



Board of Supervisors

Mono County Participates in Department of Fish and Wildlife “Question the Leaders” Panel Discussion – **Supervisor Tim Alpers** shared this video link of the County’s recent participation of CDFW Panel discussion at the March 7th Fred Hall Fishing Exhibition. **Supervisor Alpers** in his questioning presses the Department on ensuring a robust fish stocking program for the Eastern Sierra.

Thank you to **Jeff Simpson**, **Liz Grans** and **Alicia Vennos** for their work in ensuring Mono County had a great presence at the Fred Hall Show as well as the many other needed marketing exhibitions throughout California that bring the fishing lovers to Mono County.

<https://vimeo.com/123163273>

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Community Development Department

Local Transportation Commission – The LTC conducted a public hearing Monday on Unmet Transit Needs in the county. **Wendy Sugimura** presented a matrix with identified needs and received additional input from Social Services Transportation Advisory Council attendees. A lengthy discussion on early opening of Tioga Pass elicited public comment from local business owners, including **Chris Lizza**, **Nancy** and **Mike Pinizzotto**. Caltrans responded with news that the highway would open Wednesday for access up to the park entrance station. The LTC presented a resolution of appreciation to Caltrans for timely installation of vehicle-speed- feedback signs along US Hwy 6. Quarterly reports were received from Caltrans, Town and County staff, including **Garrett Higerd**.

Sunrise grouse continues – Staff grouse counts continued early Thursday morning, with interagency lek counts in the Bodie Hills. Big thanks to early riser **Wendy Sugimura** for her efforts.

Building seminar – Thanks to Building Division staff, including building official **Tom Perry** and inspector **Jim Shoffner** for organizing and offering a public seminar on shear wall and moment frame construction this afternoon.

CONTACT: (760)924-1804

County Administrator’s Office

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! – I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to work for Mono County. The Board provided me a chance to be part of something special and I will always be eternally grateful. Learning and working with everyone in moving Mono in a new, more engaged and energized direction has been exciting. It will be incredible watching Mono continue those efforts if even from afar.



Over the next several weeks, I will work to connect and say thank you for all you do, have done and will continue doing for the community. Public service is a calling and those who answer the call continue through hard work and heart felt commitment to try and move the needle on making the community stronger.

Thank you for your efforts and Au revoir!

CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

CSAC and RCRC report major victory for counties in securing Safe Rural Schools funding and other vital programs – The following write ups from both the California State Association of counties and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) report that Congress has finally funded the Safe Rural Schools funds. These funds are crucial to Mono County for local roads. **Supervisor Larry Johnston** serves on the CSAC Board of Directors and **Chairman Tim Fesko** serves on the RCRC Executive Board. All the County's advocacy efforts have yielded results on this front.

From CSAC: "In a major victory for CSAC, Congress overwhelmingly approved legislation (HR 2) that extends the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and provides for a continuation of several key health and human services programs. In addition, the bill would permanently correct the Medicare program's physician payment formula (known as the "doc fix").

Secure Rural Schools - HR 2 includes a long-awaited extension of the SRS program – a top CSAC priority. Specifically, the legislation – which will be signed into law today by President Obama - will provide payments to California counties for fiscal year 2014 (retroactive) and fiscal year 2015. In addition, the measure requires the U.S. Forest Service to provide the fiscal year 2014 payment in a timely manner – within 45 days of enactment. The fiscal year 2015 payment will be distributed early next year.

In another effort to expedite the distribution of payments, counties will not have the option (as they have in years past) to elect whether to receive a share of timber harvest receipts (25-percent payment) or a share of the SRS payment. Instead, the election made by each county in fiscal year 2013 will carry forward for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

It should also be noted that the interaction between SRS and the federal Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program is such that a cut in SRS would have had a significant impact on fiscal year 2015 PILT payments. If Congress failed to extend SRS, a number of California counties would have experienced a significant decline in their PILT allocation this year.

Background on SRS - The SRS program provides a vital source of funding for rural communities in California facing declining revenues from timber sales on federal lands. These funds are used to maintain local roads and schools, operate search and rescue missions, and provide many other essential local services. Because SRS funding expired last year, the most recent distribution of payments had been guided by the *Twenty-Five Percent Fund Act of 1908*. The Act essentially requires the federal government to share with states 25 percent of the receipts generated on national forest land. While this model worked well for a number of years, declining federal timber production and sales ultimately led to the development of the SRS program.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Forest Service distributed approximately \$50 million to 746 timber counties under the 1908 law. Of the \$50 million, California counties only received about \$8.7 million. By comparison, a little more than \$300 million was allocated under the SRS program last year, with \$35.6 million going to California counties. Furthermore, unlike SRS, the 25-percent payments do not allow states to allocate funds for work similar to Title II (conservation work on national forests) or Title III (county projects for Firewise programs, emergency services or community wildfire protection plans).

CSAC has continued to encourage key members of Congress to provide a sustainable, long-term solution to SRS. In particular, the association has urged lawmakers to develop bipartisan legislation that would address active forest management, streamline the environmental review process, and revise the Forest Service's day-to-day approach to managing the nation's federal forests. Additionally, Congress should ensure that counties are appropriately compensated under any potential new payment system.

Children's Health Insurance Program - The legislation also includes a two-year extension of funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP/Healthy Families), which helps provide health coverage to children and pregnant women from low-income households. Without the enhanced federal funding provided through the program, California's Health and Human Services Agency had estimated a loss of up to \$533 million annually.

Home Visiting Program - Finally, the bill provides a two-year extension of funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. This program supports pregnant women and families and helps at-risk parents of pre-school children by using evidence-based, cost-effective models that improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness. California received \$22.6 million in fiscal year 2015 funding last month. As of February 2015, 21 California counties participated in the federal program.

CONTACT: **Karen A. Keene**, Senior Legislative Representative, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs, California State Association of Counties (916) 327-7500 x511

RCRC Applauds Two-Year Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools - *California's Forested Counties to receive more Than \$53 Million in Funding for Public Schools and Road Programs* - The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) applaud Congress for their support of legislation providing for a two-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS). Included as a policy rider to H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, also known as the "Doc Fix," H.R. 2 will provide California's forested counties with more than \$53 million in SRS funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The President signed the bill into law late Thursday.

SRS funding mitigates the impact to county governments from the reduction of timber harvesting on federal forest lands. Prior to this reauthorization, SRS expired on September 20, 2013, resulting in a loss of funding for 2014 and future years to support critical programs in local schools and forested counties across the United States. Earlier this year, 27 RCRC member counties adopted resolutions urging Congress to reauthorize SRS, outlining impacts the lack of funding has upon local schools and county road programs. RCRC Officers utilized these resolutions in federal lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. this past February.

H.R. 2 also expedites SRS payments to counties by requiring the federal government to make payments within 45 days of the bill's enactment. A detailed breakdown of California's 2014 and 2015 SRS payment estimates can be accessed [here](#).

CONTACT: Justin Caporusso, RCRC, (916) 447-4806, JCaporusso@rcrcnet.org

(REMINDER!!) Free Energy Code Training being offered - On behalf of SCE, the Eastern Sierra Energy Foundation is passing along information for a workshop you might like to attend on Thursday, May 7, 8:30am – 4:30pm, Edison Theatre, Mammoth Lakes. Please see the attached flyer.

There is plenty of room so please pass the information along to anyone you feel would benefit from the workshop! There is no charge, but pre-registration is required since SCE is serving a continental breakfast and lunch.

FREE ENERGY CODE TRAINING

Title 24 Part 6 Essentials
Residential Standards
Plans Examiners & Building Inspectors

While targeted to examiners and inspectors, this course would be valuable to anyone dealing with energy standards for residential new construction and renovations. For more information and registration, please call 626-812-7537 or register online at www.SCE.com/workshops

Or if you plan on taking the workshop, you could just respond to this email, and we will be pleased to send along your information to SCE:

NAME, AFFILIATION, TELEPHONE, EMAIL, MAILING ADDRESS

CONTACT: Pamela Stayden, High Sierra Energy Foundation, (760) 934-4650

Inyo National Forest announces release of Draft Travel Analysis Report (TAR) and is soliciting input on the findings – the INF will host a public meeting to share the report on Tuesday, April 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop, California. Forest staff will talk about how the Draft TAR was developed, answer questions about the Travel Analysis Process (TAP) and share maps and findings of the TAR.



The draft report, its appendices and maps can be viewed on the Inyo National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3834316>.

TAP is mandated by the 2005 Travel Management Rule and requires that forests provide a safe, financially and environmentally sustainable road system that can realistically be maintained. Due to increased use, aging infrastructure, and decreasing budgets, the forest cannot maintain all roads to standards for safety and environmental protection. In order for the Inyo National Forest to continue to be eligible to receive federally appropriated maintenance funds for its road system, the TAP must be completed by September 30, 2015.

TAP fulfills the requirement in Subpart A of the 2005 Travel Management Rule that requires forests to use a science-based roads analysis process to help identify the minimum road system. Under TAP, the forest must determine the risks and benefits for every designated system road, and identify needed

changes or repairs. The results are documented in the Draft Travel Analysis Report (TAR). Recommendations in the report will guide future road planning project priorities and analyses, but the TAR does not make any decisions.

How to provide input - Input will be most useful if received by May 18, 2015. Email comments can be sent to: comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us, with the subject line, "TAP comments". Input can also be faxed to (760) 873-2486. Hard copy comments can be dropped off at the Forest Service Supervisor's Office during normal business hours (8:00-4:30, Monday through Friday), or can be mailed to Erin Noesser, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Ln. Suite 200, Bishop, California 93514.

The Travel analysis Process (TAP) is not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it does not make any decisions. Therefore, the project is not subject to notice and objection. Your input, however, will help make this analysis more accurate and complete.

Comments will be most helpful if they include specific information or suggestions: for example, information about risks or benefits of specific roads. We would also appreciate any corrections of information in the Draft report, suggestions about improving the analysis process, and suggestions about any future changes to specific roads. The TAP does not consider routes that are currently not on the National Forest Transportation System, nor does it consider motorized or non-motorized trails. Comments that focus on existing open National Forest system roads will be the most useful.

CONTACT: Deb Schweizer, (760) 873-2427, debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us.

CSAC SEEKS COUNTY BEST PRACTICES FOR ANNUAL CHALLENGE AWARDS -

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) invites you to enter our 2015 Challenge Awards competition.

These unique awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments as they find innovative, effective and cost-saving ways to provide programs and services to their citizens. This is a wonderful opportunity to spotlight your county's best practices and the staff behind them.

CSAC recognizes counties in four population categories. Challenge Award-winning programs receive state and national exposure, are highlighted in county best practices videos, and recognized at Boards of Supervisors meetings. This is a great way to let your colleagues across the state and nation know about the innovative work you are doing.

To learn more about how to enter in the Challenge Awards program, [click here](#).

Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2015

CONTACT: David Liebler, CSAC Deputy Director of Public Affairs & Member Services, at dliebler@counties.org – (916) 327-7500 FAX: (916) 441-5507

April is National County Government Month. The theme this year is focused on transportation and infrastructure - CSAC is celebrating by highlighting four innovative county programs that are delivering real value for constituents in energy, broadband, flood control and road improvement. Today we have a



video and blog that look at Placer County’s Broadband Expansion program that brought a rural elementary school into the internet age. Please take a few minutes to [watch the video](#) or [read the blog](#).

We hope you will be inspired by these county programs that are making a difference.

CONTACT: Gregg Fishman, Communications Coordinator, California State Association of Counties, 916-327-7500 ext. 516

Mono County’s Strategic Planning Framework Continues RPACS review – Thank you to everyone on staff (which is ALL of you) who helped bring forward the Strategic Planning Framework. This unprecedented effort is circulating out through many public committees the County has to garner public feedback. Please feel free to come on by the following Strategic Planning meetings:

Long Valley RPAC	April 22nd
June Lake CAC (Both reviews)	May 5th
Mono Basin RPAC (2nd review)	May 13th
Bridgeport RPAC (2nd Review)	May 21st



CONTACT: Jim Leddy, (707) 529-4510

Economic Development

Road Update

- **Tioga Pass:** Yosemite National Park will begin snow removal on Hwy 120 from Crane Flat to the east park entrance on April 15th (weather permitting). A projected opening date has not been set.
- **Hwy 120 West:** The lower section of Tioga Pass from Hwy 395 Lee Vining to the east park entrance will be opening by 5:00pm tomorrow, April 15th.
- **SR 270/Bodie Road:** Currently open.
- **Hwy 89/Monitor Pass:** Currently open.
- **Hwy 108/Sonora Pass:** Caltrans is projecting to open Hwy 108 by 12:00pm on Friday, April 17th (weather permitting).
- **Mammoth Lakes Basin / Lake Mary Road:** Projected to open Saturday, April 18th (weather permitting).
- **Reds Meadow Road:** Projected to open Saturday, May 16th (weather permitting).
- **Hwy 158/June Lake Loop:** Currently open.
- **Lundy Lake Road:** Currently open.
- **Virginia Lakes Road:** Open until Rand Road, which is about 3/8 of a mile to Big Virginia.
- **Convict Lake Road:** Currently open. Construction begins in the near future – expect delays.
- **Rock Creek Road:** Open until Rock Creek Pack Station. Construction begins very soon – expect delays.
- **Hwy 120 East to Benton:** Currently open.

Campgrounds - Convict Lake, Sherwin Creek, Oh Ridge, June Lake, Gull Lake, Silver Lake, Big Springs, Lower Lee Vining, Buckeye, Honeymoon Flat, Robinson Creek, Crags, and Chris Flat campgrounds will be open by April 24th. Twin Lakes Resort in Bridgeport, Mammoth RV Park and Holiday Campground in Rock Creek are all currently open.

Tioga Pass – Summer Road Construction -- The National Park Service (NPS) will be making repairs on numerous roadways throughout the park. A Yosemite NPS Project Manager is onsite to complete regular inspections and to ensure that the work complies with our environmental requirements, as well as the goals and mission of the National Park Service. An overview of each project is listed below along with an estimated schedule of delays for each.

2015 Road Projects

Tioga Road - A road rehabilitation project is in progress on the **Tioga Road** from Crane Flat To White Wolf. The project is scheduled to conclude in November 2015. Once the road opens for the season in spring 2015, delays will be possible each week, 24 hours per day, beginning Sunday at 11 pm through Friday at 4:30 pm. All campgrounds and other services along the Tioga Road will be accessible.

Delays Sunday night through Friday afternoon

11 pm to 6 am	1 hour
6 am to 7:30 am	15 minutes
7:30 am to 3:30 pm	30 minutes
3:30 pm to 4:30 pm	15 minutes
4:30 pm to 11 pm	30 minutes

The specific work includes accessibility improvements, repairing or replacing existing failed curbs, subgrade repairs, culvert improvements and grinding up and repaving the existing roadway.

Repairs to Big Oak Flat Road Tunnels

Delays Sundays at 10 pm through Friday afternoons at 4:30 pm

10 pm to 6 am:	2 hours
6 am to 8 pm:	15 minutes
8 pm to 10 pm:	30 minutes

Community Event Marketing Fund (CEMF) - Due to an event cancellation, the Mono County Community Event Marketing Fund reimbursement program has \$4,000 in funds available. Applications for this funding will be accepted through Friday, May 15th and reviewed at the May 26th Mono County Tourism and Film Commission meeting (10:00am at the Bridgeport Health Department Annex). **Please see the attached document for more information and the application form.**

Economic Development Information - If you have something you would like promoted on our Economic Development Facebook page, please send to us. Examples might be job openings, open houses, rental spaces, businesses for sale, new businesses, open and/or closing dates of your business, trainings,

seminars, events, fundraisers, etc. Posting will be at the discretion of the Economic Development staff and is not guaranteed, but we will do our best to help spread the word!

CONTACT: Jeff Simpson, Economic Development, (760) 924-4634



Public Works

Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project set to start construction May 4th - Bishop – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing for construction on the Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project.

The project’s purpose is to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes onto US Hwy 395 in Mono County, north of Lee Vining near Mono Lake, from postmile 52.3 to 53.7. The project also includes a plant establishment program on the six slopes involved to reduce erosion, establish healthy soil, and promote successful revegetation.

Construction is scheduled to begin on May 4th with the installation of storm water protection and construction signage. A temporary traffic signal will be installed on May 5th, and traffic will be reduced to one lane with a 24 hour / 7 days a week reversing traffic pattern.

The traveling public should be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes, Monday thru Thursday from 5:00 am to 8:00 pm and Fridays 6:00 am to 3:00 pm with flaggers and a pilot car.

As of May 12th, one hour delays could occur Monday thru Thursday from 6:00 am to 7:00 am. Notices will be posted when exact dates become available for the one hour closures. The contractor awarded the project is Papich Construction Co. Inc. from Pismo Beach, CA. on March 26, 2015. The contract bid amount was \$5,799,999. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016. Six portable changeable message signs in addition to the five existing signs will be used for public notices related to the project.

Contact: Florene Trainor, Caltrans PIO, florene_trainor@dot.ca.gov, (760) 872-0603 office, (760) 937-1553 cell

1. Thank you to **Tony Iniguez** for his continued high quality work for Facilities! Tony seems to be a “behind-the-scenes” kind of employee, never seeking out the limelight, but his work speaks for itself. I was recently leaving Walker at 6:25am when I noticed several sprinklers not operating correctly at the Walker Community Park. I took several pictures to send to Facilities to let them know, but before I could even send the email Tony



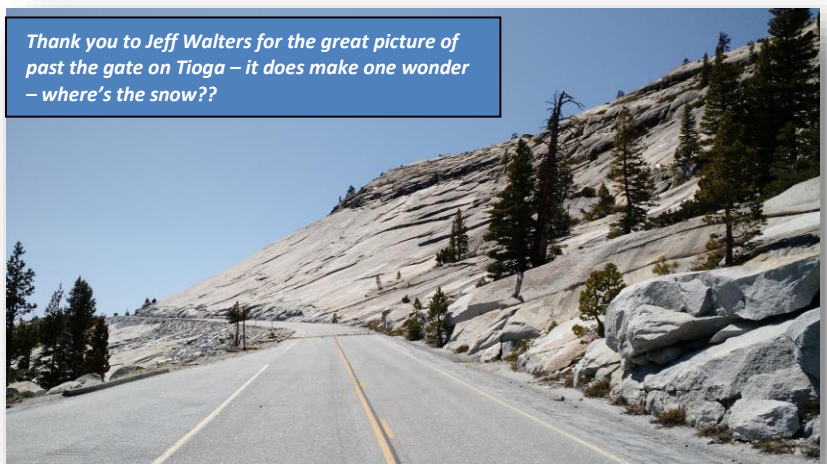
showed up and was on it immediately. His work ethic is appreciated every day by all of Mono County!

2. The **Chalfant ball field** renovation/rehabilitation has been completed (see photos). **Shane Gleason, Steve Worabel, Tony Iniguez, Billy Czsechin, Russell Brown, Joey Swager, Jeff Boylan**, Mono County Sheriff's for providing inmates and the Road crews for providing equipment.

All of these people were instrumental in working on making improvements to the field's surface. They re-graded, seeded, fertilized, added soil amendments and watered. Now we're just waiting on warm temperatures and spring rains to allow the grass to grow.



3. The Solid Waste staff continues to provide a valuable service for all of Mono County. Often times they are working in extreme weather conditions with minimal staff. Hat's off to the entire crew!



Thank you to Jeff Walters for the great picture of past the gate on Tioga – it does make one wonder – where's the snow??

4. **Walt Lehmann** recently found the “needle in the haystack”. The Cunningham Lane Bridge (see attached photo) is one of Public Works future projects as the structure needs repairs and/or replacement. As part of the preliminary work, right-of-way documents were needed but unfortunately could not be found. After searching for the documents Walt was finally able to find them out in storage. Thanks Walt!
5. Don't give up on winter yet! Long range weather forecasts points to storms starting next week and into May. Should it arrive, the Road staff is ready to plow some snow!
6. **Jerry VandeBrake** and **Kirk Hartstrom** have successfully updated the Walker and Bridgeport fuel pumps and are now working on Lee Vining, Crowley and Benton.



CONTACT: Jeff Walter, (760) 932-5459

Social Services



**COVERED
CALIFORNIA**

News from Covered California:

Covered California announced that it is teaming up with state revenue agencies and tax preparers including H & R Block and Intuit, and reminded uninsured consumers that they still have time to sign up for health coverage to minimize tax penalties for tax year 2015.

Covered California has created a special-enrollment opportunity for consumers who were unaware of the tax penalty. **The opportunity allows them to enroll in health coverage through April 30 and thereby minimize even steeper tax penalties taking effect for 2015.** More than 18,000 consumers have taken advantage of the special-enrollment opportunity since it began Feb. 23. The tax penalty, or “shared responsibility payment,” will increase for tax year 2015. Those who can afford insurance but choose not to buy it face a penalty of \$325 per adult in a household or 2 percent of their income, whichever is greater. More details and examples of the tax penalty can be found here. Approximately 800,000 California households received federal subsidies to make health care more affordable in 2014, with the estimated average amount received being more than \$5,200 per household per year, or about \$436 per month.

The full press release is available at <http://news.coveredca.com/2015/04/tax-experts-team-up-with-covered.html>.



“Doc fix” bill - Earlier this week, the Senate adopted 92-8 the doc fix bill, reforming the way physicians are reimbursed under Medicare. To be signed by President Obama, the bill includes two-year funding extensions for both the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The legislation also makes permanent the transitional medical assistance (TMA) program which allows low-income families to maintain their Medi-Cal coverage for up to one year as they transition from welfare to work. It also extends through FY 2017, the state option to use Express Lane Eligibility (ELE). ELE permits states to rely on eligibility findings from another program such as TANF, SNAP or WIC to facilitate enrollment in health coverage. Source: NACHSA e-Alert

HHS Proposes Extension of 90/10 Enrollment Systems Funding:



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to extend access to enhanced federal financial participation for Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligibility and enrollment systems past the current regulatory deadline of December 31, 2015. CMS proposes to revise certain definitions and activities allowable for a **90% federal match** which will have the

effect of providing additional time and funding to allow states to complete fully modernized systems and support Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligibility and enrollment, and delivery system needs. This enhanced funding is only available for state projects that adhere to certain standards and conditions which are also being updated by this proposed rule. Public comments are due by June 15, 2015. Source: NACHSA e-Alert



FREE Early Childhood Parenting Class

Mono County Office of Education

MCOE will be starting an early childhood parenting class in May. Please pass the word! Flyer attached.

CONTACT: Laura Timpano, Administrative Assistant, Alternative Education, Mono County Office of Education, (760) 934-0031.

FREE Workforce Education and Training Certificate Program

Sponsored by Mono County Office of Education and Mono County Department of Social Services

**Two locations available:
Mammoth Lakes & Walker/Coleville**

**Earn a certificate recognized by local businesses
A certificate is earned if all modules are completed**

Translation Services & Child Care Provided Free of Charge

Module 1 - Career Development

Module 2 - Job Search and Resume

Module 3 - Interviews

Module 4 - Professionalism

Each session will cover modules 1-4 - All classes 1:00-4:30pm
Session 1 in Mammoth Tuesdays 4/14, 5/5, 5/26 and 6/16
Session 2 in Walker - Thursdays 4/16, 5/7, 5/28 and 6/18
Session 3 in Mammoth - Saturdays 4/18, 5/9, 5/30 and 6/20

Call 760-934-0031 or e-mail tnguyen@monocoe.org for more information