August 2019



Beaver Restoration Meetings Invite

Would you like to learn more about beaver restoration, its relevance to riparian/meadow restoration and focal species recovery, and how the Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model could aid in restoration prioritization processes? American Rivers and Truckee River Watershed Council invite you to attend upcoming meetings being convened by The Nature Conservancy, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Institute for Bird Populations, Point Blue Conservation Science, and US Forest Service (Region 5).

The meeting focused on the Carson and Walker River watersheds takes place on **Monday, August 12, 3-5 p.m. at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville**. RSVP here. For the August 14 meeting focused on Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River watershed in Truckee, RSVP here.



Our Newest Monitoring Efforts: Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

In coordination with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, AWG has initiated a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring program to more closely track the water quality in some of Alpine County's most popular summer recreation reservoirs. AWG began these monitoring efforts in late June and plans to continue HAB monitoring through mid-October at Red Lake, Indian Creek, and Wet Meadow reservoirs at least once a month.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are naturally present in waterbodies and are an integral part of our ecosystems. When provided with the right conditions, cyanobacteria can develop into a HAB from excessive growth. Blooms, if stimulated enough, can decrease water quality but are only considered an immediate threat to human and animal health if emitting toxins. Not all cyanobacteria produce harmful toxins, but in rare cases, toxin levels may be concentrated enough to cause rashes, diarrhea, or vomiting. If you see signs of a HAB, such as discolored, pea-green water, surface scum, or floating algae, stay out of the water.

On Monday, July 22 AWG conducted routine sampling at Indian Creek Reservoir. Test results measured levels of cyanotoxin, Microcystins at 4.39. µg/L (micrograms per liter), which is above the 0.8 µg/L Caution Action Trigger level established for posting signs at recreational waters for the protection of human health. South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), who manages the property, **posted caution signs at Indian Creek Reservoir to warn lake users** to stay away from algae and scum in the water and avoid drinking or having pets drink the water.

On Tuesday, July 30 Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board conducted sampling at Red Lake that resulted in a danger level advisory. Test results measured levels of cyanotoxin, Microcystins at 50.7 µg/L, which is above the 20 µg/L Danger Action Trigger level established. California Department of Fish & Wildlife have posted signage at the site to reflect this current status. **Please avoid Red Lake until further notice.**

To stay apprised of these reservoirs' current safety statuses, please check the Public Health Briefs under the Departments pulldown menu on the www.alpinecountyca.gov webpage (under Health & Human Services; direct link), or you can contact Dr. Richard Johnson directly at rjohnson@alpinecountyca.gov if you would like to subscribe to his distribution list for Public Health Briefs.



Have You Calendared Creek Day 2019?

Please plan to join us for the 20th annual Markleeville Creek Day on the morning of Saturday, September 21. Part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup, we will also have weeding, willow planting, and creek restoration projects. On this third Saturday in September, you and your family can be part of an international effort to keep trash from flowing into our waterways. It's a joyful community opportunity to be part of making our rivers healthier.

Click here for the flyer, or click here to RSVP.

Many local businesses and entities support AWG in hosting this workday. We would like to especially thank the Sagebrush Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their generous Conservation Grant and Bently Heritage for being a Creek Day sponsor.

Taking Down Yellow Star Thistle



A huge thank you to the super group of volunteers who came together on July 31 to fill 11 bags with yellow star thistle at the Washoe Woodfords Weed Pull. We appreciated the opportunity to help the Washoe Environmental Protection Department with removing this highly invasive weed at the Hung A Lel Ti community.

Yellow star thistle is an annual herb native to the Mediterranean region. It can be identified by its irregular stem and yellow, spiny flower. In California, yellow star thistle is an invasive and noxious weed. It degrades native plant habitat, prevents the grazing of domestic animals in

rangelands, and can act as a physical barrier to indigenous animal movement in wildlands. If you see yellow star thistle on your property, remove it by pulling as close to the roots as possible (wear gloves!).



Yellow starthistle by Martin Jambon is licensed under CC by 2.0

Upcoming Events

View on AWG website

Volunteer Appreciation Event at Kirkwood
Saturday, August 10, 1 p.m.

Alpine Watershed Group Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 5:30-7 p.m.
Woodfords Indian Education Center
Hung A Lel Ti
Please join us for a presentation by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board staff on the West Fork Carson River Vision Project. All are welcome!
To receive updates on this project, sign up for the “West Fork Carson River” email list here.

Markleeville Creek Day
Saturday, September 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Meet at Alpine County Library in Markleeville, help at your selected project site, then return to the park to celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy a taco bar.
Flyer
RSVP



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