

*We are human power in action.  
We promote wilderness values.  
We preserve and protect our public lands.*

# Vote Assures Changes for Rubicon Trail

## Water Quality Control Board acts where Eldorado County and Forest Service failed

A stunning unanimous vote by the seven-member Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in favor of the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for the Rubicon Trail has set in motion a series of tasks that El Dorado County and the Forest Service must perform to protect the environment through which the Trail passes. The Rubicon Trail, heralded as the most famous 4-wheel drive trail in the world, is the source of sedimentation in streams and lakes, and pollution from petroleum products and human waste. Snowlands Network's interest in the Trail began eight years ago when 4-wheel drive enthusiasts began driving over the snow-covered Polaris Ski (and Snowshoe) Trail at Loon Lake. This is an alternate trailhead for the Rubicon Trail.

The Rubicon Trail crosses multiple streams and traverses lands that most people would think no motor vehicle could cross on its way east from Wentworth Springs to Lake Tahoe. But 20,000 to 30,000 enthusiasts make or at least attempt the trail each year resulting in massive erosion that Rich Platt, a retired Eldorado National Forest resource officer, said "is the worst unchecked erosion I've seen in my 37-year career with the Forest Service." To put it in perspective, imagine a trail that in places is 20 feet wide and up to 4 feet below its natural grade due to erosion. The rate of erosion is particularly high because of unrestricted winter wet season motorized use. Also one of the fun things for the 4x4ers to do is to drive up on the edges of the trail thus forever widening it. Among other impacts, sedimentation clogs fish spawning habitat.

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# Kirkwood Power Line Threatens Scenery

Two of the three proposed routes for a power line that would provide for future expansion at Kirkwood Meadows and a cleaner replacement for existing power would cut a swath through the high country along Highway 88. Snowlands Network opposes any alternative that includes above ground power transmission lines except for where the transmission towers already exist.

The beauty of the Highway 88 corridor is a treasure that should not be traded for cheaper power. Every visitor who travels on the highway is treated to some of the most

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## Snowlands Feels Economic Woes

### Snowlands says good-bye to Ellen Lapham and restructures to meet poor economic outlook

Open the newspaper or turn on the radio or television and you will be bombarded with the latest economic woes. Snowlands Network has not gone unscathed and has restructured to take the current and future economic times into account.

Not long ago the Board of Directors was planning to add a part-time or maybe even full-time advocacy person to its staff. So it is sad that instead we are announcing that Ellen Lapham is no longer with Snowlands. Ellen was our first employee and carried us through three years of growth and development. With her guidance Snowlands matured. We wish Ellen success in her future endeavors.

Marcus Libkind has taken over the day-to-day management of Snowlands.

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# President's Corner

Marcus Libkind



This issue of the *Snowlands Network Bulletin* brings great pride to my heart. Two front page articles contain stories that show the range of our involvement in issues that affect you and the sports you love. They are a testimony to the perseverance and commitment of our volunteers.

The Rubicon Trail article describes an uphill battle against the lawlessness and disrespect of the environment by the motor vehicle community, and the pressure that individuals and organizations like Snowlands can put to bear on agencies who repeatedly fail to take steps to protect the environment and the well-being of other forest visitors.

Working the big issues are heart wrenching for those involved.

The Rubicon Trail victory required eight years and there is still more to come before we can rest easy on this issue. Snowlands' volunteers worked 17 years to bring a balance between motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities in the Hope Valley area. We are proud of the outcome of the Alpine County Winter Recreation Project, but our work there continues, too.

But most of the great work done at Snowlands Network is not as glamorous as the Rubicon issue. Most of the time our goal is to simply hold the line on the status quo. In most of these cases we are reacting to projects proposed by others that are detrimental to the community we serve and in many cases the public in general.

In this issue you will read about the Kirkwood power line project that would bring electricity from the national grid to Kirkwood Meadows and in particular the ski resort located there. It's a great idea because it would reduce air pollution.

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## Gail Ferrell is Back on Board

Snowlands Network is proud to announce that Gail Ferrell has returned to the board of directors. Gail is best known for her successful effort to ban snowmobiles from the south side of Tahoe Meadows. She is also credited for building a Nevada constituency within Snowlands. Among her friends Gail is known as a dauntless woman with the drive and skills necessary to scale any challenge. If David, of David and Goliath, were a woman, then Gail would be she. The

size of the opposition seems only to energize her.

Gail served as a director of Snowlands Network from 2001 to 2007. She was and continues to act as our Lake Tahoe/Reno Coordinator. She is also a past director of Winter Wildlands Alliance.

When asked where she gets her energy she replies, "I get it from the inspiration and focus of my father." She is of course referring to her father, George Small, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, an

outstanding role model, and simply a wonderful man.

Gail holds a Bachelors degree in mathematics and a Masters degree in the Teaching of Mathematics, as well as a Masters degree in Educational Psychology. She has been a professor of mathematics at Truckee Meadows Community College since 1990 and was awarded Teacher of the Year in 1995; she received the Nevada Regents Teacher of the Year in 2008. Her interests include backcountry skiing,



bicycling, dancing, singing and environmental issues.

Snowlands Network is very fortunate to have Gail back on the board.



### Snowlands Bulletin

The Snowlands Bulletin is published by volunteer-led Snowlands Network, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Snowlands Network  
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[www.SaveOurSnowlands.org](http://www.SaveOurSnowlands.org)

### Mission

We promote opportunities for quality human-powered winter recreation and protect winter wildlands. We educate the public and government agencies about winter recreation and environmental issues.

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Gail Ferrell, Lake Tahoe/Reno  
Monte Hendricks, Highway 50  
Jeff Erdoes, Lands Monitoring

### Staff

Annette Glabe, Membership and Administration

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# Snowlands to Mark Orion Trail

## An opportunity to show the Forest Service you care

**Loon Lake/Orion Trail - October 3-4, 2009**

**Carson Pass/Boundary Trail - October 17, 2009**

It's a tradition for Snowlands Network volunteers to mark or maintain ski and snowshoe trails each fall. This year Snowlands has scheduled two projects – a new trail at Loon Lake off Highway 50 and maintenance of an existing trail at Carson Pass on Highway 88. We hope that you will join Snowlands and cosponsor El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol for one or more fun-filled days enjoying the Sierra after the crowds have left. This is also



**Volunteer installs signs.**

*Courtesy of Marcus Libkind*

an opportunity to show the Forest Service that you care about the quality of the sport you love.

This year we kick off a multi-year effort to mark a new trail on the south side of Loon Lake called the Orion Trail. This trail is a loop beginning at the trailhead for the Van Vleck Bunkhouse tour (<http://www.>

Snowlands and the Ski Patrol will also spend a day at Carson Pass doing maintenance work on the Boundary Trail that connects the Sno-Park at the pass with the road to Woods Lake. This work was scheduled for 2008, but was cancelled due to rain.

No experience is required to help mark the trails. Just come prepared to enjoy a day or two with a bunch of great people like you who enjoy the winter backcountry. Marking ski and snowshoe trails is a fun way to give to the community. Snowlands will supply all the equipment. You bring your lunch and good spirits. The two-day Orion Trail weekend will include optional overnight tent-camping accommodations (bring yours!) Friday and Saturday nights at the Red Fir Group Campground.

To obtain more information or sign up contact Marcus Libkind at 925-447-0486 or by email at [malibkind@snowlands.org](mailto:malibkind@snowlands.org).

Please help make these volunteer service events a huge success.

## Volunteer Leaders Sought for Winter Ski and Snowshoe Tours

### Become a leader and share the joy

Snowlands Network is seeking volunteer leaders for this coming winter's Snowlands-On-Snow program in which we guide skiers and snowshoers on tours throughout the Sierra Nevada. The leader picks where and when, and Snowlands takes care of the sign-ups.

You may have the skills we are looking for if you have led a small group of people on a beginner or easy intermediate tour in the past. It might have been a group of friends or maybe a Sierra Club group. More difficult intermediate tours are also possible.



### Snowlands-On-Snow tour north of Tragedy Spring

*Courtesy of Marcus Libkind*

Leading an on-the-snow tour for Snowlands is one way to be a volunteer, spread the joy of the backcountry and have fun at the same time. Please contact Marcus Libkind at 925-447-0486 or [malibkind@snowlands.org](mailto:malibkind@snowlands.org) to discuss this opportunity further.



### Lunch break

*Courtesy of Marcus Libkind*

[BackcountrySkiTours.com/pages/tours\\_0800/0801\\_tour.htm](http://BackcountrySkiTours.com/pages/tours_0800/0801_tour.htm)) and heading out to Brown Mountain. The total length is approximately six miles.

# REI Supports Snowlands

Each year REI donates the profits from showings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour to select outdoor organizations. This year Snowlands Network received \$6000. It is the sixth year in the row that Snowlands has been a beneficiary of the event. A special thank you goes to Chris Peck and his crew at REI for coordinating the Los Altos showings at which Snowlands volunteers.

If you missed this year's showings, put March 12 & 13, 2010 on your calendar. We'll be back in Los Altos with more great films.

## Rubicon Trail

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Petroleum discharge into the environment is caused by flipped vehicles and broken differential housings, transmissions, and crankcases. Besides the numerous visible oil spills and trails in many places, the Trail smells like an old auto garage. Human waste is such a huge problem that popular Spider Lake had to be closed to all public use in 2004. Human waste and used toilet paper is easily seen along the Trail showing that the voluntary use of free WAG bags is not addressing the need. With thousands of users, the Board considers this a major pollution source.

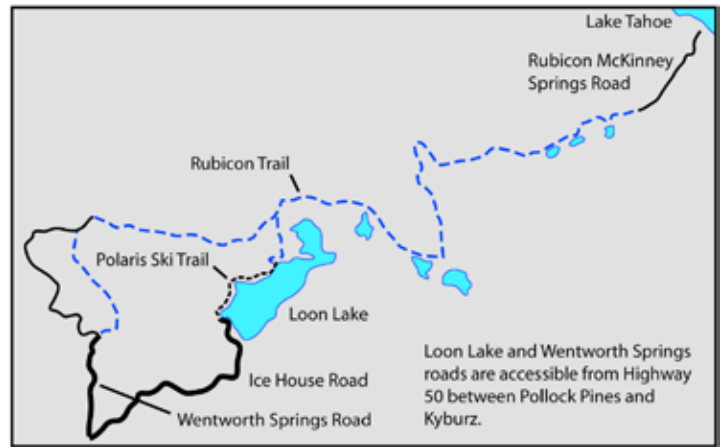


### 4x4 wheelers tear-up Polaris Ski Trail although clearly marked closed to motor vehicles

Courtesy of Monte Hendricks

But the CAO does not tell El Dorado County and the Forest Service (the responsible parties) what to do. Neither does it close the trail to use through seasonal closures, institute fees, and/or place limits on use, but these may be included in the management plans required by this Order. Monte Hendricks, the Snowlands' Highway 50 Coordinator, said, "There is a high probability that the final management plan will include a wet and snow season closure because the Forest Service already closes all other dirt roads on Eldorado National Forest during the wet and snow seasons."

Instead, the CAO requires the responsible parties to determine what their respective legal responsibilities are, gather



### Map of Rubicon Trail

data, and develop plans to manage the Trail in a manner that minimizes or prevents future environmental damage to surface waters. The process, which spans 18 months, requires:

- A *Rubicon Trail Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan*, which shall evaluate, and, where appropriate, propose means of addressing, water quality impacts caused by vehicle use (excluding snowmobiles) during saturated soil conditions and when snow is present. Due 1 October 2010.
- The submission and implementation of a *Long Term Management Plan for the Rubicon Trail*. Due 30 April 2011
- Continue to implement agreed to maintenance activities for 2009.
- A 2009 *Maintenance Training Plan* describing procedures for training County, Federal, and volunteer groups to ensure that projects will be installed according to County or Forest Service road maintenance specifications. Due 15 July 2009, with a similar plan for 2010 due 15 July 2010.
- Quarterly reports beginning 30 June 2009 describing progress on completing the *Saturated Soil* and *Long Term Management* plans.
- By 15 December of each year (beginning 2009) submit an annual *Rubicon Trail Summary*.
- By 15 May each year (beginning 2010) submit an *Annual Trail Maintenance and Activities Plan*.
- By 15 July each year (beginning 2011) submit an *annual review* of the *Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan*.

As part of these plans, the responsible parties will need to accurately locate the Trail, determine current use numbers and provide a strategy for human waste management. Snowlands is very pleased that the planning specifically requires, "An evaluation of the *cost to manage the trail* in a manner that is protective of water quality, and an identification of a secure, consistent funding source for these trail management activities, including law enforcement."

The CAO also requires quarterly reports to ensure that the planning process moves forward in a timely manner. Snowlands' President, Marcus Libkind, said, "Since the Forest Service has not appealed the CAO based on a claim of 'sovereign immunity,' implementation of the CAO is now in motion, and it is now our

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# Nevada Bluegrass Project

## Four hundred people keep beat with music at Lost Trail Lodge. A benefit for Snowlands Network.

On May 30, 2009, Lost Trail Lodge ([www.LostTrailLodge.com](http://www.LostTrailLodge.com)) shed its status as a summer and winter destination lodge to host the Third Annual Bluegrass Festival. This free event is the dream-child of lodge owner Dave Robertson. In Dave's eyes the goal is to enjoy a stress-free day in the mountains among the trees with friends and great music. Even with double the expected attendees showing up, everything just seemed to happen with volunteers taking charge of endless tasks.



### Ragged Rogues perform at Lost Trail Lodge

*Courtesy of Ellen Lapham*

The music was going strong by 11 AM and continued past 6 PM. Even mid-day rain and echoing thunder did not stop the music or the fun. The bands included:

- Westwind
- Suspect Terrane
- Ponderosa
- Sage Creek
- Ragged Rogues
- Sweetwater String Band
- Loose Cannon

"Lost Trail Lodge is quite a unique place to ski or snowshoe into for a two or three-day vacation," said Marcus Libkind, President of Snowlands and author of *Ski Tours in the Sierra Nevada*. "But the atmosphere is transformed from serene to one of utter jubilation with music in the air and people dancing and singing to the endless tunes."

People were encouraged to come on their bicycles. Driving still required a half to one-mile walk to the lodge with two creeks to cross on temporary bridges only inches above the water.

Each year people are encouraged to donate money to the current year's beneficiary of the festival. This year Snowlands Network received more than \$1000 that was dropped into the milk can that made its rounds. In past years donations have gone

to the Tahoe Donner Land Trust, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Sierra Nevada Children's Services. Dave Robertson has long been a generous supporter of Snowlands Network, but clearly his generosity goes far beyond.

From the first day it opened, Lost Trail Lodge was unique. To say it offers modern amenities in a rustic atmosphere is an understatement. The lodge includes a gourmet kitchen and unique bedrooms including Jacuzzis in some. It is reached by a 4-mile snow-covered road in winter. The lodge operates "off-the-grid." Only days before the festival, Dave switched-on a huge array of photo voltaic panels to generate all the necessary electricity for the lodge, though he keeps a generator or two for emergencies. His next quest is to find a way to eliminate the need for propane.

Among the numerous volunteers, in addition to the bands, Snowlands Network was represented at the event by Cathy Dowd, Annette Glabe, Fred and Sarah Glover, Monte and Julie Hendricks, Ellen Lapham and Marcus Libkind. Of course key to the success of the event is Dave's daughter Lindsay and Dave's many friends.



### Great day at Bluegrass Festival

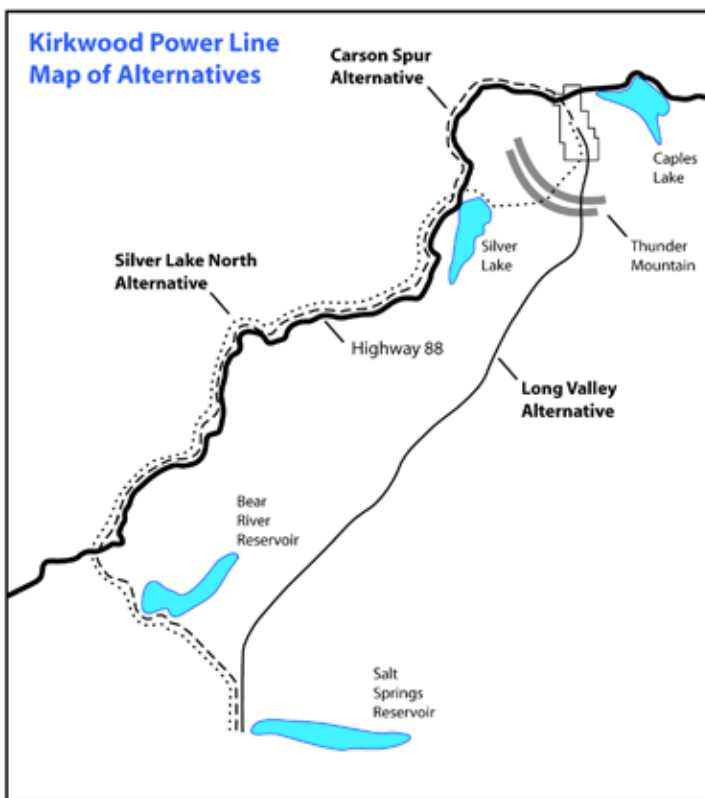
*Courtesy of Ellen Lapham*

## Kirkwood Power Line

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magnificent, easily accessible, beauty the Sierra Nevada has to offer. In fact, Highway 88 is an officially designated State Scenic Highway. The above-ground portions of two of the alternatives would also pass through the heart of some of the finest backcountry ski and snowshoe destinations in the area, and the eyesore would also impact summer hikers.

Snowlands Network agrees that replacing “dirty” diesel-generated electricity with “grid power” makes sense, but only so long as the impacts on the environment and forest visitors are below threshold levels at which point the impacts outweigh the benefits. Determining the threshold levels must be done with the environment and forest visitors’ priorities coming before that of the Kirkwood community.



The desire for continued growth at Kirkwood, a small rural resort, does not create an absolute need for expansion of the power supply for the area. No Action or No Project alternatives allow for continue operation of the existing community and meet the criteria set forth in the permits issued by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. This fact raises the bar for any project alternative that has impacts on the environment and forest visitors.

### **Carson Spur Alternative is the only acceptable one**

All three routes proposed by the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD) begin by following an existing above-ground transmission route from Salt Springs Reservoir to Bear River Reservoir. The additional power line adds no additional visual impact here. Snowlands Network opposes any alternative

that includes above ground power transmission lines between Bear River Reservoir and Kirkwood. Only the Carson Spur Alternative, which follows Highway 88 all the way to Kirkwood underground, maintains the visual qualities of the area. This route is the most costly because it has the maximum amount of underground line and passes through the narrow section of highway at the Carson Spur.

The Long Valley Alternative imposes the heaviest impacts on the scenic beauty and wilderness values of the area. In this alternative, above ground power lines would essentially run along the boundary of the Mokelumne Wilderness and then cut a swath up Thunder Mountain. The visual eyesore created by this alternative extends beyond the towers and lines themselves. This route would require clearing 40- to 80-foot-wide corridors that would be visible from anywhere that had line-of-sight view of the route. The use of weathering brown metal poles and low reflectivity conductors is good practice, but does not make this above-ground route acceptable.

The Silver Lake North Alternative eliminates much of the above-ground impacts of the Long Valley Alternative, but leaves the most damaging scar – the 40- to 80-foot-wide cleared swath up Thunder Mountain. Even in areas of no trees, the towers will rise up above all other features. Everyone traveling east on Highway 88 from Tragedy Spring will have a clear, almost head-on, view of this visual impact.

Irony is the fact that, according to a KMPUD representative, the Long Valley and Silver Lake North alternatives would both likely go underground after crossing Thunder Mountain; the power lines would be underground as they drop into Kirkwood. Apparently the beauty of the resort can't be compromised, but beauty on public lands can be compromised.

Only two members of the public attended the scoping meeting at Kirkwood on April 8, 2009. They were Snowlands members Steve Hibbs and Dallas Vaughn, and they reported on the meeting.

### **Cost should not drive the choice of the alternative**

At that meeting KMPUD stated that local ratepayers would probably support any cost up to \$50 million plus debt service, but that \$60 million or more would kill the project. Given that the project is not necessary for continued current community needs, the cost should not be a factor in choosing between the action alternatives. Any limit on the cost is purely arbitrary at best, and is financially self-serving to the community.

Bringing grid power to the community has beneficial effects for the residents and the ski resort developers. Their desire to have more higher-quality electricity, more reliable electricity, and potentially cheaper electricity may be a driving force behind the project, but does not create a “must build” condition. The community may not want to withstand larger debt to build the project, but they have the alternative of the status quo. It should

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## Kirkwood Power Line

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not be forgotten that the project will increase the value of their property.

The KMPUD must also consider the long-term outlook for the cost of diesel power generation in setting their cost limit. Five or six dollars a gallon for fuel is realistic looking forward 30 years. Although prices are currently down due to the recession, there is good reason to expect prices to be much higher in the future. At \$4.50 per gallon, the cost of electricity for the community is \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour as opposed to \$.12-.15 per kw-hr that the average consumer pays.

### A step in the right direction

At the May 5, 2009 Alpine County Board of Supervisors meeting Snowlands learned that the Forest Service has reviewed the status of the roadless areas that the Long Valley Alternative would pass through and has denied KMPUD access to that route. This is a positive step, but the undesirable Silver Lake North Alternative remains on the table along with the desirable Carson Spur Alternative.

Many of our members backcountry ski and snowshoe on Eldorado National Forest, and in particular along the Highway 88 corridor because the terrain is excellent and the area is visually spectacular. On the internet at [http://www.BackcountrySkiTours.com/pages/find\\_tours/area\\_10\\_highway\\_88.htm](http://www.BackcountrySkiTours.com/pages/find_tours/area_10_highway_88.htm) you will find a list of ski and snowshoe tours that are popular in the Tragedy Spring, Silver Lake and Martin Meadow areas. Many of these tours would be visually impaired by the Long Valley and Silver Lake North alternatives.

## Snowlands Feels Economic Woes

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He now has the title of President and presides as Chairman of the Board. With respect to the changes Marcus said, "Snowlands has been a major part of my life for many years. It is my intention to do all I can to get it through these tough economic times. But the real strength lies with the Board of Directors, volunteers and supporters. We all contribute to the success of Snowlands Network."

Snowlands is doing well considering that more than 100,000 nonprofit organizations have gone out of business in the last year. Snowlands remains healthy because we have been pro-active in our management. Snowlands has always been a lean organization with a high dependence on volunteers; now they will need to take on even more responsibility.

Annette Glabe, our membership and administrative staff person, will remain with Snowlands. She deals with every facet of our day-to-day existence – the database, the bookkeeping, our events and more – and our volunteers depend on her skills.

Annette is now located at our new office at 316 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945. The office telephone number

remains 530-265-6424. The building is a craftsman-era home next door to The Center for the Arts in downtown Grass Valley. Give Annette a call if you live nearby and have some time to help in the office.

Possibly the largest change you will see is the emphasis we make on generating new members and asking you for more support. This will be necessary due to the huge reduction in foundation giving.

As you can see in this issue of the *Bulletin*, we remain busy representing your interests. Thank you for your trust and support.

## Rubicon Trail

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job to monitor progress." The Forest Service had claimed that they were exempt from the Board's ruling based on sovereign immunity, but the attorney for the Water Quality Control Board presented proof that the Forest Service is not immune under the Clean Water Act.

The April 23, six-hour meeting of the Board attracted hundreds of interested people. The non-motorized community was represented by Monte Hendricks, Rich Platt and Marcus Libkind from Snowlands Network, Karen Schambach from the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Stan Van Velsor from the Wilderness Society, David Lass from Trout Unlimited, Lisa Belenky from the Center for Biological Diversity, and Richard McHenry from California Sportfishing Protection Alliance. The 4-wheel drive community was definitely the most heavily represented, most responding to several "alerts" asking for massive attendance and a parking lot rally.

## President's Corner

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But Snowlands Network quickly rallied other organizations and key individuals to oppose the lowest cost options because they required above-ground power lines through the heart of pristine lands along the Highway 88 corridor and across Thunder Mountain. This is a destination for many skiers and snowshoers, and the swaths cut by the power lines would be visible from many locations including the State Scenic Highway itself.

Other examples of holding the status quo include Snowlands Network's success in stopping an initiative to put a snowmobile trail through one of the most popular non-motorized ski and snowshoe areas on Lassen National Forest. You might also remember our recent success in halting plans to create a snowmobile track at Echo Summit.

The big issues come to mind when you think of Snowlands Network. I hope you will remember the breadth of the issues we work on when you are asked to renew your membership in the year ahead.

**Together we can make a difference!**



# Matrimony Ridge

The most striking view, though there are many, is to the east of Devils Peak framed under the weathered Jeffrey pine that adorns Peak 7000 and the ridge.

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Length:** 4.2 miles round trip

**Starting Elevation:** 6100 feet

**Cumulative Elevation Change:** +900, -900 round trip

**Navigation:** Road, marked trail and map

**Time:** Half day

**Season:** January through early April

**Snowmobiles:** Low

**USGS Topo:** 7.5' series, Soda Springs

**Start:** Intersection of Troy Road and Old Highway 40. Exit Interstate 80 at Kingvale, turn west (left) onto Old Highway 40 (located on north side of the interstate), drive 0.5 mile to Donner Trail School, continue 0.1 mile to Troy Road, turn left onto Troy Road, and park. The tour begins on the south side of the interstate which is accessible by an underpass.

This tour description is provided courtesy of

[www.BackcountrySkiTours.com](http://www.BackcountrySkiTours.com)

where you can find an elevation profile and GPS waypoint data for the tour.

You will be treated to outrageous panoramas from Matrimony Ridge so don't miss this tour if you have the skills necessary to complete it. Locals refer to the tree that frames Devils Peak to the east as Matrimony Tree because at least one couple traded wedding vows beneath it.



## Devils Peak and Matrimony Tree

*Courtesy of Peter Libkind*

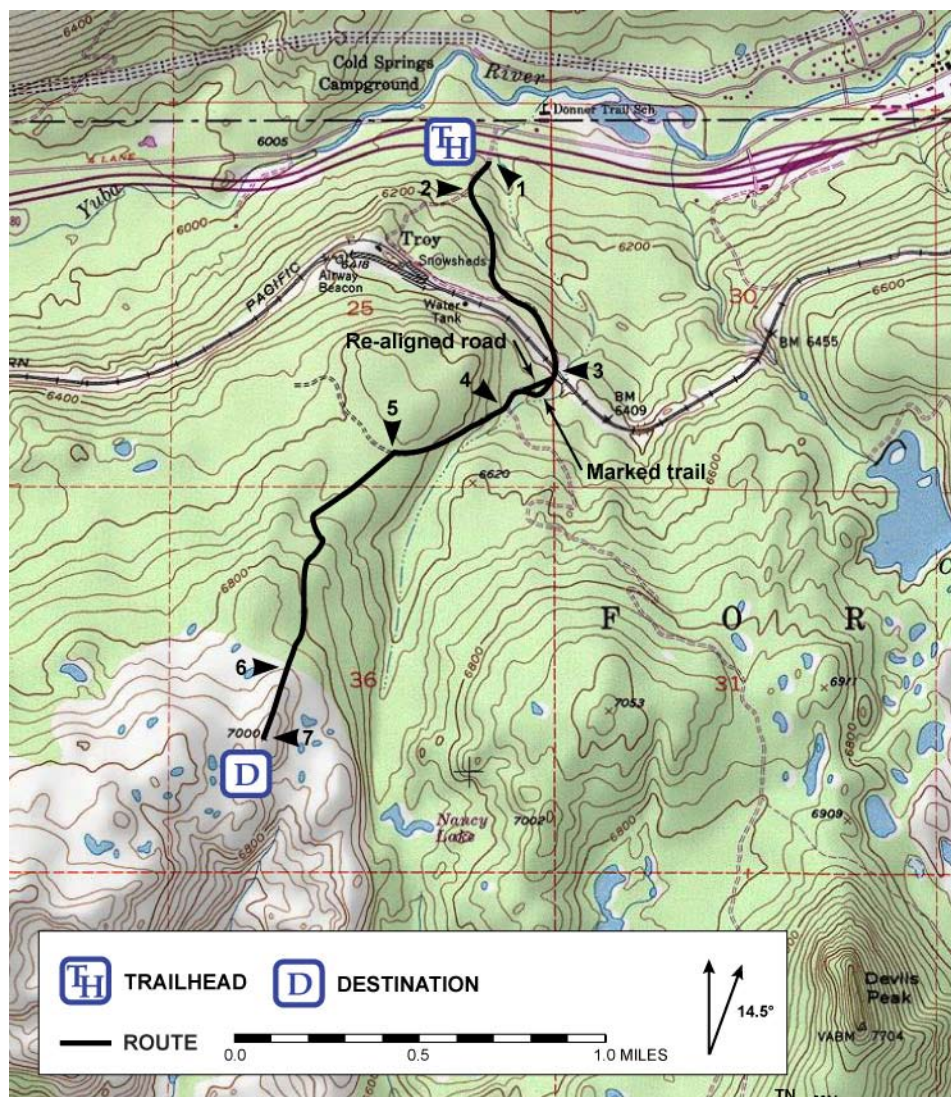
A little more than a mile of this tour follows the [High Loch Leven Lake Trail](#), established in 1991 by volunteers of the Nordic Voice, predecessor of Snowlands Network. The marked trail makes the navigation easier, but you will still need to look carefully for each successive trail marker and refer to your topo map to navigate parts of the route.

About a half-mile of the route has been over-grown with saplings, and they have reached a size that makes travel difficult without considerable snow. For that reason the stated season for the tour begins in January.

Matrimony Ridge is also part of the Fisher Lake Overlook tour described online at <http://www.BackcountrySkiTours.com>.

From the trailhead (1) [numbers in parentheses correspond to numbers on map] ski southwest on the snow-covered road for 0.1 mile until you reach a road junction (2). This junction may be difficult to see if the railroad has plowed this first section; look carefully above the berm for

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## Matrimony Ridge

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a road heading south (left). Do not be discouraged if this first section is in poor condition; the snow-players do not venture far.

Turn south (left) and follow the road for 0.6 mile until you reach the railroad tracks (3). Take off your skis and cross the railroad tracks. Be aware that in heavy snow years the banks on both sides of the tracks can be difficult to negotiate. You may find a shovel useful. It goes without saying that you should exercise extreme caution when crossing the railroad tracks — use both your eyes and ears.

After crossing the tracks, locate the extension of the road on which you have been skiing. It is marked with a sign indicating the start of the High Loch Leven Lake Trail.

Ski southwest, at first on either the marked trail or the re-aligned road and then on their combination for a total of 0.2 mile until you reach an obscure road junction (4). The junction is located approximately 100 feet before the sign indicating that you should turn right.

A great deal of change has occurred near the road junction since the trail was first marked in 1991. The trail sign marks where the trail used to turn onto Royal Gorge's Rainbow Interconnect Trail. They no longer groom that trail and it is now over-grown so it is preferable to turn at the actual road junction. However, that junction is partially over-grown too and care is necessary to locate it.

Turn southwest (right) onto the lesser road and climb for 0.3 mile until you reach a flat area (5) where the marked backcountry ski trail and the defunct Rainbow Interconnect Trail split. The defunct trail veers to the northwest (right), and the High Loch Leven Lake Trail veers to the southwest (left).

Leave the road and follow the marked trail generally south for 0.7 mile until you reach more open terrain (6). Finally ski south up broad Matrimony Ridge until you reach Peak 7000 and Matrimony Tree (7) at its highest point.



### Heading up Matrimony Ridge

Courtesy of Marcus Libkind



## Join Us!

Our success depends on you! Join and support us today. Also, please tell your friends about Snowlands Network. Together we can save and protect our snowlands.

**Sign up here or join online: [www.SaveOurSnowlands.org](http://www.SaveOurSnowlands.org)**

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Got Bumper Stickers?



Help support Snowlands and share our **Wild About Snowlands** message with friends! From bumpers to snowboards to school notebooks, our bold sticker is a striking statement. It measures 7-1/4" x 3-3/4" and has a bright blue mountain slope with black lettering.

☐ One for \$5 ☐ Five for \$15

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Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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The Summer 2009 issue of the *Snowlands Bulletin* is available online in full color at: <http://snowlands.org/bulletin/pdf/summer09.pdf>. Snowlands Network would like to send you an email announcement when each future *Bulletin* is available online. To do that we need your email address.

By allowing Snowlands to deliver the *Bulletin* to you digitally, four great things happen:

- You receive a full color version that you can read online, or you can print it out. It also allows you to easily forward the link to friends.
- We contribute to a more environmentally friendly world by eliminating unnecessary printing and transportation. Even if you print it out, we are saving unnecessary transportation.
- Snowlands Network saves considerable money and time that can be directed to other projects. In fact, this is how we plan to fund four issues a year!
- The *Bulletin* gets to you faster.

Please send a request to Annette Glabe at [aglab@snowlands.org](mailto:aglab@snowlands.org) to get a full color version of the *Snowlands Bulletin* online via an email link.