conservation and stewardship activities, research and evaluations of the programs, support for alternative agricultural crops, and a USGS water monitoring program. Comments due by September 14. More: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Bureau of Reclamation, EIS Project Lead, Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza, Rm 320, Carson City, NV 89701, 775-884-8352, or [chunttdecarlo@usbr.gov](mailto:chunttdecarlo@usbr.gov).
- **BLM Announces Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Desert Tortoise Translocation** (BLM News Release, 7/31/09). As a result of the expansion of Fort Irwin by legislation (December, 2001), the National Training Center is converting approximately 24,000 acres known as the Southern Expansion Area and approximately 70,000 acres known as the Western Expansion Area into useable military training lands. The Army is required to move (translocate) tortoises from these expansion areas before military training may take place on these lands. The BLM is considering allowing the translocation of tortoises from the Army expansion areas to BLM managed lands to facilitate fulfillment of this requirement. [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/july/CDD0960\\_tortoise\\_translocation\\_EA.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/july/CDD0960_tortoise_translocation_EA.html)

- The Forest Service is seeking **comments on a proposal to change the overnight camping fees** at five campgrounds - Aspen, Boulder, Cattleguard, Moraine, and Lower Lee Vining Campgrounds in Lee Vining Canyon. Comments due by October 31, to Matt Peterson, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514 or [comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us) ; or drop any Inyo National Forest Visitor Center. More: Matt Peterson 873-2494 or [mbpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbpeterson@fs.fed.us).
- Join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the **Devils Postpile National Monument** and help plan for the next 15 to 20 years. Topics include the San Joaquin River watershed, the challenges of climate change, and how to protect the ecological importance of the biodiversity and migratory corridors of the Monument. Comments sought for both positive and negative feedback. Attend an open house September 9 or 10. More: Deanna Dulen, 760-924-5505, or [depo\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:depo_gmp@nps.gov)
- **Inyo National Forest is proposing to change recreation fees at Reds Meadow. Comments due** by September 7 to Matt Peterson, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, or [comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us), or any Inyo National Forest Visitor Center. More: Matt Peterson, 873-2494 or [mbpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbpeterson@fs.fed.us).

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\*\*\*A QUICK MENTION

- **The Great Alaska Coal Rush** (*Sierra*, July/August 2009): At least 8 coal projects have been proposed in Alaska, near Denali National Park and Preserve, the Matanuska River, the Chuitna River, and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Wilderness lovers have fought for decades to protect the moose, salmon, and sublime vistas of the Alaska wilderness from the ravages of oil development, and now several coal companies are threatening to leave their earth-scraping marks across the state. More: [www.sierraclub.org/coal](http://www.sierraclub.org/coal)
- **BLM awards permits for Coso geothermal facility** (Energy Current, 8/3/09) ArcLight Capital Partners affiliate Terra-Gen Power's Coso geothermal facility has obtained critical permits from BLM to construct a nine mile pipeline to recharge the existing geothermal reservoir that will allow Coso to significantly increase generation of renewable baseload power. Coso is a renewable facility located on the Navy's China Lake base in Inyo County. More: <http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=19783>
- **Moratorium on instream suction dredge mining, effective immediately** (CA Dept. of Fish and Game 8/6/09). The ban will be in effect until the F&G completes a court-ordered environmental review of its permitting program, expected summer 2011. More: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/news09/2009080601.asp>
- Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center. On Labor Day weekend, Cory Shiozaki will bring Manzanar's wartime fishing stories to life. He will share stories of fishermen, who secretly escaped from camp under cover of darkness to fish some of the Eastern Sierra's best local fishing holes. More: 878-2194, [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).
- **Notice of environmental assessment for cultural resources restoration project** (BLM, 8/18/09) The BLM Bishop Field Office will be preparing an EA to address the restoration of a damaged petroglyph site around the Crater Mountain area near Big Pine. More: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/august/CC0982\\_cratermtn\\_EA.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/august/CC0982_cratermtn_EA.html)
- **Survey reveals mercury contamination in fish nationwide** (DOI, 8/19/09). Scientists detected mercury contamination in every fish sampled in 291 streams across the country, according to a USGS. Fish in the western U.S. contain elevated levels of mercury as an effect of mining. More: [http://www.doi.gov/news/09\\_News\\_Releases/081909.html](http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/081909.html)

- **Note upcoming activities with details later:** Two "stewardship" days sponsored by Mammoth Trails (ROLG is a member) and Friends of the Inyo. **Sept 12**, Coastal Cleanup Day, involves lake shore cleanup, Mammoth Lakes basin and Convict Lake; **Sept 28**, National Public Lands Day, work day/clean up at the Inyo Craters (off the Scenic Loop in Mammoth).
- **The Mt. Whitney Hut Celebrates 100 Years** – A small public celebration is being held on Thursday, August 27, 10 a.m., at the Whitney Portal Day Use Area, 13 miles west of Lone Pine at the end of Whitney Portal Rd. Parking limited. RSVPs and more info: KC Wylie, 876-6214 or kwylie@fs.fed.us.
- **Volunteer opportunity:** Assist with **bird banding, data collection, and outreach programs in Devils Postpile National Monument**. September 3, 9, 17, 20, 29, 6:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Volunteer stipends and travel costs. More: Aimee Hanna Park Ranger 934.8170 or Aimee\_Hanna@nps.gov
- **M L Library and Bridgeport Library** (via videoconferencing), Tuesday, September 1, 5:30 p.m. Join a community conversation about the future of California's water with local author and water expert David Carle and state water expert Craig Paterson. More: Ana, 934-4777, [www.monocolibraries.org](http://www.monocolibraries.org)