

The Inyo Register

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LA: No requirement to provide water in Mono County

Ranches with land holdings in Inyo County could be impacted

By Jon Klusmire
 Register Correspondent

"The City of Los Angeles is not required to provide water to ranch leases in Mono County."

That succinct sentence tucked in the middle of a long press release sums up why the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is planning to stop sending irrigation water over 6,000 acres of productive pastureland in Mono County.

The LADWP ranch leases on that land have historically included 5 acre feet of water

per acre, plus a varying amount of "stock water" for the cattle and horses on the land. Thus, the total water historically allocated to the Mono County ranch leases is at least 30,000 acre feet. The leases in the Long Valley area are some of the oldest offered by LADWP, and date to the early 1900s, when the department bought up the land and Owens River water rights in order to create the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

During the recent drought, LADWP reduced the amount of irrigation water on each lease, and one year provided no water whatsoever.

When drafts of new leases were recently released, the leases stated there would be no water allocated to the various ranches. Eliminating irrigation water would force a drastic reduction in the num-

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More Earth Day events planned

BLM starts the celebration with a program planned for today

Register Staff

Agencies and organizations continue to announce a variety of events to celebrate Earth Day even beyond the traditional weekend.

While Earth Day will be celebrated around the globe on April 22, the Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office, in partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, will be hosting two Outdoor Skills and Ethics events in the Eastern Sierra today.

"We are fortunate to have the Leave No Trace traveling trainers here in Bishop to support our outdoor education efforts," BLM Bishop Field Manager Steve Nelson said. "Public lands recreation is a cornerstone of the Eastern Sierra economy. Sharing practical outdoor skills and instilling a conservation ethic in today's outdoor enthusiasts is key to maintaining the recreational opportunities that benefit us all."

The traveling trainers will lead an interactive, hands-on workshop focused on teaching outdoor skills and techniques that public land visitors can use to minimize impacts when recreating outdoors at 9:30 a.m. today at

Black Sheep Coffee Roasters, 232 N. Main St., in Bishop. Topics include preparing for an outdoor adventure, waste disposal, practicing trail etiquette and interacting with wildlife.

On Friday, April 20, the traveling trainers will join Bishop Field Office staff for an Earth Day program designed specifically for Round Valley Elementary School. The students will rotate through eight hands-on science and environmental education stations focused on a variety of natural resources found in the Eastern Sierra, including fly-fishing, bighorn sheep and migratory mule deer. The Friends of the Inyo, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation and Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association also will participate in this event.

Friday presentation
 Events continue at 7 p.m. at Cerro Coso College in Bishop with a presentation by Dr. Ben Hatchett from the Desert Research Institute in Reno. Hatchett has been studying the landscapes of the Eastern Sierra for many years. He will present his findings in an engaging presentation titled "Landscapes

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Taking a look into the Inyo County Recyclescope at its Tuesday unveiling are, from left, Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann, supervisors Mark Tillemans and Dan Theroth, county CAO Kevin Carunchio shielded by supervisor Jeff Griffiths.

Photo courtesy Inyo County

Gladys unveiled to rave reviews

County contraption created by local artists

Register Staff

The big blue tarp hid almost all of Gladys. Only a colorful hint of what was to be unveiled peeked out of the top of the wrapping. As a hint of what to come, it spoke loud and clear.

Above the tarp, bouncing on a big, metal spring was a green round face with a huge, toothy grin, crazy eyes and dangling earrings. The face looked calm, however, compared to the blast of eight red flames that jutted into the air like hair lightning bolts. On top of each flame was a letter. They spelled R-E-C-Y-C-L-E!

That was the first hint that the Inyo County Recyclescope was not going to be a run-of-the-mill recycling "advertisement" or a boring, finger-wagging, "educational" aid.

The confirmation of the Recyclescope's unique approach to highlighting recycling came when the blue tarp came off.

As Darwin artist Judyth Greenburgh narrated the unveiling, the assembled group of curious citizens and county workers started inching toward Gladys to get a better look. When the tarp came all the way off, what they saw was a bit confusing, at first.

It was an 8-foot-tall metal ball formed by a skeleton of six round, steel tubes. On a round table in the middle were six metal cages holding common recycling items - cans and bottles of various sizes and colors, some scattered chunks of aluminum foil, etc. Greenburgh urged the group to get up close and personal and take a nice long look into the six tubes set at various heights around the orb. But first, someone had to turn the "wheel." With a few quick twists, the red wheel turned and so did the "table" of bottles, cans and, well, stuff.

A quick peek into the tubes elicited squeaks and gasps and a few giggles. What the onlookers saw was, quite literally, a kaleidoscopic view of the assembled refuse. Each tube was a kaleidoscope, and as the round table spun, the view changed in each tube. Nothing looked the same twice, and nothing looked like a pile of recyclable "waste."

"This is awesome," pretty much summed up the reaction of the four Inyo County supervisors, county department heads and assorted county workers and citizens who participated Tuesday in the unveiling of "Gladys," Inyo County's brand new "Recyclescope." It appears the contraption fulfilled one of its primary goals.

The contraption will be featured in the Saturday Earth Day Sierra Celebration at the Bishop City Park, and then will be put to work around the county as a fun, engaging way to introduce the topic of recycling, especially to school kids.

Greenburgh said that Inyo

County CAO Kevin Carunchio talked to her at an art show where she was showing her custom made (small) kaleidoscopes. She said he had some ideas about using found items and recycled items as some sort of artistic, fun and colorful display that also included kaleidoscopes. "He had the vision," she said.

That vision took shape when Greenburgh and Carunchio formalized the effort into a project that would eventually create Gladys. Greenburgh brought in Bishop artist David Tidwell to fabricate the "vision" out of "found" pipe and metal and a golf cart axle. "The only thing new on Gladys is the paint," he said. Topping the effort is the colorful face by Olancha sculptor and artist Jael Hoffmann.

When the demonstration was over, the trio loaded Gladys on her trailer (also made from a repurposed boat trailer from the Bishop Landfill), and off she went into her future as Inyo County's recycling ambassador.

County to begin taking short-term rental permit apps

Permits required to operate Airbnb-type businesses

Register Staff

The Inyo County Planning Department will begin taking applications for hosted and non-hosted short-term rentals on Friday April 20.

County residents who have been operating a short-term rental (this is a rental for 30-days or less) are required to have a short-term rental

permit.

In February the Inyo County Board of Supervisors enacted an ordinance regarding short-term rentals. Some residents already were operating short-term rentals without permits because the county had not developed regulations for such businesses.

The ordinance that was passed requires a person to have a permit before he or she can even advertise a short-term rental.

There were almost 50 short-term rentals listed on Airbnb.com Wednesday afternoon.

The ordinance includes a

number of regulations regarding the permit process, number of occupants, parking, noise and enforcement, including:

- Each short-term rental shall have a host or manager readily available to handle any questions or complaints during all short-term rental activities. Any change to the contact information for the manager of a non-hosted short-term rental shall immediately be provided in writing to the Inyo County Planning Department, to neighboring properties with 300 feet of the short-term vacation rental, and on any postings

- required by the ordinance.
- Only one hosted rental per parcel may be permitted.
- Only one non-hosted rental per parcel may be permitted, and only if provided that the owner also possesses a permit for a hosted rental.
- No more than two parcels on which short-term rentals are permitted may share a common owner.
- No more than five guestrooms per dwelling unit may be permitted for short-term rental activity.
- Only two renters are allowed per guestroom. This number does not include children three years and under.

- A maximum of one vehicle per guestroom shall be allowed, and the owner shall provide off-street parking for all such allowed vehicles, that the renters shall utilize. The owner shall ensure that the parking limitations are included in short-term rental agreements and in all related advertisements.

For more information on short-term rental regulations, the application process and costs, contact the Inyo County Planning Department at (760) 878-0263 or see the Planning Department webpage at: <http://inyoplanning.org/>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The hardest thing to understand in the world is the income tax."

- Albert Einstein