



April 2018 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting, May 2, 2018, 12:00 noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley. Talk by Bob Hosea from California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bob Hosea, an Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, will talk about a number of Sierra and foothill amphibian species that are now potentially at risk of adverse effects from many different types of in-stream activities. These include the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the California red-legged frog, and the foothill yellow-legged frog (now a candidate for listing species). All three of these species are currently protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) while the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the California red-legged frog are also federally listed species.



California Red-legged Frog

Mr. Hosea will discuss these unique species, the risks to their life cycles posed by various in-stream activities, including OHV operation, various levels of mining activities, and other types of streambed and flow alteration activities. He will talk about what can be done to help protect these species at sensitive life stages. Additionally, he will explain the

Department's streambed alteration permitting program (Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code) as it relates to in-stream gravel mining or other basic streambed alteration activities such as culvert or stream crossing placement, and vegetation management. He is not in a position to discuss the Department's Suction Dredge Moratorium or the status of any proposed regulation.

Mr. Hosea has a B.A. in Biological Sciences from University of the Pacific, Stockton and a Masters of Arts, Biological Sciences from California State University, Sacramento.

Sierrans Awarded Contract with Nevada Irrigation District

The Sierrans have been awarded a contract with the Nevada Irrigation District ("NID") to do a Peer Review of a draft of Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Orr Creek Reservoir Cleaning and Infrastructure Improvement Project. The Project involves the proposed removal of sediment out of the reservoir to improve storage capacity for water and maintenance work on the dam located at the reservoir.

This is a new and exciting opportunity for the Sierrans to do consulting work as a non-profit, to build a relationship with NID, and potentially develop opportunities to work on resource related projects that benefit the community. Potential exists to utilize the education and expertise of our members for projects with government agencies, companies, other non-government agencies ("NGO's").

The work is being subcontracted to several Sierran members with expertise in material handling, geology, permitting (including the California

Environmental Quality Act), and environmental compliance. Any profit from the work will be used for general operating expenses of the Sierrans.

Insurance Policies Established for the Sierrans

The Sierrans have now put in place both Directors and Officers Insurance and General Liability Insurance for the organization. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis.

Sierrans Charitable Fund Scholarship Program

The Sierrans are establishing two \$500 scholarships in 2018 for students (one male and one female) from the Nevada Union Joint High School District. Recipients must attend a 2 or 4-year college, university, or vocational school and be pursuing a career in the resource industries. The resource industries include mining, forestry, agriculture, oil and gas, or recreation. Recipients should have a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Financial need may be a consideration in selecting students.

Paperwork and a fund were sent to the Nevada Union Joint High School District Board of Trustees to establish the scholarships. The District Scholarship Committee will administer the application process and select the students. A Sierrans member will present the award at the scholarship awards night each year. Students will be asked to attend one of our monthly meetings to discuss their proposed career goals and objectives and how they plan to use the scholarship.

Lunches at Membership Meetings and the Sierrans Scholarship

In order to fund the scholarship program outlined above, we will be asking for a suggested donation of \$10 from each member partaking in lunch provided by the Sierrans at our membership meetings. Any donations received will be used to fund the expense of the lunch with any remaining amount deposited into the Sierrans for Responsible Resource Development Charitable Fund account to help fund the two scholarships. These donations are tax deductible and forms will be available at the membership meeting for members to document the donation for tax purposes.

Sierrans' 2018 Calendar Now Available

The Sierrans' 2018 Calendar is available. They come in a 8.5-inch x 5.5-inch format. Prices have been reduced to \$6 for sales of any remaining calendars. Pick up your calendar at one of our meetings or contact us by email or phone.

Potential New Rulemaking for Backfilling of Open Pit Surface Mining Operations for Metallic Minerals

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) is holding a pre-rulemaking workshop and is looking at revising rules pertaining to performance standards for backfilling excavations and re-contouring lands disturbed by open pit surface mining operations for metallic minerals. The workshop will be held on May 9th between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at California Tower, 3737 Main Street, Victoria Room \$05, Riverside California.

2018 Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership or join the Sierrans for 2018. Individual/Family Membership and Corporate Membership forms can be found at www.sierrans.org. Checks and memberships forms can be sent by mail to the address below or submitted in person at our membership meetings. Forms can also be submitted by email and payment made through our website via PayPal.

Individual membership annual dues are as follows:

Regular membership - \$35 per year
Senior membership - \$25 per year
Junior/Student membership - \$10 per year
Family membership - \$50 per year

Corporate membership annual dues are as follows:

Bronze - \$250 per year
Silver - \$500 per year
Gold - \$1,000 per year
Platinum - \$5,000 per year

Contact Us

Contact us at motherlodemonitor@sierrans.org or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.