



Friends of Hope Valley Newsletter

Spring, 2008

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For the preservation of the scenic, recreational, and historic use of Hope Valley and Alpine County's eastern Sierra slope.

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Winter Recreation Plan

Jim Donald

On March 1, 2008, the Carson Ranger District of the Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) closed Forestdale Road to snowmobiles in the first implementation of the Winter Recreation Plan. The closure extends from Red Lake to Forestdale Divide and will be in effect until Blue Lakes Road has insufficient snow for snowmobile use. Enforcement actions by the Forest Service and Alpine County began March 3, 2008.

The Friends of Hope Valley worked hard and long with the Forest Service and feels comfortable with this development. Non-motorized users can again enjoy the beautiful north facing slopes from the Divide down to Forestdale Meadow without the jolting ruts and tracks in the snow and the buzz of noisy out-of-bounds machines high marking the wilderness.

The plan will be implemented on a stepped basis as funding and approval by other agencies are established. Funds for the Red Corral non-motorized area are pending as is closure of the northwest side of Highway 88. Motorized users can expect improvements in parking facilities at Blue Lakes Road while similar improvements at Centerville Flat are pending.

FOHV needs volunteer grant writers to assist with funding possibilities. Contact us at:
Friends of Hope Valley
PO Box 431
Markleeville, California 96120
or
d.waldear@gmail.com.

East Fork Strategy

Debbi Waldear

The East Fork of the Carson River strategy lays out a solid plan of action for enhancing the management of and a detailed vision for the future of this river and surrounding area. It outlines recommendations for improved quality of recreation experiences, ecosystem functions, transportation and the scenic beauty of the area. The strategy provides information for site-specific decisions, sets priorities for management actions, and identifies problematic situations. The strategy makes recommendations, not final decisions. Any action taken will go through the NEPA process allowing opportunities for public comment. For more information and to stay current with this process go to:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/archived/2007/East_Carson_River_Strategy_061907.pdf

Forest Service Route Designation Process

Debbi Waldear

The rapid expansion of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in national forests and grasslands is impacting the natural and cultural resources of federal lands. Unmanaged OHV use has resulted in unplanned roads and trails, erosion, watershed and habitat degradation, and impacts on cultural resource sites. The Forest Service is revising its national policy governing the use of wheeled motor vehicles to develop a system of roads, trails and areas designated for motor vehicle use to minimize or eliminate the undesirable impacts from



Friends of Hope Valley
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The Friends of Hope Valley want to thank you for your past support. We hope that you will continue your membership in this non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic, recreational, and scenic values of Hope Valley and Sierra Nevada's eastern slope in Alpine County. With your help we can continue to address the sensitive environmental concerns of the eastern Sierra.



Friends of Hope Valley 2008

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The FOHV email list is used only for the purpose of alerting our members and friends about time sensitive issues.

Friends of Hope Valley is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Please return this form and your tax deductible check to:

Friends of Hope Valley, PO Box 431, Markleeville, CA 96120



Networking in the Eastern Sierra: How to Adapt to Climate Change?

John Barr

The Eastern Sierra Environmental Roundtable meeting was held in Crowley Lake, a small community south of Mammoth, on April 10th. Representatives of environmental organizations from the three counties within the eastern section of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mono, Inyo and Alpine Counties, attended the meeting. The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) organized the meeting. In addition to the MLC there were representatives from the California Native Plant Society, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, Owens Valley Committee, Sierra Club, Friends of Inyo, UC Cooperative Extension for Inyo and Mono Counties, and CalTrout. Representing the Friends of Hope Valley and the Alpine Watershed Group, I was the only participant from Alpine County.

The meeting was centered around the Sierra Nevada Alliance presentation: "Adapting Resource Management to Address Climate Change". The questions for us all were - questions that the FOHV's BOD is struggling with: What are our organizations doing to address climate change?

We are all focusing on reducing greenhouse gases. The more difficult question is, even under the best emission reduction scenarios and the resultant predicted climate changes: How do we adapt to this change, planning now in order to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations?

Of great value for me was the opportunity to maintain FOHV's relationship with other organizations that are struggling with similar issues, marveling at the magnitude of these issues in counties that dwarf Alpine County in size and populations.

The high lights of the trip into the southern Sierra? The spectacular drive along the Sierra on 395 highway and catching the sunset on Monitor Pass.

Membership

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008 please use the form on the back of this newsletter to do so today.

De Grassi Benefit Concert

Suzanne Barr

The De Grassi Benefit Concert last March 13 was a big success. 87 people attended the night of music and refreshments at the Valhalla Grand Hall at South Lake Tahoe. Those who came early for the VIP performance enjoyed an hour and a half discussion with the artist. He shared many of his secrets about how he produces such beautiful music on a single, acoustic guitar. Alex De Grassi is often cited as one of the world's top fingerstyle, steel-string guitarists.

Thank you to Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley for sponsoring Mr. De Grassi at this very successful evening. All benefits from the concert went to Friends of Hope Valley and the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

We are planning a repeating this concert next year and hope you will join us then.

To familiarize our members with Hope Valley and the surrounding area we are adding an article each issue about a great hike, a cross-country ski/snowshoe jaunt, or interesting destination. We hope you enjoy this article, the first of many to come.

Faye-Luther Trail

Richard Morissette

This trail starts out in Douglas County, Nevada, but quickly enters Alpine County. Alpine County helped fund the completion of the environmental studies needed to upgrade the existing trails and enter them into BLM/USFS trail system. This project that is currently ongoing through the efforts of the Carson Valley Trails Association. This project includes relocating non-sustainable trails, adding new loop trails, and building a connector trail to the Job's Peak Ranch trail which was opened in November 2006. The latter, to be complete in 2008, will connect the two trailheads and offer 3.5 miles of hiking with panoramic views of the Carson Valley.

The existing Faye-Luther Trail System has trails with varied abilities. There are several loops suitable for a stroll and, beyond those, there is a steep main trail that continues 4 miles up the Faye-Luther Canyon. The USFS long-term plan includes an extension beyond this end point that will continue up and over the ridge and connect to the Horse Thief Trail and to the Tahoe Rim Trail at Armstrong Pass.

The 2.4-acre Faye-Luther Trailhead, a popular gateway into the rugged Carson Range, is located at the south end of Foothill Road. The trail is intended not only for hikers and horse owners, but also for a broad range of non-motorized uses. These include backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and biking. The hike is considered moderately strenuous after the first mile, offering breathtaking views of Carson Valley. A doggie bag receptacle is available just beyond the entrance to the trail and your attention to this matter is appreciated.

To reach the trailhead from Alpine County, take Highway 88 north into Carson Valley and turn left at Fairview Road, which turns into Foothill Road. Drive 1.75 miles to the trailhead on the left. A detailed map can be found on the Friends of Hope Valley web site, <http://www.hopevalleyca.com/>, or at the Carson Valley Trails web site, <http://www.carsonvalleytrails.org/FayeLutherTrailMap.pdf>

