

THE  
JEFFREY PINE JOURNAL

*Newsletter of Friends of the Inyo*

FALL-WINTER 2005-06

VOLUME III, ISSUE II



*Snow laden Jeffrey Pine*

Summer  
Stewardship

*From erasing illegal  
vehicle damage  
to restoring alpine lakes*

Buttermilking

*Who knew you could  
have so much fun in the  
frontcountry?*

Forest  
Ancients

*The patience  
of conifers*

*Working to preserve the public lands and wildlife of the Eastern Sierra*

# THE Jeffrey Pine Journal

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FALL-WINTER 2005/06

## Newsletter of Friends of the Inyo



Post Office Box 64  
Lee Vining, California 93514

275 S. Main St.  
Bishop, California 93514  
(760) 873-6400

[www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org)

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**Friends of the Inyo is a local non-profit conservation organization dedicated to preserving the ecological, cultural and recreational values of the Eastern Sierra's public lands.**



**Printed on Recycled Paper**

### The Cover Photo



Snow laden Jeffrey Pine. Photo by Stephen Ingram.  
[www.ingramphoto.com](http://www.ingramphoto.com)

The Jeffrey Pine Journal, a biannual publication of Friends of the Inyo, is named after the Eastern Sierra's most aromatic conifer, *Pinus jeffreyi*. The Jeffrey Pine Journal is distributed free to members of Friends of the Inyo and is available at various locations in the Eastern Sierra and beyond. Written material and images herein are the sole property of Friends of the Inyo or are used with exclusive permission. We welcome submissions of artwork, writing and field observations.

**Please send all submissions and comments to Paul McFarland at [paulmc@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:paulmc@friendsoftheinyo.org). Thanks.**

# President's Message

by Frank Stewart

I'd like to start out my message by welcoming all of you new members who have joined us since the last issue. Our membership numbers continue to grow, and we appreciate your support. We are also seeing continued growth in the support of Friends of the Inyo by our business community. These local business people recognize the fundamental principle that conservation and stewardship are the building blocks of our local economy. If we preserve the things that attract folks here for the first time, we guarantee that they will return in the future. Basically, don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg!

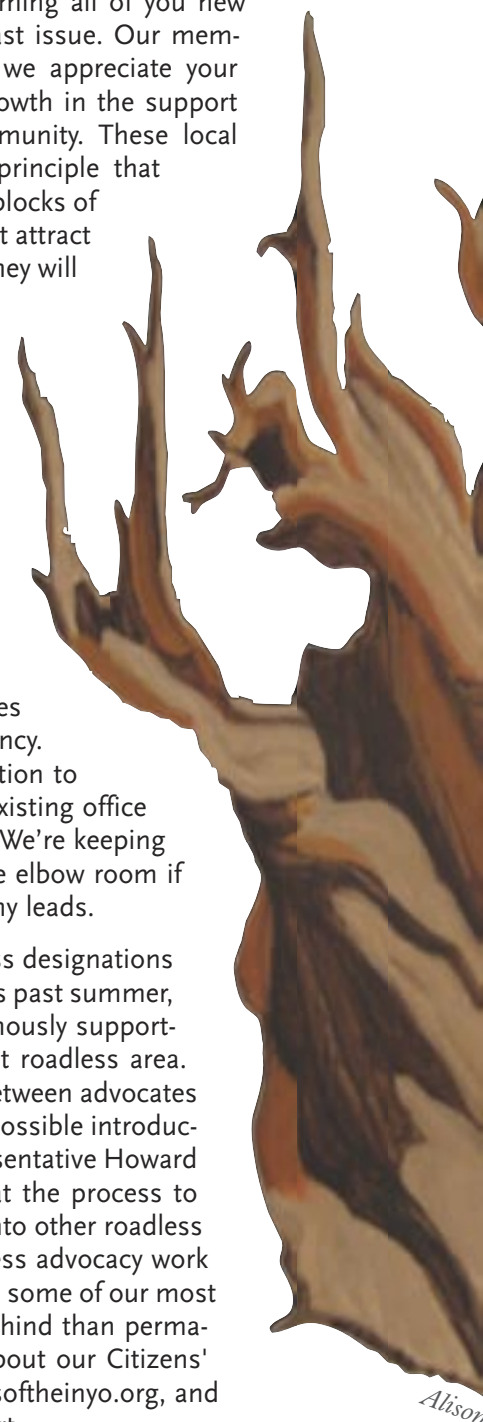
I would also like to welcome a new member to the Friends of the Inyo Board of Directors, Mary Handel. Our old friend and steady "wild places" defender, James Wilson, returns to our Board of Directors for another tour of duty.

Down at the office, our Executive Director Paul McFarland and his able staff of Jamie Anderson, Darren Malloy and Todd Vogel continue to pump out the work projects, news articles and research projects with award winning efficiency. I am very proud of their hard work and dedication to our mission. Fitting that whole crew into our existing office space is getting to be a little bit of a challenge. We're keeping an eye out for an office space with a little more elbow room if we can afford it. Give us a call if you know of any leads.

We are continuing our work to seek wilderness designations for the Eastern Sierra's last best wild places. This past summer, the Mono County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported wilderness designation for the Hoover West roadless area. This proposal was a compromise worked out between advocates on both sides of the issue. We look forward to possible introduction of a wilderness bill for the Hoover by Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon sometime soon. We hope that the process to find consensus between "factions" carries on into other roadless areas on the east side. In my view the wilderness advocacy work that Friends of the Inyo is involved in represents some of our most important work. What better legacy to leave behind than permanently protected wild places? To learn more about our Citizens' wilderness proposals go to our website, [friendsoftheinyo.org](http://friendsoftheinyo.org), and learn how you can become involved in this effort.

Let's hope for another wet water year with a deep snowpack, all leading to another spring wildflower bloom. After all, we have all those wildflower seeds lying around from last year. Two in a row would be really nice, don't you think?

**Frank Stewart works as a general building contractor and tries to get out into the wild every chance he gets.**



Alison



# The Forest Ancients

by Paul McFarland

From just looking at the title, some may think we're going to dive into tales of those storied ancients that inhabit America's largest desert mountain range, the gnarled bristlecone pines of the White Mountains. Sorry to disappoint, but this column is dedicated to just plain old conifers – the pines, firs and junipers that often get overlooked while exploring our Eastern Sierra wildlands.

The other day, as a friend and I were sitting on a bluff watching the waters of Lee Vining Creek tumble by, I noticed how much our desert creeks change in the Fall. I'm not talking about the fiery foliage of fall type of change, but a more subtle change that shifts our attention to members of our desert and mountain forest communities that, frankly, often get lost in the creekside hubbub of quaking aspen leaves and crimson columbine.

Thanks to the wind, the yellow and red leaves were gone leaving only scraggly limbs on the quaking aspen and black cottonwood. What stood out now from the stark tangle of grey cottonwood and aspen limbs was the deep bright green of the Jeffrey, pinyon and lodgepole pines – the conifers. What better time to get to know the true ancients of our desert and mountain forests than in the winter?

Conifers, often called "evergreens", are distinguished from other trees by their long, thin needle- or scale-like leaves and, most importantly, by their cones – the woody, reproductive structures that house the conifer's seeds. Broadleaved trees (aka angiosperms or flowering trees), such as cottonwoods, maples, oaks and willows, stand apart from conifers not only by their flattened, broad leaves, but by their flowers. Conifers lack anything like the classic flower.

Go check out your nearest conifer and see for yourself. Try as you might, all you'll find among the evergreen foliage are woody female seed cones or small, yellow orange male pollen cones. No petals or sepals here.

While the rest of the natural world is closing up shop – dropping its leaves, going into hibernation, flying to Mexico, etc., etc. – our local conifers seem to just go about their business.

And rightly so. Just like the old man who cantankerously begins a tale with, "You think this winter is bad? Well back in my day...", the conifers have literally seen it all.

Conifers have inhabited the earth for over 300 million years, while the angiosperms or flowering trees are relative newcomers. Fossil evidence shows they have only been around for a mere 75 million years. Perhaps more than 225 million years of watching ice ages come and go, continents roam around like puzzle pieces, dinosaurs and giant dragonflies evolve and go extinct, and fuzzy little rats grow into upright apes with chainsaws and binoculars has bestowed upon the conifers a bit more maturity.

When the going gets tough in winter, the conifers don't biologically "freak out" and drop their leaves like the new trees on the block – the relatively adolescent flowering trees. The conifers seem to just sigh, hold tight and patiently wait out the wind, ice and snow.

Maybe this patience born out of hundreds of millions of years of life on our earth, is why conifers – like the bristlecone pines – are some of the only trees to inhabit our otherwise barren, windswept mountain ridges. What is a little five month freeze to a tree whose ancestors survived being browsed by brontosaurus?

There is definitely a lesson in patience to be learned from our cone-bearing neighbors, so take this winter to discover something new. Smell a pine and count some needles for a change. After all, they don't call them evergreens for nothing.

Log on to [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org) for a guide to the conifers of the Eastern Sierra.

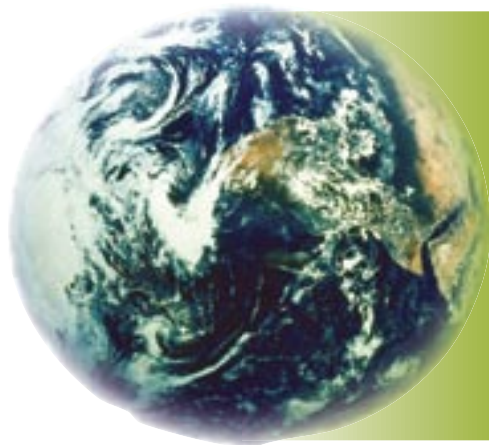


photo: Paul McFarland

*Bristlecone pines await the late arrival of winter on Black Mountain in the southern White Mountains*



# RUN FOR THE HILLS



*Second Annual  
Friends of the Inyo*

## EARTH DAY

## FUN RUN

ENJOY EARTH DAY WHILE RUNNING

THROUGH THE MAGICAL BUTTERMILKS...

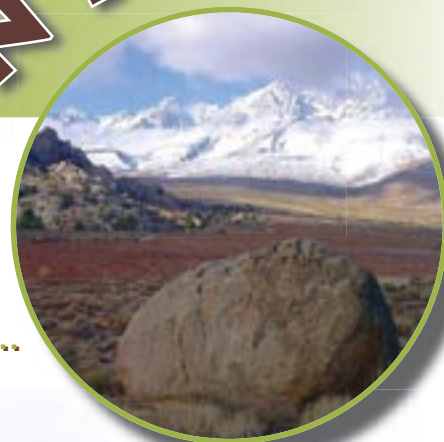


photo: Jamie Anderson

**WHEN:** April 22nd, 2006

**START TIME:** 9 a.m.

**PRE-REGISTRATION:** \$20 (includes running shirt). All participants pre-registered by April 1st are guaranteed a custom graphic tech-wear running T-shirt from Patagonia.

**REGISTRATION:** 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. \$25 all participants registering on race day.

**LOCATION:** Take HWY 168 heading west out of Bishop for 7 miles. Raffle Prizes and FUN galore.  
Sign up online at [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org)  
or send in registration form below to:

Friends of the Inyo  
275 S. Main St., Suite C  
Bishop, CA 93514

.....

Name _____	Address _____			
Event	10K	5K	Run	Walk
Age _____	Male _____	Female _____	T-shirt size	S    M    L    XL
Pre-registration of \$20 enclosed _____	I also want to become a member at \$25 _____ \$50 _____		(use enclosed envelope) \$100 _____	
Total enclosed _____				

*We will send you a full application packet in the mail ASAP.*

*Thanks for your continued support!*



# Wilderness Around the World

## *Friends of the Inyo goes international!*

by Jamie Anderson

Thanks to a generous grant from the Wild Foundation and the National Forest Foundation Friends of the Inyo went international this last Fall at the 8th Annual World Wilderness Conference (WWC) held in Anchorage, Alaska. The WWC, the largest international Wilderness Forum, is an intermixing of talks by leading conservation leaders, international delegates, useful workshops and sessions devoted to preserving and maintaining Wilderness around the globe. The WWC is not your typical meeting or conference - it is a Congress of international delegates. The Congress achieved all of its objectives and generated several unexpected results: new protected areas (both native and governmental); new wilderness legislation; increased inter-governmental and organizational cooperation yielding several new initiatives and networks; scores of professionals and volunteers trained in wilderness management, communications, and advocacy; and new funding to safeguard wildlands, wild species and native cultures around the world. Now that's not your usual booze and schmooze.

### World Wilderness Congress

The 8th WWC involved over 1200 delegates from 60 nations and heavily emphasized the role of native peoples and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in protect-

### **"Who needs Wilderness?**

**Civilization needs  
Wilderness."**

*— Ed Abbey*

ing wilderness and wildlands. The 8th WWC also tackled contentious issues, such as the proposed oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I proudly presented the Friends of the Inyo Eastern Sierra Stewardship Project during the sessions on Stewardship and Citizen involvement. I also presented some success stories of the Wilderness Stewardship project during the Symposium on Science and Stewardship with folks from as far away as Africa's Kruger National Park. I can honestly say that my conversations and networking with the folks I met at the congress will be an important and lasting support network link to our conservation efforts to Wilderness supporters worldwide.

### So what was the point of all this?

What really stands out is the fact that we Americans invented the idea of Wilderness conservation. The world is now using our American Wilderness vision, as outlined in the Wilderness Act of 1964, to save the last wild places left on Earth...Now that is certainly something to be proud of!



photo: John Dittl

*The National Landscape Conservation System includes local lands, such as the Granite Mountain Wilderness Study area.*

The WWC Delegates worked hard, debated, and eventually approved a targeted list of 45 resolutions that addressed broad conservation concerns, as well as specific areas and issues needing international and local attention and action.

Of particular interest to FOI supporters is Resolution # 23 supporting the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) – a network of over 26 million acres of western public lands managed by the Department of the Interior, including National Monuments and Wilderness Study Areas. Recognizing the critical role the NLCS could play in protecting the deserts of North America, the WWC resolution encourages the BLM to increase support for management of the NLCS by emphasizing long-term protection of existing NLCS units to maintain their biodiversity and other values. Also, the resolution seeks opportunities expand the NLCS in the deserts of North America by adding additional units representing high biodiversity.

### Why is this so important locally?

The Eastern Sierra is home to over 300,000 acres of BLM Wilderness Study Areas. Anyone who has spent any time in the WSAs on the Eastside – the high sagebrush steppe plateaus of the Bodie Hills, the windswept desert of the Volcanic Tablelands or the maze of cliffs, grottos and gulches around Granite Mountain – knows the beauty and wildlife that is at stake in these areas.

The international recognition coming from the WWC can only help us in our work to preserve the public desert wildlands of the Eastern Sierra. To learn more about the international push to preserve the deserts of North America, the NLCS and our own local Wilderness Study Areas, please visit [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org).

*Jamie Anderson is FOI's new Education and Outreach Director. You can reach him at [jamie@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:jamie@friendsoftheinyo.org).*

# A SUMMER OF

by Jamie Anderson

## *FOI Volunteer Stewards Restore Eastside*

### Stewardship Project Totals

**62 campsites removed and rehabbed**  
**1.5 miles of illegal road removed**  
**1.2 miles of OHV damage restoration**  
**336 lbs of trash removed**  
**9 square meters of invasive plants removed**  
**200 bitterbrush planted**  
**12 miles of trail work completed**  
**82 miles of trails surveyed, toured and scouted**  
**204 volunteers engaged**  
**1,472 volunteer hours invested**



**BEFORE:**  
*An illegal  
 fire ring scar  
 in the Gibbs  
 Lake Basin*



**AFTER:**  
*What fire  
 ring scar?*

**T**his summer, Friends of the Inyo (FOI) Volunteer Stewards contributed over 1,400 hours of hard labor and over \$22,000 in volunteer time to the public lands of the Eastern Sierra! From deep Wilderness trail projects and Wilderness restoration patrols to restoring the creeks and rivers of the Upper Owens River watershed, we had an incredible summer of stewardship.

It seems like a blur now; picks and shovels flying, ash and dirt stained clothes, blown out gloves, hand saws sharpened, trails restored, smiling faces, campsites and fire rings removed, trash bags overflowing, and long days spent giving back to the public lands we call home. What a great summer indeed. With the snow pack still holding on far into July, we had a late start, yet it seemed like every weekend we had another great project to sink our shovels into.

It all started with a glorious day in June by erasing off-road vehicle tracks near Winnedumah Rock in the Inyo Mountains Wilderness; we restored an old road bed with natural features to discourage Wilderness incursions into this magnificent desert range. With stewardship trips every weekend after that, we were going full steam ahead all summer long with projects mainly in the northern zone of the Inyo National Forest, thanks to the vision, cooperation, and leadership of Inyo National Forest Wilderness Steward, Rick Laborde.

From the alpine Glacier Canyon fire rings to the Coastal Clean Up along Bishop Creek, we made a difference. Yet, the unsung heroes

were YOU - the volunteers that sacrificed your weekends, got out of bed early on Saturday mornings, hiked all day, lifted heavy rocks, swung your picks and shovels with a purpose to restore and rehabilitate the trails, rivers, creeks, and meadows that are so important to all of us.

The creeks and critters applauded as illegal OHV tracks were raked out and roads were restored. The meadows and lakes rejoiced with every illegal campsite rehabilitated and fire ring destroyed. This summer we spoke for the things that have no voice. We spoke through our actions, and our actions were heard. From the meeting rooms of our local Supervisors to the international World Wilderness Congress, we were heard loud and clear. As we say here at FOI, "actions speak louder than words," and our actions made a difference.

Thanks to the over 200 volunteers who came out to protect and preserve the public lands of the Eastern Sierra. You know who you are, and we know that without your help, none of this could have happened. You are the backbone of what we do, and you are on the front lines of conservation here in the Eastern Sierra and beyond. We applaud your efforts and thank you all for your time, energy and smiles. To learn how you, your group or organization can get involved with the Eastern Sierra Stewardship Corps or to share your idea for a Stewardship project that needs to happen, please call Jamie at 873-6500. See ya soon, with shovels in hand!



# STEWARDSHIP

*from Wilderness Patrols to OHV blockades*

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT	Volunteers Hrs	TOTAL
✓ Winnedumah Monument Rd. Closure Inyo Mountain Wilderness		10
✓ Volunteers (7 hrs)	70	
✓ Fish Creek Valley Restoration and Trail Project	7 volunteers (54 hrs)	378
✓ Campsite and Fire Ring Inventory (removal) of 7 Lakes Basin	10 volunteers (7 hrs)	70
✓ Sherwin Creek / Valentine Lakes Wilderness Volunteer Patrols	5 volunteers (10 hrs)	50
✓ Owens Valley Tribal Environmental Youth Camp	25 local youth (3 hrs)	75
✓ Mono Lake Committee OE Olympic Academy	15 volunteers (6 hrs)	90
✓ Mono Lake Committee OE Church of Ocean Park	17 volunteers (6 hrs)	102
✓ Fern Lakes Trail and Campsite Restoration	3 volunteers (5 hrs)	15
✓ Sherwin Creek Trail Day and Lakes Basin Inventory	3 volunteers (4 hrs)	12
✓ Gibbs Lake and Wilderness Tour Project	5 volunteers (5 hrs)	25
✓ Walker Lake Restoration Project	15 volunteers (6 hrs)	90
✓ Dana Lakes and Glacier Canyon Wilderness Clean up	6 volunteers (7 hrs)	42
✓ Coastal Clean Up Day Bishop Creek	38 volunteers (6 hrs)	228
✓ Upper Owens River Headwaters Stewardship Project	30 volunteers (6 hrs)	180
○ Mt. Tom Bitterbrush revegetation project	15 volunteers (3 hrs)	45

Total Project hrs 1,472 x \$15 (federal volunteer equivalency rate) = \$22,125 invested



*A member of Owens Valley Tribal Environmental Youth Camp pitched in to restore off-road vehicle impacts in June Lake*



*MLC Outdoor Education students partner with FOI to haul ash and trash away from the shore of Little Walker Lake*

*Partnering with the Student Conservation Association in the John Muir Wilderness*



## Special Thanks

to the National Forest Foundation, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, California Trout, Inyo National Forest, Bishop BLM and the Mono Lake Committee OE Program for their partnership and support.

# Buttermilking with Seventh Graders

*Discovering the wild joys of the “frontcountry”*

by Todd Vogel

**N**ot far west of Bishop, between the Owens Valley and the peaks of the High Sierra, is an area many locals know well as a place rich with opportunities for pretty much any outdoor pursuit. The Buttermilk Country, perhaps so named for the early pioneers who raised dairy cows up there, has something for just about anyone. This fall, in a quest for a place to take a group of seventh graders for an easy late season backpacking trip - their first ever - I led a great four day backpacking trip across the Upper Buttermilk.

One probably wouldn't ordinarily think of the Buttermilks as a backpacking destination. After all, it is crossed by a rough, high-clearance road, but otherwise is trail-less and, more significantly, it is overshadowed by impressive peaks like Mt. Humphreys, Basin Mountain and Mt. Locke, each a compelling destination of its own. On the other hand the Upper Buttermilk Country gazes down upon the town of Bishop, beckoning with not-too-distant views of crags and creeks, glacial cirques and hanging forests and the promise that, though close to town, solitude and adventure can be easily found, even with seventh graders in tow.

I'd driven the Upper Buttermilk road many times and climbed and skied many a peak up there, but I have to admit it had never occurred to me to take four days to walk a distance that I'd previously covered under my own power in a matter of hours! But what a delight this hike is, a perfect introduction to backpacking and the near-



Photo: Todd Vogel

*Who knew you could have so much fun ‘outside’ of the mountains?*

backcountry, especially for young people. This trip is not quite “just out the backdoor” and has a fine wilderness feel to it (but isn't Wilderness), just the thing for my young novices. We started out behind Aspendell, up the old road that cuts across the moraine behind Intake 2. It's rough enough to feel like a trail; new comers don't know the difference but do appreciate the room to walk two or three across. Within feet of our school bus numerous deer were spotted, and a Golden Eagle sparred with some ravens.

Our next day's itinerary took us over to Grouse Mountain, a seemingly non-descript peak that from the valley blends in with the higher peaks of the Sierra Crest. But from the slopes and summit of the peak the story changes with views in all directions and interesting trees and rock formations. With some scrambling, the easiest way up is from the south. Continuing on, my seventh graders got a taste Eastern Sierra cross country walking: wild rose guarded the way as we loosely followed McGee Creek down to our second camp near the northwest side of Grouse Mountain.

A minor storm on the last day gave the group a taste of winter and an amazing sunrise to end the trip. An easy downhill walk took us back to our waiting bus and the civilization of the Buttermilk Boulders. Now I look out my living room window in town and know that an area I thought I knew well still has many more secrets to reveal.

*Long time Eastern Sierra mountain guide, Todd Vogel, is Friends of the Inyo's new Wilderness Stewardship Coordinator. To get your time in helping the Wilderness, contact him at [todd@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:todd@friendsoftheinyo.org)*



Photo: Todd Vogel

*Overlooking the Owens Valley from the peak of Grouse Mountain*



# A Word from our Friends

## *Returning Nature's Favors*

by Gretel Enck

Last week I was walking around in the Joshua Tree forest of Lee Flat. As I hiked, I thought about shrikes, fascinated by their gruesome habit of pinning prey to a spike. I once found a lizard impaled on a fence barb and wondered if that's how the fence lizard got its name. I remembered that Wallace Stegner mentioned this phenomenon in *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*; evidently there are lizards, shrikes, and barbed wire in Saskatchewan. Years ago, I was out with a fellow ranger on patrol on the Racetrack road in Death Valley. He was educating me about this particular habit of the shrike and joked that he hoped not to encounter a really big shrike. I speculated what a flock could do if so motivated. Among the spiky Joshua Trees, I laughed at myself and my meandering mind.

Another day, I took the back road to the dump here in Independence. I followed the dirt road south in the mid-day sun, and my eyes caught a flock of birds. As the group of fifty shifted in sync, the sun illuminated white and revealed them as migrating pelicans. I stopped and watched, captivated by the flight of these birds. They circled and rose, doubled back and eventually resumed formation, all with an unexpected finesse. I imagined the choreography of Paul Taylor and the seemingly casual harmonies of The Band. Sunlight as stage. Pelican as acrobat. An ordinary moment as poetry.

This afternoon I'm driving to June Lake for dinner with a friend. I pass the turn-off to the Bald Mountain fire lookout. Hmm. I have time to kill, so I turn my Jeep around and head up the road. From the lookout I see lakes, mountains, the gold of aspens like brushstrokes on a gray and green canvas. Being on top of a mountain always lends a delicious perspective – especially a mountaintop that is sparsely populated. I remember other mountains, the lessons; I remember with gratitude, the teachers. A raven rides by on a thermal. Someday I will speak her language.

I am reading a book that I bought from East Side Books' dollar stand. It's called *On the Loose* and was published by

the Sierra Club in 1966. It was written by two young brothers named Terry and Renny Russell. They documented their Everett Ruess -style adventures around California and the Colorado Plateau through photographs, quotes, and poetry. The magic of the book lies in its utterly unprofessional and raw experiencing of the outside world as internal journey. The poignancy is heightened in David Brower's afterward describing Terry's drowning death on the Green River a few months after the book was accepted for publishing.



*Gretel Enck is a Park Guide at Manzanar National Historic Site. She hiked White Mountain on July 17, 2004*

The book reminds me to appreciate the inner flights that occur every time I let my discombobulated mind have a little free time surrounded by air and sky, birds, plants and all the rest – whether I'm hiking or mundanely hauling trash. It's good to be reminded by the passionate ramblings of undisciplined youth of what is important. Terry finished his introduction with these words, "We've been learning to take care of ourselves in places where it really matters. The next step is to take care of the places that really matter. Crazy kids on the loose; but on the loose in wilderness. That makes all the difference."

I arrive at dinner tonight covered with the fine gray volcanic dust that flowed in my Jeep's open windows. Nobody cares; it is accepted that adventure wins out over decorum. In the grace of a sunlit bird and the accomplishment of summing a mountain, I have learned to align my priorities in a way that really allows me to take care of myself. And it does, inevitably, lead to the question of how to return the favor to nature. I contemplate how to take care of this place. Because it does make all the difference.

### Editor's Note

This new section is dedicated to those who make our work possible – our members whose generous gifts of time and money help us help the land.

Many thanks to Gretel, who not only donated many hours to make FOI events and restoration projects a success but freely gave her words for this premier column.

# Pinedrops...notes on issues affecting Eastern Sierra Public Lands

by Paul McFarland & Jamie Anderson

## A tale of two sheep

On the windswept Sierra slopes above Lee Vining, a herd of Federally Threatened Sierra Nevada Bighorn sheep has steadily reinhabited their



historic alpine haunts. A prime example of the success of the Endangered Species Act in recovering declining critters, the slowly increasing numbers of sheep have run smack into a new problem – domestic sheep grazing the Bighorn's traditional habitat.

Recently, locals and biologists have spotted Bighorn on the ridges north of Lundy Canyon, directly adjacent to domestic sheep grazing allotments on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Domestic sheep carry a virulent form of the *Pasturella* bacteria, which, when transferred to Bighorn through direct contact, can lead to significant die-

offs of the wild Bighorn from severe pneumonia. To underscore the enormity of the threat to the Sierra Bighorn, a number the White Mountain's Silver Canyon herd of desert bighorn died this summer from an acute respiratory disease believed to have come from stray domestic sheep wandering up from the Owens Valley.

Enlisting the help of Rep. Richard Pombo, one of Congress's most vitriolic anti-conservationists, the rancher grazing domestic sheep near the Bighorn has fought efforts to protect the Bighorn through modification of the domestic grazing allotments around Dunderberg Peak.

Friends of the Inyo is working to ensure the needs of Sierra Bighorn come first, and the huge public taxpayer investment in restoring the Sierra's bravest mountaineer is not squandered due to political meddling.

## Unraveling the spaghetti

A quick look at the newly released Inyo National Forest route inventory is like staring into a bowl of spaghetti – over 3600 miles of route randomly tumble though our high desert landscape.

Untangling this spaghetti into a manageable and sustainable network of roads is the focus of the ongoing Route

Inventory and Designation Process underway on all Forests in California. Fortunately, the Inyo National Forest is one of leaders in the state on this process.

At the time of this writing, the Forest

Inyo National Forest

*Note the absence of roads where Mono Lake is supposed to be...*

was about to issue a special order limiting vehicle travel to inventoried routes. Calling this the "stop the madness" order, this rule will finally give rangers the ability to cite vehicles for route proliferation and lock in the inventoried network of roads. From here, a public process will ensue to whittle the spaghetti down to a manageable and sustainable network.

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# Pinedrops...notes on issues affecting Eastern Sierra Public Lands

Huge thanks to Chris Kassar and Mike Klapp – Friends of the Inyo's true road warriors. Mike and Chris spent this past summer driving, hiking and biking the Inyo's inventoried route network – documenting redundant routes which threaten wetlands and wildlife and routes that provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation. Check out their work at [www.friendsoftheinyo.org/routesurvey](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org/routesurvey). Here you can use an interactive map to travel the Inyo's frontcountry and download a comprehensive report on the history and impacts of off-road vehicles on public lands.

## Mojo Music Wilderness Festival was a huge hit!

On August 27th and 28th twelve

bands rocked out for Wilderness at Mammoth's finest music venue – Sherwin's Folly –below the scenic backdrop of the John Muir Wilderness. The sunsets were magic, and the music – an amazing mix of bluegrass, reggae, and southern rock-a-billy – was fantastic. A special thanks to: Jill and Ron Orozco of Sherwin's who made it all happen, Mammoth Brewing Company, Lori Michelin, Edisto Gallery, Roberta McIntosh, Valerie Cohen, Kendra Knight, Heidi Goodwin, Mountain Light Gallery, Mammoth Mountaineering, Gretel Enck, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Eagle Optics, Patagonia, Sierra Conservation Project, Sierra

Rock Climbing School, Andy Selters, Wave Rave, Genny Smith Books, The Mountaineers Books, Roxanna Brock, Planet Earth CD's, and all the wonderful bands that jammed all day and night for a great local cause! Thanks to everyone, and see ya next year!

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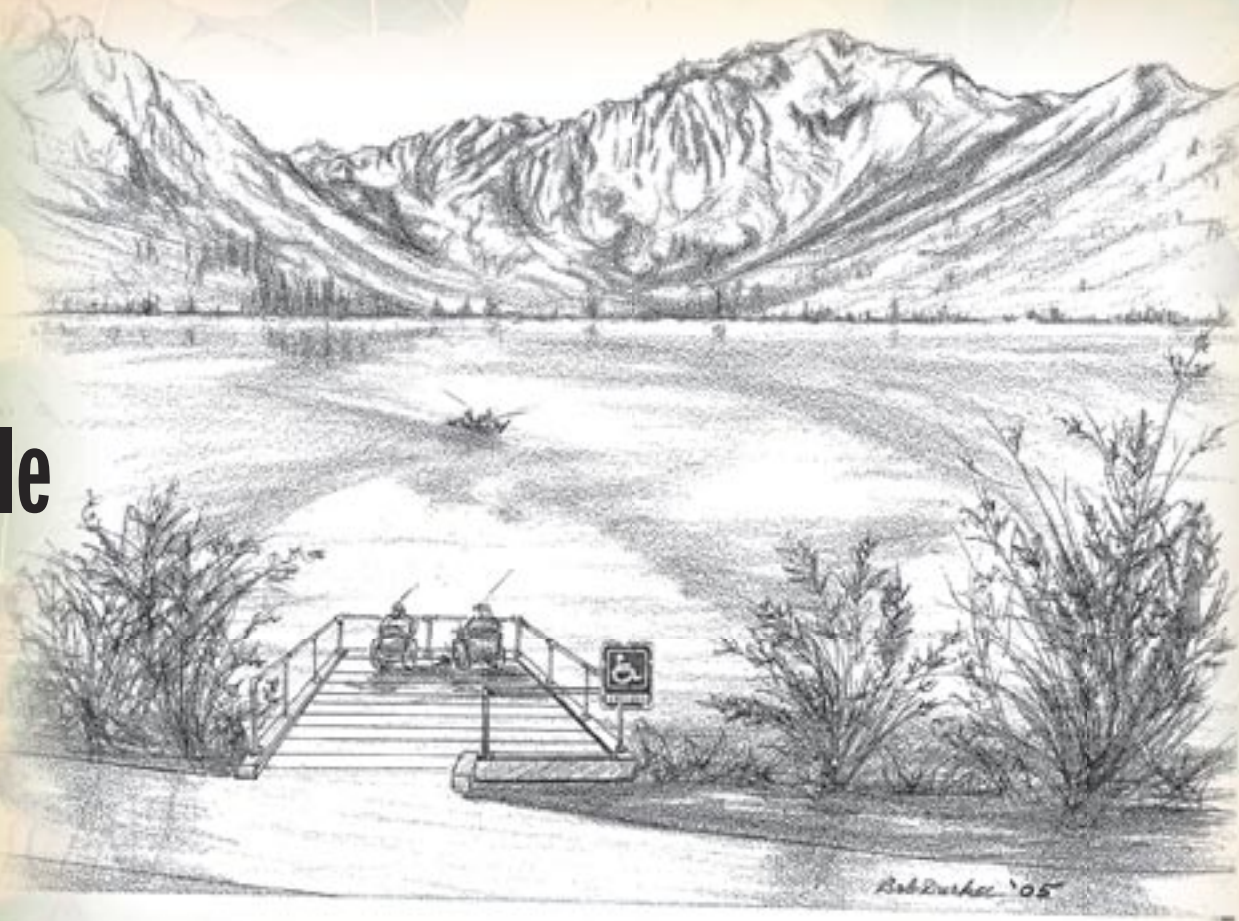
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# Help make Convict Lake accessible to all



*Proposed deck at Convict Lake for handicapped fishermen, women & children*

**Friends of the Inyo have partnered with local Bishop resident Bob Durkee to build  
a wheelchair accessible fishing deck on the shores of Convict Lake.**

**We are looking for donations of materials (concrete, cardboard forms, wood, hardware), know-how, time and cash.**

**Donations may be sent to:  
Friends of the Inyo ATTN: Convict Lake  
275 S. Main Street, Suite C  
Bishop, California 93514**

**For more information and to share ideas, please call Bob Durkee at 760-873-7538 or Paul McFarland at 760-873-6400. All donations are tax-deductible.  
100% of funds collected for the Convict Dock will be used directly for the deck project.**