



Community Development

US Fish & Wildlife/BOS workshop - The US Fish & Wildlife Service will conduct a workshop **Dec. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m.** at the Mono Supervisors meeting to review proposed listing of sage grouse as a threatened species, with critical habitat affecting about 82% of private lands in Mono County (see attached map). County residents are urged to attend and request an extension of the comment period.

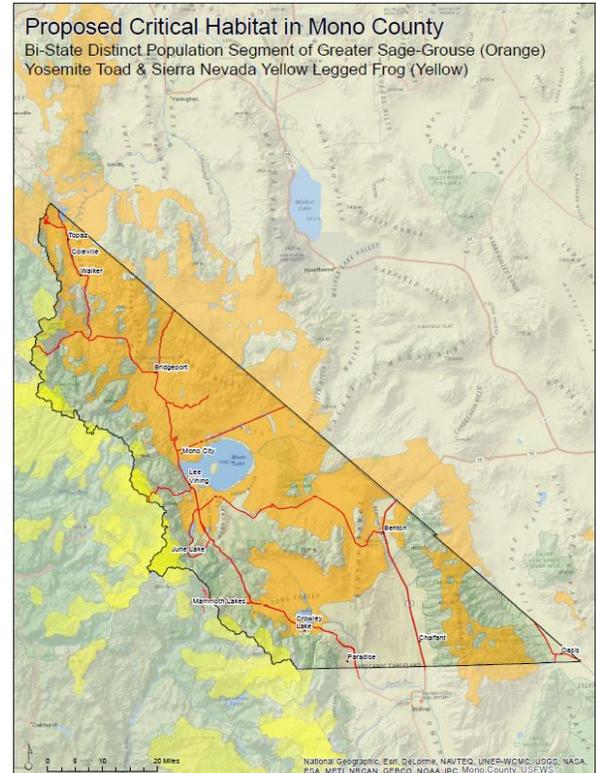
RPAC mailing costs - In ongoing efforts to reduce costs of mailing RPAC notifications, beginning in January 2014 meeting agendas will be sent via website “newsletters” rather than postal mail. The exceptions are attendees who specifically request postal mailing. To continue receiving print mailings, send written request to PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 or call 760-924-1804. Subscribe via email by going to monocounty.ca.gov / email subscriptions / select RPAC.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, (760) 924-1800

Home Energy Efficiency Workshop – Building Official Tom Perry and co-sponsor Sierra Eco Systems, assisted by Associate Analyst Wendy Sugimura, and Office Assistant Cedar Barager, organized a Home Energy Efficiency Workshop Nov. 22 in Mammoth Lakes that attracted 33 public attendees, a good turnout by Mono County standards. Two speakers from UC Davis and the Oregon Institute of Technology, who are leading experts in the geothermal industry, presented detailed information about geothermal space conditioning and water heating systems. The geothermal contractor, Sierra Eco Systems, had an interactive Q/A session that was productive, as many in the audience were curious about geothermal systems and asked lots of questions. Contractors appeared interested in offering this type of system to their clients. The timing of this workshop was good, as the California Energy Commission remains steadfast in its mandate that all new construction in California must be zero net energy for residential by the year 2020 and commercial by 2030.

Vanpool seeks riders – Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA), which provides public transit services town-to-town and in-town throughout the region, operates a commuter vanpool daily from Bishop to Mammoth. The vanpool departs Bishop at 7 a.m. and Mammoth at 5 p.m. For several years County employees from Community Development, Social Services, Environmental Health and Public Health have been using this convenient, comfortable and inexpensive alternative to driving a private vehicle. If interested in joining the vanpool, contact Olivia Moreno at 760-924-1840.

CONTACT: CD Ritter, 760-924-1804



County Administrator's Office

Highway 270-Bide Road meeting held – Supervisors Tim Fesko, Jeff Walters, Stacey Simon and I met with representatives of Caltrans, State Parks and (via phone) Bureau of Land Management to discuss improvement of State Highway 270. Thank you to Stacy and Jeff for understanding the history of the road.

Cal Trans will be conferring with their attorneys to review material provided by the County which shows their ownership of the road. In the meantime, Public Works will be working with State Parks local maintenance staff to review options for a short term improvement to the road. This group will meet again in mid January to continue efforts to improve the road for one of the County's most historic tourist attractions.

CONTACT: Jim Leddy (707) 529-4510

Supervisor Fesko opens Meadow Cliff up for Thanksgiving community dinner – Supervisor Tim Fesko opened up the Meadowcliff Restaurant on Thanksgiving to host community members who looking to for Thanksgiving meal with neighbors and friends. Supervisor Fesko has hosted a haven for those unable to travel or who had last minute travel plan change. Supervisor Fesko and his wife, Mary, were expecting close to 20 people from across the Antelope Valley.

Shout out to Supervisor T4 for community spirit in the AV!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

Mono County seeing film permit activity - Film permits for three major vehicle commercials are in the works for this week and next. This is always a challenge at this time of year as Economic Development staff works with scouts and producers to secure locations that balance the clients' need for "snowy scenic back roads" and realistic access to those areas, should we be fortunate enough to get one of those major pre-Christmas storms.

Mono County Visitors Guide in final stages - Staff is in "lock-down" to finish the 48-page 2014 Mono County Visitor Guide, and the annual Mono County Scenic/Events Calendar and get both to the printer. There are nearly 200 events, workshops, seminars, and festivals in the county every year.

Preminent Travel Guide Editor to tour County - A Fodor's Travel Guide editor is coming to the Eastern Sierra to update the pre-eminent travel guidebook's California content (both online and for print); Alicia Vennos is touring her through the county on December 19th.

CONTACT: Alicia Vennos, (760) 709-1149

Information Technology

Digital 395 - Work is progressing and starting to wrap up. In June Lake, conduit installation is complete and all fiber has been placed with splicing and testing scheduled to be complete next week. All Walker and Mammoth anchors are wired and spliced. Construction in Benton is pending coordination with a local landowner. Mono County is expecting service sometime in December.

Chalfant Cell Tower - Conversations between AT&T, Supervisor Stump, Scott Burns, and Nate Greenberg are in progress with AT&T reviewing and evaluating several different potential sites in the community.

Mammoth Lakes IT - Significant progress has been made in IT services and infrastructure improvements at the Town over the past several weeks. PCs and servers have been replaced at the Town's main offices, and work is underway to upgrade all remote sites in December. Last week also marked a landmark event for the Town, with the online payment portal for TOT & TBID going live.

IT is happy to welcome two new and extremely talented staff members. Neil Pieterse joined IT last month, formerly working in IT at MMSA, and Andy Liu joined two weeks ago coming from a charter school district in the Oakland area. In their short tenure with the County they have already proven very valuable.

CONTACT: **Nate Greenberg, (760)**
924-1819

Sheriff's Office

On Saturday, November 23, 2013, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team welcomed the local community, distinguished donors and guests to the dedication and open house of their new building. Because of all the donations that have been made over recent years, the new SAR building was made possible. As the dedication event started, SAR Team President, Dan Corning, took the stage,

welcomed the roomful of guests, and simply said, "We couldn't have done this without you." He introduced the first speaker, Sheriff Ralph Obenberger. "I would like to welcome each and every one of you to a very special day in the history of the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team. The SAR Team is a fantastic group of individuals that put their safety at risk, not to be patted on the back, but just to help someone in need. I am very proud to call the SAR Team an integral part of the Sheriff's Department. I would like to thank all the donors, whether you donated monetarily; with your building expertise; or in any other way. This project could not have been done without you. Thanks were definitely the theme of the event. SAR Team Vice President, Jutta Schmidt, took the stage and said, "Today is all about thanks. Thank you everyone for making this possible. We've been in the building for a year and still can't believe this is our home. I'm glad this event fell near Thanksgiving – what a perfect way to give thanks. We have to say thank you to the Mammoth Community Water District for the land lease. You can't have a building without a place to put it. Thank you to all the donors whether you gave monetarily or via space, food, ideas and time. It's amazing what people are willing to do to help.



Thank you to our major donors including the Arthur B. Schultz Foundation for their \$250,000 matching grant and to Bev Langston for the \$200,000 donation. It is gratifying to have support of a community like ours. Every dollar or penny or act matters. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Supervisor Byng Hunt, of the Mono County Board of Supervisors, said a few words, "The Mono County Board of Supervisors recently approved a new vehicle purchase for the SAR Team from funds of the old sprung structure. Personally, and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, thank you! Thank you to an amazing job well done. For a volunteer organization, you can't be beat."



To finish off the speaking portion of the event, Greg Dallas of MMSA stood up, "This team puts millions of hours into training and in the field, nothing deters them. They get up and respond to each and every call. There is no team more deserving of having a 'home.' It is a comforting feeling for the team support to their community. Your fundraising efforts, and the fact you got this building accomplished, is a true testament to what you do out there."

All SAR Team members, community members, distinguished donors and guests gathered outside for the official rope cutting ceremony (yes, rope not ribbon – this is SAR after all). The rope was cut and the dedication of the SAR building concluded with lunch, provided by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), great conversation, and many more thank-you's. For more information on the SAR Team, to make a donation, or ways to become a volunteer, please visit www.monosar.org.

CONTACT: Jennifer Hansen, (760) 932-5279

