



# Tehipite Topics

July-September 2013 – Vol. 59, No. 3

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

## “Fresnans Against Fracking” Formed To Fight Dangerous New Technology

by Robert Turner

Without collective action to stop it, California is poised to begin an explosive expansion in the extraction of oil from shale formations throughout the state using newly enhanced hydraulic fracturing techniques. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has been around for a long time, and is a driver in the current glut of natural gas, which the industry touts as a “clean” fossil fuel.

Of course, there is nothing clean about a gas that contributes to runaway climate change. Besides producing carbon dioxide on burning, when uncombusted natural gas (methane) leaks into the atmosphere it is 72 times as potent as carbon dioxide at heating the planetary atmosphere. The release of methane is routine when a well is started, and unknown but significant quantities are released from leaky pipelines and storage.

Recently adapted technology now deals with the more difficult-to-extract oil tars trapped within the cavities and pores of hard sedimentary layers, including the Valley’s Monterey Shale. New horizontal drilling techniques allow extractors to access vast areas underground from a single location. Rock layers are shattered by the injection of water, sand, and chemicals under high-pressure. Sand particles hold open the fissures while powerful solvents loosen the petroleum, and the pressure drives the toxic slew to the surface where the desired product must then be separated out and refined for use as fuel and chemical byproducts.

Despite accidental leakages in the past, the oil industry claims they have now perfected these techniques so that they are safe for the community. And yet the Energy Policy Act of 2005 specifically exempted fluids used in hydraulic fracturing from protections under the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under this so-called “Halliburton Loophole” companies do not need to disclose the chemicals involved in fracking operations. The proposed Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act would repeal these exemptions.

The state government, which also wants to increase oil production, tries to assure us that the industry is heavily and sufficiently regulated. Well, its track record is not good. Now in court is a pattern-and-practice lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity, challenging state regulators for repeated exemptions of oil drilling from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Despite assurances of safety, disastrous leakages and spills have already occurred. The public needs to understand that the greater pressures involved in fracking can lead to leaks at any level of drilling, not to mention the enormous pressures inherent in the underground environment that can cause leakages years after the projects are shut down.

And what to do with the fracking waste brought up. Only 20% of what is pumped up is oil. The rest will end up in permanent waste repositories on the surface, or pumped back into the ground to remain there, a mix of toxic natural organic compounds mixed with powerful industrial chemicals that we can only hope will stay where they are forever.

Fortunately, most California residents are sufficiently skeptical to want additional regulations on the industry before letting it continue with this method of extraction. While only 30% today want to ban fracking outright, many more favor a moratorium on fracking until more can be learned about the risks and dangers.

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**A HYDRAULIC WASTE POND  
SO CLOSE TO A NATURAL WATERWAY**

*see also:*

**GRID Alternatives**

**The Tarpey Garden Club**

**Endangered Species Act Endangered**

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**on page 10**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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## Merced Group Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings

The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM — Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes.

Anyone with an interest in local, state, or national conservation issues is welcome to attend.

## Merced Group Monthly Meetings/Programs

We are taking a summer break. There will be no meetings in the months of July and August. They will resume in the fall, on September 19th (the third Thursday of the month). Usual time and place: 7:00 P.M. at the Merced United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Parkway (Hwy 140 to Yosemite). Parking is available in the lot on Cypress Ave. near the door where we access the Fireside room. The public is cordially invited.

Each meeting usually starts with announcements and a short conservation update. Then the program followed by Q&A or discussion. We conclude with refreshments and a time to socialize for those who want to linger. Usually done and out the door between 8:30 and 9:00 but no problem coming or going as you like — it's informal and relaxed.

During the course of the year we try to have a mixture of programs. Some are informative and topical, like last year's on The Delta Tunnel Plan or The Evolution of Agriculture. Others seek to entertain and inspire such as Hiking the John Muir Trail or Art and EcoAwareness. A couple of times last year we tried some less structured evenings with short, provocative T.E.D. talk videos followed by open-ended discussions. Technology, Entertainment and Design (T.E.D.) segments originate from a non-profit aimed at disseminating "Ideas Worth Spreading" from cutting edge experts in various fields. Folks seemed to enjoy these so we'll likely try some again in the year ahead.

Our September 19th program is yet to be determined. It's often hard to confirm presenters 3 months ahead and sometimes we do have changes. So for you to stay informed we usually run an item in the Sunstar the week of. Or, better still, get on our email list that includes 80 or so folks. We use it very discreetly and try not abuse the access. Just email Rod Webster at <[rwebster@elite.net](mailto:rwebster@elite.net)>. For program info or questions you can also phone him at [\(209\) 723-4747](tel:2097234747).

### **Notice to Hikers/Backpackers in Yosemite National Park:**

*I am a film maker out of Modesto, currently putting together a documentary on the drug plane that crashed in 1976 at Lower Merced Pass Lake in Yosemite. I have many archival photos from that time, but I am currently looking for high definition video footage of the lake. If you are planning to visit the area in the near future and might be thinking of filming the lake, I would be interested in discussing what you will be shooting there. If you already have such footage, I would like to view it. My objective is to purchase the rights to use any suitable footage for my documentary. Please contact me at [info@echomedia.org](mailto:info@echomedia.org) or [209-604-0336](tel:2096040336). Thank you.*

**Dan Schloss**  
Echo Media Productions

# *Tehipite Chapter Meetings*

## **Tehipite Chapter Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings**

**Second Wednesday of each month ~ Open to the Public**

July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM. The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM.

**University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Streets)**

## **Tehipite Chapter General Meetings**

**Monthly meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM**

**except in July, August, and November**

**MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

**University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno (between First and Fresno Street)**

## **Tehipite Chapter September General Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 18, 7:00 PM**

**Anne M. Lombardo, Southern Site Representative,**

**Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) Public Participation Team**

Anne Lombardo represents an ongoing University of California forest study on the effects of fuel treatments (forest thinning) on forest, water, and wildlife health. They are known as the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project or SNAMP. They have two sites in a seven-year-long study. The southern one is near Bass Lake. Now five years into their work, they are striving to bring transparency and neutrality to their efforts with public workshops and outreach. Their website, <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/>, provides more information on the project.

Anne is the southern site representative to the Public Participation Team, one of 6 teams working together on this multi-disciplined study of the effects of fuel treatments in our National Forests. This team's focus is on changes in fire behavior, water quality and quantity, and wildlife, in particular the Pacific fisher and the California Spotted Owl, which they have monitored with the assistance of a remote sensing/Lidar team.



**THREE FISHERS ON A TREE**

## **Other Upcoming Meetings**

**October 16, 2013** — Global Climate Change and the Environmental Challenges for Wildlife in Antarctica, with Bob Merrill, former Professor of Geology at Fresno State University

**No General Meeting in November**

**December 18, 2013** — Magical Tibet: Across the Roof of the World, a digital slide show by Helen Gigliotti

**January 15, 2014** — not yet scheduled

**February 19, 2015** — The American Farmland Trust: Protecting Farmland and Ranch Land and Promoting Environmentally Sound Farming Practices to Help Keep Farmers on the Land

**March 19, 2014** — not yet scheduled

**The Tehipite Chapter officers apologize to those who attended the June 19, 2013 General Meeting expecting to see the movie: "Mother...Caring for 7 Billion." We have had to return the DVD, but hope to reschedule the film sometime in 2014.**

# Merced Group News

## UC Merced Scholarships Awarded

Several years ago the Merced Group created a scholarship fund in honor of former members Jake and Fran Kiriara. They were among the original founders of the Group, loyal and active members and exemplary community advocates for the environment, peace, and the rights of the underrepresented.

Each year two UC Merced students are selected who exemplify personal qualities of caring and commitment and who have shown promise as future stewards of our wild lands. This year's selections were made with the help of National Park Rangers Maynard Medefind and Jesse Chakrin. Both have been integral in establishing and staffing the Wilderness Center on campus. In addition, Maynard runs the Yosemite Leadership Program, which mentors selected students to become rangers and to do community outreach and education for the Park



### **Congratulations to this year's recipients Jessica Rivas and Alberto Uribe**

Jessica Rivas is majoring in Cognitive Science with a minor in Psychology. She is a second-year participant in the Yosemite Leadership Program. She did an internship last summer in Yosemite for the NPS Education & Interpretation Branches. She serves as a Yosemite Park Ranger at the UC Merced Wilderness Center. She has developed an Environmental Awareness educational project for pre-school children. This summer Jessica is working for Adventure Risk Challenge, a program for at-risk youth that melds literacy with intense outdoor experiences. Medefind says of Jessica: "I am not aware of any UCM student who is more passionate about wild places and the environment."

Alberto Uribe is a Management Major / Psychology Minor at UC Merced. He is a first-year participant in the UCM Yosemite Leadership Program. He is involved with many clubs and organizations on campus. He hails from the Los Angeles area, so he approaches wilderness with the enthusiasm and optimism of a recent "convert." Current studies are pointing toward a career in Public Lands Management. This summer Alberto is taking classes and working on campus at UC Merced.



## Tree and Bench Dedication

Dignitaries, community members, and students of the Yamato Colony Elementary School in Livingston joined the Merced Group for a dedication ceremony at the school. The Merced Group had a tree planted and bench installed in memorium to Jake and Fran Kiriara. They were recognized as staunch Sierra Club members and advocates for the environment. In addition, both were also huge contributors to this rural community. They promoted local organic family farming, supported farm worker rights, and brought doctors and health care workers to the community, which eventually led to a permanent clinic in town. Peace, justice, and advocating for the dispossessed were lifelong causes which the Kiriaras championed.

Those in attendance shared stories and recollections, giving the students a first-hand history lesson about two leaders of their community. The students then helped with the planting of the tree.

# Fracking California

understanding the threats to our water and climate

## SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

**Shannon Biggs**

Global Exchange

**Gary Lasky**

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

**Adam Scow**

Food & Water Watch

**Andrew Grinberg**

Clean Water Action

**Paul Ferrazzi**

Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community  
Culver City, CA

**and more!**

**How will fracking impact the San Joaquin Valley's water supply?** Join us to discuss how shale oil extraction using acids and hydraulic fracturing could affect the availability and cost of our water, ground water contamination, air pollution and climate change, and other risks. Speakers will discuss ways in which communities can engage on the topic, with the goal of helping identify the right approach for the local Fresno community. Hosted by the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter and Fresnans Against Fracking.

This event is part of the California Communities Rising Against Fracking tour, sponsored by GLOBAL EXCHANGE and our partners on the road: Center for Biological Diversity, Food & Water Watch, 350.org, Clean Water Action, EarthWorks, WILPF Fresno, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno Social Action Committee.

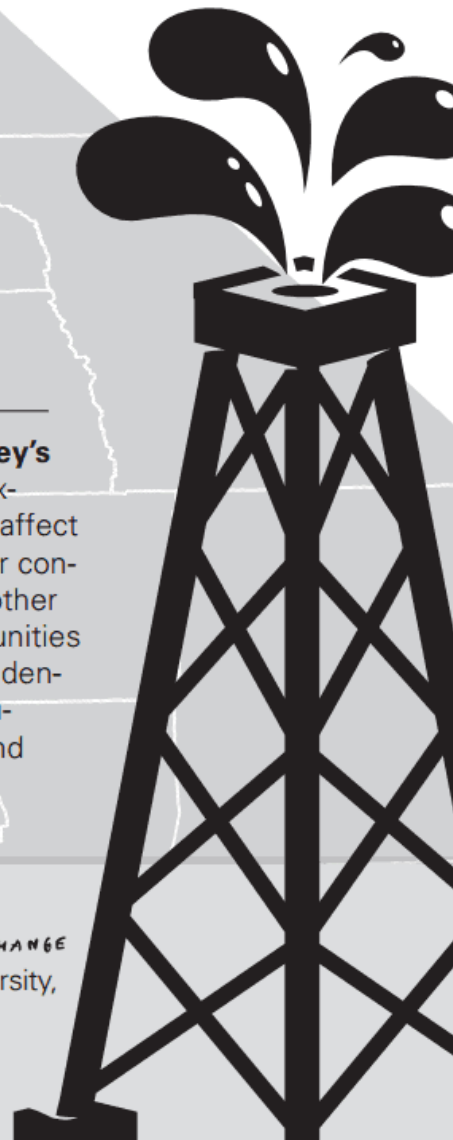
**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 - 8:30pm**

6:00 Potluck dinner, 6:30 Program

**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Fresno**

2672 E. Alluvial Avenue,  
Fresno, CA 93720  
(between Willow & Chestnut)



## The Fight Against Fracking Faces a Daunting Challenge in Convincing the Public to Prohibit Fracking in the Valley

– CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 –

A broad coalition of environmental and social justice groups in south Central Valley gathered in Fresno to discuss strategy and coordinate activity against this new boom in fossil fuel extraction. Zack Malitz of CREDO Action told us that in other states an effective strategy has been to encourage the passing of local ordinances against fracking. In New York 200 local governments have banned the practice. While Gerry Brown could stop fracking with the stroke of a pen, he has indicated that he believes the administration, through the State Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), has sufficient regulatory control to allow the safe expansion of hydraulic fracturing techniques to mine the Monterey Shale.



**THIS FRACKING FIELD LEAVES QUITE A FOOTPRINT ON THE LANDSCAPE**

The fifteen activists who organized that June 10 afternoon voted to join with the state coalition, Californians Against Fracking, by forming two new organizations, Fresnoans Against Fracking and Visalians Against Fracking. Our concerns include:

- dangers of groundwater and surface water contamination both by the chemicals used in fracking and by the toxic byproducts of the natural resource,
- health concerns for the mostly impoverished communities around the drilling sites due to exposure to these chemicals,
- long-term control of industrial waste, both what has come to the surface and what has been left in the ground,
- increased air pollution from the trucks carrying water, chemicals and sand to the sites,
- reallocation of nearly a million of gallons of water designated for agricultural use in this region to every three wells in a process that leaves the water permanently unusable,
- social justice issues regarding the extraction of minerals from beneath lands where the owners may be unaware of the activity,
- the high potential for well casing failures years after the mining has ended and the extractors have disappeared from the scene,
- and, not least by any means, the impact on global climate and the consequent changes to the environment from vastly increasing our use of carbon-based fuel.



**A HYDRAULIC WASTE POND AT A DRILLING SITE — IS THE GROUNDWATER ADEQUATELY PROTECTED?**

Fresnoans Against Fracking faces a daunting task in convincing Fresno County residents to support making the Valley a “Frack-Free Zone.” We are up against a popular political will to embrace any enterprise that guarantees the creation of new jobs when their local economy is depressed, regardless of adverse social and potentially dangerous environmental consequences. Without adequate insight into the risks fracking poses to invaluable natural and social resources, current hardships will send the public running headlong into a disastrous future.

With underemployment up and down the Central Valley, the promise of millions of new jobs generated by the oil extraction industry is creating a strong current of local support for the rapid expansion of this newly revitalized industry. But the recent history of fracking across the U.S. reveals another story: all of the high-paying jobs go to outsiders, while locals suffer from quadrupling of rents and severe dislocation from the conversion of agricultural and residential regions into an industrial wasteland. The disparities between the “haves” and our poverty-stricken communities only grows.

The industry’s own preference for conducting business in secret is one effective weapon we can use against this risky technology. Lawsuits for environmental and health damage are frequently settled with non-disclosure pacts that prevent the public from getting access to the facts. If the oil industry is so secure in their insistence that they settle these cases as mere conveniences to save on the cost of litigation, while asserting that the facts do not support the claims made against the industry, then they should be willing to let these cases see the light of public scrutiny. Right now, concern for protection of trade secrets regarding chemicals used in bringing up the oil released through fracking is keeping the public from access to information about the dangers inherent in their use. Even when doctors are allowed to know about a chemical exposure that has created a health problem, they are forbidden to communicate their knowledge because of the industry’s proprietary hold on industrial secrets. “The industry is asking us to trust it on the one hand at the same time it’s gagging people who get sick so that they’re not allowed to talk,” says Robert Kennedy Jr., president of the environment group Waterkeeper Alliance.

The oil and gas industry complains that it will take forty years to transition off of petroleum. But look at Germany, which quickly shucked off its reliance on nuclear power after the Fukushima disaster that left hundreds of square miles uninhabitable for decades. Chancellor Angela Merkel ordered the shutdown of 5 out of 13 nuclear power plants. Three years later, Germany had far exceeded its solar energy production goals and is exporting energy. Our transition from a fossil-fuel-based to a post-carbon economy is going to happen eventually. Sooner is better than later. Fifty years from now people will wonder why we didn’t tackle this problem earlier.



## GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit solar installer that leads teams of community volunteers and local job trainees in installing solar electric systems exclusively for low-income homeowners. These systems provide needed savings to families struggling financially in these difficult times, assisting them in making ends meet. The projects also prepare individuals for new employment opportunities in the fast-growing solar industry. And each system installed reduces carbon emissions and cleans our air.

In 2009, the Central Valley GRID Alternatives office opened in Fresno, making it one of seven offices that operate in California. The Central Valley office serves families throughout its 13-county region, stretching from San Joaquin County to the north through Kern County in the south. Since 2009, the Central Valley office has installed 550 solar electric systems for low-income families, while training hundreds of job trainees and community volunteers to install solar electric systems.

GRID Alternatives works collaboratively with communities and local organizations to identify specific needs and to develop renewable energy solutions that are environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable. Over the last several years, the Central Valley office has established partnerships with job training organizations, local high schools, colleges and many community groups. Through these partnerships individuals receive hands-on training in solar solutions from the GRID Alternatives construction team, while building public awareness of jobs in the green economy. Participants walk away with a new understanding of how our choices are tied to the stewardship of our environment.

Statewide, GRID Alternatives has installed more than 10 MW of clean, renewable power for over 3400 struggling families. Over the systems' lifetimes, this work will prevent the release of 300,000 tons of greenhouse gasses and provide more than \$95 million in energy cost savings. At the same time, more than 11,000 volunteers and job trainees received valuable hands-on solar installation experience.





## The Tarpey Garden Club

The Tarpey Garden Club at Tarpey Elementary School in Clovis has 35 students in the first through sixth grades meeting on Monday afternoons. Thanks to a donation from the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter, the kids have planted a large garden, with twenty tomato plants, sugar snap peas, radishes, squash, and many other plants donated to the school from the Community Hospital Organic Gardens.

The kids have started a compost area, and turn it weekly. We have had lessons on Sierra wildflowers, the water cycle, composting, and clouds. Thank you, Sierra Club, for helping us learn about the environment and getting our hands dirty.

– Ed Hampton –





# 2014: WILDERNESS 50

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

## Endangered Species Act Endangered

by Heather Anderson

Growing up in Metropolitan Southern California, the only wildlife I remember seeing were the gophers and moles who plagued our garden, an occasional house mouse, and a variety of common scrub jays, robins, blackbirds, doves, and mockingbirds. Later, as a young parent living in the Sierra foothills, I cultivated a more intimate relationship with the local flora and fauna. Once, a red-tailed hawk flew close over my shoulder; another time I froze mid-step, confronted by a bobcat a few feet away, with only a window pane between us. We communicated silently for a few minutes before he went on his way, searching for our cat as a meal. At night, I would often see mule deer in my headlights and would stop to "converse" until they moved. On rare occasions, I heard coyotes howling their wild, ecstatic song.

In the animal world, these were not dramatic occasions, nor were the species endangered, but for me they were exciting moments of interaction with local wildlife. In Alaska, I heard the plaintive call of the loon, and watched playful otters cavorting in the shallow surf under the midnight sun.

Who are some of these endangered species? Why are they becoming extinct? Why are they important to protect, and what can we do? Rather than include world species such as the black rhino, snow leopard, and African elephant in a brief article, I'll deal largely with those in my own state.

Ironically the grizzly bear, memorialized by early California settlers on the state flag, was last seen here in the 1920s. Other large mammals such as the California bighorn sheep, San Joaquin kit fox, Sierra Nevada red fox, southern sea otter, Guadalupe fur seal, and many species of whales are endangered or threatened. Amphibians like salamanders and toads are vanishing not only in California, but also worldwide. Reptiles, including the desert tortoise, are also at risk. Birds like the California condor, brown pelican, least tern, and greater sandhill crane are on the endangered list, not to mention fish, plants, and other less sympathetic species like invertebrates.

Why extinct? What are the problems? Habitat is often destroyed through urbanization, conversion to logging, mining or agricultural uses, but it may also occur through fragmentation (breaking up of habitat that hinders a species' travel, for example, or dams that interfere with salmon runs, or a pipeline that deters caribou migration). Other challenges to wildlife survival include elimination of natural ecological processes, pollution, overgrazing and invasion by non-native and parasitic species, overharvest, extermination, over-collection, loss of genetic variability, and human population impact. Wise-use and property rights movements continue to work for unrestrained and unsustainable exploitation of our natural resources and, if successful, will accelerate extinction.

On a typical day, ten to forty species will become extinct forever, many as a result of tropical deforestation. Since 1600, 185 species of mammals and birds have become extinct. The number rises to 20,000 if invertebrates and plants are included. This tragic loss weakens the delicate "web of life" which supports our planet's biosphere, and threatens the survival even of human species. Many "indicator species" (like the canary in the coal mine) provide clues to the health of a whole ecosystem, and act as an early warning system to protect us. The threat to the spotted owl, for example, warns us to stop destroying our ancient Northwest forests; a decrease in marsh birds signals that our wetland ecosystem is endangered as well. Pollution off our coasts is killing coral reefs and hundreds of species of fish. We depend on the healthy ecosystems of the ancient forests, coastal estuaries, grasslands and wetlands to purify our air, clean our water and supply us with food. The loss of a single species



**A PNEUMONIA OUTBREAK, BELIEVED TO HAVE KILLED TWENTY ENDANGERED BIGHORN SHEEP THIS PAST MONTH IN MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE, THREATENS HUNDREDS IN THE STATE'S BIGGEST HERD AS WELL AS MANY MORE IN NEARBY NEVADA.**

can trigger a chain reaction with serious consequences.

There are commercial repercussions too. Recreational and commercial salmon fishing in the Pacific Northwest, which provides jobs, income and a way of life, is in trouble as salmon decline due to dams, clearcutting, and overgrazing along streams. The collapse of the world's fishery, through overharvest, waste, or poisoning of the marine environment, has far-reaching effects on our food supply and economy.

Agricultural benefits occur when wild species provide us with the means to develop new crops that can grow in poor soils or drought areas, helping to solve the world hunger problem. In 1978, for instance, an endangered Mexican wild corn was found to be immune to a viral corn disease. Corn production was increased because of its disease resistance.

Protecting our species and ecosystems is important to a huge tourism industry, which not only benefits the economy, but also supplies essential recreational, aesthetic and spiritual outlets. Millions of Americans participate in wildlife-related recreation including observing, painting, photographing, fishing, hunting, and hiking.

There are medicinal benefits as well. The Pacific yew tree, treated as a "trash tree" and burned as refuse, was discovered to be a successful cancer-fighting agent useful in treating breast and ovarian cancer. Without it, more than 10,000 women would die each year. Digitalis, derived from the purple foxglove, is vital for sufferers of heart disease. Only five percent of known plant species have been screened for medicinal values, so when we ignore even one species, we do so at our own peril.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 has saved many species such as the red wolf, the whooping crane, and the peregrine falcon from imminent extinction. Fortunately, our national bird, the bald eagle, has also made a comeback after being shot, electrocuted by power lines, and poisoned by ingesting shotgun pellets. A



**DEGRADED WATER QUALITY FROM AIR AND SURFACE POLLUTION THREATENS MANY SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS, INCLUDING THE CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG.**

controversial wind project in a sensitive area of the Sierra has been found threatening to endangered California condors and golden eagles. While more than 700 species have qualified for protection, 3,000 imperiled species await official decisions, and 600 eligible candidates deserving protection may have a long wait. Meanwhile, the Wise Use movement, a powerfully funded, industry-based coalition of developers, timber-mining-oil companies, agribusiness firms, large water users, and off-road vehicle manufacturers has mounted a massive campaign to undermine the ESA, and Congress is working to slash current funding.



**WITH ONLY 58 LEFT IN THE WILD, THERE IS NO NORTH AMERICAN LAND MAMMAL MORE ENDANGERED THAN THE MEXICAN GRAY WOLF. LIVING IN THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO, NO ONE HAS SIGHTED A WILD WOLF SOUTH OF THE BORDER SINCE 1980.**

What can we do? The Sierra Club worked hard to establish the landmark legislation in 1973, and recently we have been working, along with other members of the Endangered Species Coalition, to strengthen the Act. It is important that the present Congress does not gut the Act. We can support legislation that keeps our Endangered Species Act intact, and oppose cutting current funding.



**TEHIPITE CHAPTER  
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*Tehipite Topics* is currently published four times per year. Full-color versions of *Tehipite Topics* are available on the chapter website at [www.tehipitesierraclub.org](http://www.tehipitesierraclub.org). Articles and photographs from Sierra Club members are always welcome. We are still looking for 100-to-200-word essays on "My Most Memorable Wilderness Experience." Send your personal contributions for the October-December 2013 issue by email to <[robertsturner52@gmail.com](mailto:robertsturner52@gmail.com)> before September 10.

# Fracking California

understanding the threats to our water and climate

**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:30 PM**

(6:00 Potluck Dinner, 6:30 Program)

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno**

**2672 E. Alluvial Avenue**

(between Willow and Chestnut Avenues)

## How will fracking impact the San Joaquin Valley's water supply and air quality?

Join us to discuss how shale oil extraction using acids and hydraulic fracturing could affect the availability and cost of our water, ground water contamination, air pollution and climate change, and other risks.

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

**Jean Hays**

Fresno WILPF

**Shannon Biggs**

Global Exchange

**Andrew Grinberg**

Clean Water Action

**Paul Ferrazzi**

Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community, Culver City, CA

**Gary Lasky**

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

**Adam Scow**

Food & Water Watch

**Roy McKee**

Whittier Hills Oil Watch, LA County

This event is sponsored by the Center for Biological Diversity, Clean Water Action, EarthWorks, Food and Water Watch, Fresno Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno Social Action Committee. A Fresno petition drive will be launched at the event.

