

## **Resolution # 1:** Tule Springs-Fossil Beds National Monument

**Background:** The Tule Springs area of the Upper Las Vegas Wash in Clark County, NV, has been described as a treasure trove of ice age fossils. In June of 2012, Senators Harry Reid and Dean Heller introduced a county land bill that included a chapter to designate 23,000 acres as a Tule Springs - Fossil Bed National Monument. Unfortunately, however, this bill also had many provisions that the conservation community could not support. We are therefore asking that a stand alone bill, excluding these provisions, be introduced to protect this national treasure by designating this area as a national monument. The proposed national monument includes an abundance of Pleistocene Ice Age fossils including mammoths, camels, horses, bison, ground sloths, and lions. These fossils occur in spring and marsh sediments which accumulated during wet intervals of the Pleistocene Epoch, stretching over two glacial cycles.

**Resolution:** The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports action to designate the Tule Springs - Fossil Beds National Monument to be managed by the National Park Service.

**Submitted by:** Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club

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## **Resolution #2:** Management of the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest

**Background:** The U.S. Forest Service issued its Draft Environmental Impact Statement and revised Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe National Forest in July of 2012. Four alternatives were included, and alternative B was selected as the preferred alternative. A coalition of environmental groups which included the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Sierra Forest Alliance, Trout Unlimited, Snowlands, and several wildlife organizations have submitted comments on the DEIS and management plan which would improve the plan and also address the effects of climate change in the basin. Any activities in the forest would have lasting effects on the pristine beauty of Lake Tahoe, a national and international treasure. These recommendations include designation of all the upper Truckee River as wild and scenic, use of prescribed fire to reduce brush and overcrowding by small trees, regulating recreational snowmobile use in inventoried roadless areas, preserving what ancient forest remains in the basin, and protecting wildlife habitat now and in the future. The Final EIS and management plan will be issued in March or April of 2013 with a 60 day appeal period.

**Resolution:** The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly supports the Nevada/California environmental coalition in its efforts to improve the proposed management plan of the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest for the next 20 years.

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**Resolution #3:** Mitigate the Effects of the Ruby Pipeline on the affected land and its resources

**Background:** The Ruby Gas Pipeline extending from Wyoming to Oregon was completed in 2011. Although many questions were raised about the effects of the location of this pipeline on the environment, and a suit was actually filed, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted permission for the pipeline to be built. This month the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals issued an opinion that the pipeline had affected the habitat of many endemic fishes and other species of wildlife including sage grouse and pygmy rabbits and that this violation of law called for serious mitigation of this environmental disaster and restoration of the pipeline route.

**Resolution:** The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs welcomes the findings of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that construction of the Ruby Gas Pipeline, which extends from Wyoming to Oregon, caused unmitigated impacts to the natural environment, and requests that mitigation of these impacts, including restoration of natural habitat, be accomplished at the earliest opportunity.

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**Resolution # 4:** Labeling foods containing Genetically Modified, Genetically Engineered, or Genetically Modified Organisms.(GMO).

**Background:** Since 1996 Americans have been eating genetically modified ingredients in most processed foods. The FDA doesn't require GE foods to be labeled so most people don't know they're consuming them. This makes it virtually impossible to isolate and track them. The FDA is responsible for food safety, but does not do any testing on GE foods and doesn't require independent tests. The same companies developing the foods do their own studies and are not required to give all their data to the FDA.

Crossing two types of corn or apples has been done for thousands of years but GE foods are created in a lab. GM plants such as soybean, corn, cottonseed and canola have had foreign genes forced into their DNA. The inserted genes come from species such as bacteria and viruses, which have never been in the human food supply before. These inserted bacterial genes allow the plant to survive an otherwise deadly dose of weed killer. About 68% of GM crops are herbicide tolerant.

The second GM trait is a built-in pesticide, found in GM corn and cotton. A gene from the soil bacterium called Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is inserted into the plant's DNA, (sort of like being raped) where it secretes the insect-killing Bt Toxin in every cell. About 19% of GM crops produce their own pesticide. Another 13% produce a pesticide and are herbicide tolerant.

Herbicide tolerant GMOs include soy, corn, cotton, canola, sugar beets and alfalfa. This trait allows farmers to spray Monsanto's weed killer Roundup on their Roundup Ready crops without killing them. The genes inserted into these plants produce proteins with allergenic properties. The sprayed toxins are concentrated into the food portion of the plant and end up in our diet with possible health impacts.

**Resolution:** The FWOC urges legislation requiring that foods containing Genetically Modified, Genetically Engineered, or Genetically Modified Organisms.(GMO) be labeled.

**Resolution # 5:** A resolution of Concern regarding the Coal Export to China

**Background:**

Whereas: This export of coal continues to cause the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that have already brought the climate to a tipping point as evidenced by eastern and central U.S. enduring crop failures from the worst drought in recorded history.

Whereas: This perpetuation makes it even more difficult for the US labor market to make many of these goods in the US; thus job creation in this country remains an even greater challenge in these economically difficult times;

Whereas: Low cost coal exports to China perpetuates and even advances the economic advantage China already has in producing goods in the US and throughout the world;

Whereas: Ironically, Oregon has worked more decades to be energy efficient and fuel our economy with cleaner fuels and alternative energy sources to reduce our carbon footprint only to be rewarded with coal shipments on our rail lines and on barges in or along the Columbia River;

Whereas: All the work Oregon has done to de-commission the Boardman coal energy plant by 2020, will seem oddly irrelevant;

Whereas: These coal exports will fuel the rapidly expansion of coal produced energy in China only to increase CO<sub>2</sub> gasses and the return of toxic gasses that are well known to have a pathway straight back to the NW, as experienced a decade ago with the massive dust storms in China caused by over aggressive agricultural activity and industrial development;

Whereas: The coal industry is by its nature unable to comprehensively and objectively able to fully consider the magnitude and significance of their profit driven actions and in fact, just like the cigarette companies, have opposed government regulation of the toxic nature of their product as well as regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;

**Resolution:** The FWOC urges that the Governor of Oregon request a comprehensive analysis of the impacts from coal exports to China.

**Submitted by:** The Mazamas

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