



P.O. Box 603 • Georgetown, CA 95634 • 530-333-1113

December 9, 2010

Dear Friends,

As the end of autumn approaches, it feels like winter already has a solid grip on the Sierra. Early heavy snow and subsequent rains have doused us, following a long wet spring and the mildest summer I can recall in my 26 years in Georgetown. The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation's all-volunteer board and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our work in our twenty-fourth year of protecting the Sierra Nevada. This coming spring, CSNC will reach a milestone of **25 years of protecting the Sierra Nevada!** We will be celebrating that anniversary in April or May, so watch for your invitation to a special event.

We also ask that you invest once more in the little group that does so much with so little! In the past year, CSNC has been busier than ever before. Some of our campaigns include:

Eldorado National Forest Travel Management – Our litigation challenging the Eldorado's excessive designation of user-created off-road routes continues. The Administrative Record has been completed and filed and we are now waiting for the court's schedule for hearing and arguments.

Motorcycle Enduros – We were successful in defeating more Special Use Permits for destructive motorcycle enduro races on the Georgetown Ranger District. We prevailed citing Forest regulations governing "Cost Recovery." These regulations require the Forest Service to charge applicants for Special Use Permits (SUP) the costs of environmental review, environmental mitigation and monitoring of their events when those reviews require more than 50 hours of staff time. For years, these costs were absorbed in a Forest's normal - and inadequate - budget. As a result, most SUPs were approved with minimal environment review or oversight and little to no mitigation or monitoring by the Forest Service. Last summer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists discovered federally listed red-legged frogs in the Rock Creek watershed, upping the standard of review for the enduros. CSNC appealed an enduro this spring and promised litigation for inadequate review of the event. The Enduro clubs balked at paying and withdrew their application. But they haven't given up on using our public lands for their destructive events. They just want the public to continue paying for them, and convinced Congressman Tom McClintock to

champion their cause, which he has promised to do in the upcoming Legislative session.

Ironically and tragically, a desert off-road racing event gone wrong killed eight people in August. A BLM investigation found Special Use Events were routinely permitted without necessary review, monitoring or supervision.

CEQA - CSNC recently won a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuit against the State Off-Highway Division of State Parks. We had challenged a project proposed by the Eldorado National Forest and funded by the OHV Division that would have added more trails to the already overly dense system of off-road routes. The new routes would have impacted red-legged frogs, as well as a rare population of Nissenan manzanita, already being damaged by off-road vehicles. The project also promoted use on a trail that is currently dumping sediment into Rock Creek, without mitigating the impact of that route. This was a significant win and we are grateful to our attorneys Mike Lozeau and Richard Drury.

Oak Woodland Protection- In 2009 The El Dorado Board of Supervisors adopted an Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) that violates its own General Plan and ensures the fragmentation of oak woodland habitat. It also directs spending of mitigation fees for purchase of conservation easements in remote oak woodlands that are not at risk of development, while allowing development on the habitat most valuable for maintaining wildlife corridors and movement across Highway 50. We sued to stop adoption of the flawed plan and lost in El Dorado County court. Attorney Michael Graf has filed an appeal on our behalf in the Third District Court of Appeals.

These are just a few of the many activities CSNC is currently pursuing. Our volunteers donate thousands of hours of their time, while holding down full-time jobs. CSNC doesn't just challenge agency decisions; we support good projects. There will be opportunities this summer for our members to participate in restoration projects on the Eldorado National Forest. If you are interested in participating, let us know!

CSNC relies on our members for most of our modest annual funding. We hope you will invest in the future of the Sierra, in healthy streams and wildlife habitat and in our quality of life by joining us, renewing your membership or making a year-end donation.

On behalf of CSNC's Board of Directors, I wish you and yours a joyful holiday season and a year full of Wildness!

Sincerely,

Karen Schambach, President

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES OR DONATION

Yes! We want to support CSNC's work to preserve wildlife habitat and quiet recreation opportunity on our public lands.

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Phone _____

Individual Dues \$25 _____

Supporting Dues \$50 _____

Family Dues \$35 _____

Sustaining Dues \$100 _____

Other _____

Please return this form with your check to:

Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation

P.O. Box 603

Georgetown, CA 95634

_____ Yes, I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities!