Precious Headwaters

Potential Impacts of the Idaho Maryland Mine on the Plants, Animals and Aquatic Habitats of the Wolf Creek Watershed

South Fork of Wolf Creek (photo: Gary Griffith)
Want to understand what might happen to the environment if Idaho Maryland Mine reopens? On Thursday, June 24, local citizen experts will discuss the potential biological impacts of this proposed project, in a program jointly sponsored by Minewatch and the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The Brunswick and Centennial sites of the proposed Idaho Maryland Mine project encompass 10 native plant communities, from montane hardwood and Sierra mixed conifer to annual grasslands, from marsh wetlands to chaparral.

Far from being a wasteland despoiled by over 100 years of mining, these sites demonstrate the resilience and critical ecological functions of the native plant communities, wildlife, and aquatic habitat of the Wolf Creek headwaters.

Gary Griffith will describe potential impacts of the mine on stream ecology and on avian and other wildlife species. Jeanne Wilson will discuss the native plant communities found at the proposed mine site and why they are essential to the health and survival of the Wolf Creek watershed.

REGISTER TO ATTEND!

Register to Attend This Free Program
This program will be Thursday, June 24, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Register in advance for this Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

About Our Presenters
Gary Griffith, retired educator and California naturalist, volunteers with SYRCL, SSI, and the Wolf Creek Community Alliance. He has monitored stream quality and collected biological data for 20 years at the South Fork of Wolf Creek, the proposed site for mine water discharge.

Jeanne Wilson has had a life-long interest in exploring California’s native plants and wildlife. As president of the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, she works with chapter members to preserve local native plant communities.

Redbud Field Trips Coming Back!
By Theo Fitanides

Hello Redbuddies! We are excited to announce that we will slowly be restarting in-person field trips this summer. For now, we ask that participants wear masks and comply with county health recommendations; we will be limiting attendance as we all seek a balance between health/comfort and shared botanical explorations.

My name is Theo Fitanides, and I've recently joined the Redbud Chapter as Fieldtrip Chair after moving back to my home town of Nevada City. I'll be working on generating a list of persons interested in leading or co-leading fieldtrips, especially folks who have knowledge in
tangential fields (geology, herpetology, ethnobotany, etc.), so please contact me at theomeister@gmail.com with interests.

If you have an idea for a field trip and you’d be willing to coordinate the outing but would want someone with more botanical knowledge to serve as “plant guide” for the trip, just let me know, and I’ll line up someone who can fill that role for your field trip. The more people who step forward, the more field trips we can have.

Redbud’s First Field Trip of 2021
I'll be leading our first field trip of the year at Boca Reservoir on Saturday, June 12, from 9:30 a.m. until about 2 p.m. The official route will be about two miles over moderate terrain on a trail. I’m pleased that Shane Hanofee has volunteered to co-lead, as I am (re-)learning our local botany.

Redbud field trip to another gorgeous Sierra destination (Photo: Nancy Gilbert)

Boca Reservoir is 8 miles northeast of Truckee off of I-80. We will take an easy 3.5 mile hike along a trail and dirt road among a transitional meadow and mixed pine woodland. The reservoir is located in a valley with the Little Truckee River, where the gentle east side of the Sierra Nevada crest merges with the Great Basin. We hope to see many Asteraceae shrubs, skunky monkeyflower, violets, and whatever else is in bloom in this unseasonably early and dry year.

To join us, please sign up on this Google form. Then I will send you an invitation to our new CNPS statewide online waiver system. You’ll want to complete this waiver beforehand.

Be well, and happy summer!