

# ENFIA Interpreter

August 1, 2021 Vol. 5

## A Message from the President

Once again we are enjoying the EDNF from Hell Hole to Wrights Lake to Desolation to Carson Pass and there are plenty of smiles on folks glad to be outdoors again. The Carson Pass Information Station opened on Memorial Day Weekend and has been full of day hikers, backpackers and through hikers on the PCT enjoying the majesty of the Mokelumne Wilderness and our hospitality.

Through the hard work, diligence and leadership of the CP Team, it has almost seemed like a miracle. My great appreciation to Karen Heine, Lisa Irving-Peterson, Phil Hartvig, Bruce Odelberg, Keli Gwyn and all the docents that have volunteered at the Station to make this happen for our visiting public.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo

"So do I", said Gandolf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide.

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us. " JRR Tolkien

Thank you all and stay safe,

Larry Moore President

## Back in Business

By Keli Gwyn, Retail Coordinator

Three of our retail locations have reopened! Carson Pass welcomed its first visitors Memorial Day weekend, Crystal Basin in mid-June, and Desolation Wilderness greeted hikers the third week of that month. Each site received a delivery of merchandise tagged and ready for our new Square point-of-sale system, along with their sleek Square stand,



card reader, and barcode scanner. In exchange, the Deso staff returned the merchandise that had been on their shelves when Covid forced their doors to close. Those items will be added to inventory, tagged, and prepared for return to the locations as needed. Given how brisk sales have been, that merchandise won't be at our storage unit in Placerville, aka the Depot, for long.

Forest visitors are delighted to see our retail outlets open again. The locations are observing Covid protocols. Carson Pass has plexiglass screens in place and can accommodate one to two customers or family groups inside at a time, while Crystal and Deso are offering window sales only. Despite the limitations, the Crystal staff got creative. They set up a table out front and strung a clothesline from which they hang some of the T-shirts they stock. Carson Pass has also been displaying merchandise on their porch. By offering a glimpse of what's inside, the sites have been attracting more visitors, many of whom didn't realize that, in addition to writing permits and answering their questions, we have great merchandise for sale.

Ah, yes. The merchandise. Visitors, docents, and USFS staff alike are impressed with what we have to offer. While I'm pleased to hear the compliments, I can't take the credit. I had lots of help. Our former Retail Manager Kathie Piaszk laid the foundation. Our former Carson Pass Manager Dennis Price, who had a knack for choosing merchandise that moved, passed on a wealth of information. The USFS Front Desk staff helped educate me as to what visitors at their locations like and new items to consider carrying that they think would sell well. Our new Retail Lead at Carson Pass, Lisa Irving-Peterson, suggested several new items too, such as the cool stickers we're now carrying at that location as well as others.



New merchandise is exciting, but that's not the only change that's taken place. In addition, we've streamlined our offerings. Thanks to lists left by Kathie and Dennis, I had a heads up on which items were slow movers. While performing the annual physical inventory for our accountant to use in preparing ENFIA's income taxes last fall, I discovered others that were

outdated, out of print, one of a kind, etc. With the Board's backing, I ran a clearance sale at Carson Pass, which



found homes for many of those items and enabled me to focus on what is selling well, so

well, in fact, that I've been busy ordering replenishment merchandise all summer. My aim is to be ready for the flood of folks who vacation in August and choose our beloved forest as their destination.

One of the biggest changes this season is the implementation of the Square system. The process has gone well. We were able to get the internet connection we needed at all three of the open locations using two different methods: a hotspot connection at Carson Pass and Desolation Wilderness and a Verizon cell connection to Crystal's LTE iPad. The prevalent opinion among Carson Pass docents and USFS staff is that Square is a welcome addition. Many have mentioned how easy it is to ring up sales due to the barcodes and scanners. The daily sales reports generated by Square let our site managers know how well they're doing, what they sold, etc.

One of the hidden benefits of Square is the inventory feature that allows me to see how many items are on hand at each of our locations. I can sit at my desk in Elk Grove and have access to data for the entire forest, enabling me to reorder stock as needed. My biggest challenge is our success. Because the items we carry have been flying off the shelves faster than I ever imagined, I've been struggling to keep up with the demand. That's a



problem I'm happy to have.

It's exciting to have three locations open and doing so well. I'm eager to see the other four reopen, but that could be a few months away. When that happens, though, we'll be ready. Until then, I'm enjoying working with our wonderful Carson Pass docents and the great USFS staff at Crystal and Desolation Wilderness. Thanks for all you do!

## **Maiden's Grave, or Not! The Truth, The Myth, The Legend And Other Convolutd Stories**

By Frank Tortorich



## The Grave Next to the Highway

When driving California State Route 88 (aka Carson Pass Highway, Alpine Highway, Route 8, etc.) east from Jackson, California, in approximately 45 miles you will see this highway sign. Signs like this alert people that there is a point of historical interest ahead; in this case it reads MARKER 500 FT AHEAD.



If we have the time to stop to see what this sign is inviting us to discover, this is what we will see.



As you can see there are three markers. I want to quote from the *California Historical Landmarks*, California Department of Parks and

Recreation publication. No publication date is listed.

This is the text for Maiden's Grave, Historical Landmark 28:

*NO. 28 MAIDEN'S GRAVE - It is said that in 1850 a young girl, Rachel Melton, native of Iowa, was accompanying her parents on a journey West via covered wagon train when she became violently ill. Camp was made and every effort was made to cure her, as she was the joy of the party, but she passed away and was buried on this spot.*

It is curious to me, as a historian, that there is no reference as to the source of this text. But it does begin our study as to what other text versions offer in our search of the "truth." I will begin with taking a closer look at each of the three markers in the sequence as to when they were installed.



This was the first of the three markers placed at this site. The inscription sets the stage for the rest of this paper. It reads:



Rachael Melton  
Died  
Oct. 4, 1850  
Native of Iowa  
Erected by Guests  
At Kirkwood  
1908



The second marker was erected sometime in the 1990s. Note it was donated by Sharky Begovich, raised in Jackson, CA, a resident of Minden, NV, who did not apply for a US Forest Service permit. He just thought it was something nice to do.<sup>1</sup> We have no source documentation for the information on this monument. Now let's look at the third marker.



The text reads:

**WHO IS REALLY BURIED IN THE  
MAIDEN'S GRAVE?**

*Who is the maiden? Who is buried  
here if not the maiden?*

*Maiden's Grave is a popular roadside stop that commemorates the death of a young woman during the overland migration in 1850. Around 1900 an elderly woman looking for the gravesite of her daughter started a series of events that identified the wrong grave as that of her daughter.*

*At two different times, two headstones were installed at a location along busy Highway 88. The site came to honor the maiden and many others that died on their journey to California. Historical research in 1989 disclosed that a young man was buried here, and that the young woman or maiden was buried in a meadow two miles to the east.*

*On October 4, 1850, William Edmundson wrote in his diary,*

*"After Traveling 6 miles we came to Tragedy Spring ... After Traveling two miles further, we came to a trading post about noon where we camped having come 8 miles today. A young man from Henry County, named Allen Melton died at this place during the night."*<sup>2</sup>

*Allen Melton was buried near here. No one knows the actual location because of highway realignment when the rocks marking the original*

*location were moved. This memorial commemorates the life and death of Allen Melton of Henry County, Iowa, and all the others who suffered and died during the great western migration.*

*Please take a moment to reflect on the hardships they endured to follow their dreams.*

*Dedicated October 4, 2004*

*Marker dedicated jointly with the  
Amador County Sesquicentennial  
Committee*

*United States Forest Service  
Amador County Historical Society  
Oregon-California Trails Association*

This next photo appears to show the original location on the grave before several realignments of the highway. By observing the trees from the first photo to this one, it is obvious that these are different locations.



Courtesy of the Amador County Archives, date unknown

With the Edmundson journal eyewitness account, it becomes obvious that there is no maiden buried here, but rather a young man.

So how did this misidentification happen?

We must go back to the early 1900s when an elderly woman came to the area looking for her daughter's grave. This is how a California State Highway engineer described the event in his memo dated September 26, 1916.<sup>3</sup>

*For more than half a century there has existed a legend that somewhere along the trail was a grave of a young maiden who had succumbed to the rigors of the journey across the deserts and was buried beside the trail.*

*Well intentioned people subscribed to a fund to mark the grave and had a granite block prepared for that purpose. About two miles west of Tragedy Springs (there is only one spring) is a grave of a man who died and was buried in 1850. The grave was marked by a cairn of stones, and a board taken from a wagon-box, upon which the man's name, Allen Melton, nativity, and date of death were cut with a knife.*

*In the absence of a woman's grave to mark, the granite stone was engraved with the information appearing on the headboard above described, substituting a woman's Christian name, Rachel Melton, for the given name cut on the board. The monument bearing a woman's name was then erected at the grave of a man.*

*Prior to the marking of the grave as above related, a citizen of Amador county was encamped at the meadow near Tragedy Springs, when a very old woman appeared, having driven by a team from Jackson. She stated that in 1850 when she and her family came that way with an immigrant (emigrant) train. Her daughter died and was buried on the meadow at Tragedy Springs, the grave being at the foot of a large tree. She had come to remove the remains of her child and give them Christian burial. She recognized the campground but unable to find either the grave or the tree she thought marked it, and went away disappointed. No one thought to inquire her name of whence she came.*

*Some years later, and after the monument had been placed as above stated, the foreman in charge of work on the State Road, Stephen Ferari<sup>4</sup> by name, cleared the meadow by burning the logs which encumbered it.*

*When one log, lying in the vicinity of where the woman had searched for her daughter's grave, was reduced to ashes, there were exposed the outline of a grave marked with stones, with a mound of rocks at the head.*

*Recently the grave has been marked by a rude wooden cross, on the arms of which are cut the words; "The Maiden's Grave". It is believed that this is the true Maiden's Grave of the*

*legend, the one sought by the aged mother who was unable to visualize the fir tree in the prone log covering the grave from sight.*

*Signed: P.M. Norboe*

*September 26, 1916*

**California Historic  
Landmark No. 28<sup>5</sup>**

Officially registered August 1, 1932

It was in 1932 when Elizabeth Sargent, the principal Amador County historian, was instrumental in establishing "Maiden's Grave" as the twenty-eighth California State Landmark.<sup>6</sup>

It did not take long for attention to be raised about the incorrect referencing of the name of the girl, Rachael Melton, to thinking about correcting the name to Allen Melton.

In 1935, a man named William F. Bliss wrote a letter to the State Chamber of Commerce.

*Gentlemen:*

*By request, a copy of the inclosed (sic) reference to one of the State LandMarks was left with the California Department of the State Library yesterday. The attendant in charge suggested that I also mail a copy to you and upon looking at the reports of landmarks, we find that #28, County Amador, history and description, the MAIDEN'S GRAVE, has already been reported by you.*



*The first I learned in 1935 of the recent marking of this spot and spoke to the attendants of the library of the impropriety of selecting a grave already marked as a burial place of a man, using his family name and substituting in place of his surname, that of a woman.*

*Later I made inquiry of Mr. Clarence E. Jarvis, a former resident of Amador County and now a resident of the Capital National Bank in Sacramento, as to the marking of the spot and was advised by him that he was present at that time and that it had been learned later that the maiden's burial place was pointed out, by one who claimed to know, as being at Tragedy Springs, which is about two miles east of the present location of the present marker. He did not know what became of the original marker.*

*This is confirmation of the fact that at no time in the past was there any confusion about the application of the name of the person with the original marker until the move was made to mark the Maiden's Grave arose.*

*Trusting that this information may assist in rectifying the error by our good California friends, I am*  
*William F. Bliss*

Letter from the State Chamber of Commerce to Mr. Bliss, March 9, 1936.

*Dear Mr. Bliss:*

*Your letter of March 5 is received. Please be advised that the material contained in the application blank covering "Maiden's Grave", which is now known as State registered landmark #28, was sent in by Mrs. J.L. Sargent of Jackson, California, who was the chairman of a committee of historians from Amador County to send in various applications for registration. Mrs. Sargent is also the author of an extensive history of Amador County.*

*In view of the fact that you contend there is a discrepancy in regard to this landmark, I suggest that you take the matter up with Mrs. Sargent at your earliest convenience in order to call to her attention that you believe to be the authentic history surrounding this grave.*

*I would like to hear from you after you have either conferred with or been in correspondence with Mrs. Sargent.*

*Very Truly yours,*  
*Frank McKee*  
*Director of State Highway*  
*Department*

Howard Bartlett frequently submitted articles to the local county newspapers. He was active in several organizations, including serving as secretary of the Kit Carson Pass Association. He became interested in William Bliss' efforts to correct the misnamed "Maiden's Grave."

Bartlett wrote:

*In 1945, we gave all this information to Mrs. Sargent, and she said undoubtedly some of this was true, but why mess around with any changes now, because after all it's the sentiment that counts. This all happened in a small area, a radius of two miles, the real grave is off the highway while the marked one is not, so let's leave things as they are. It is a wise decision, and we agree she was right. So that is the true story of "Maiden's Grave".*

*Signed: Howard Bartlett*

We do not agree that Mrs. Sargent was right. Nor do we agree with Howard Bartlett's statement, "this is the true story."

### **The Grave in the Meadow**

To continue with the legend, we need to consider a "Maiden's Grave" located in the Tragedy Spring meadow.



Many people believe this is the "real" Maiden's Grave.

There is some doubt that it is a grave at all. By tradition, most religions bury their dead on an east-west orientation. This grave is more on a north-south orientation.

About 15 years ago a friend of ours brought his trained historic human remains detection dog, aka, cadaver dog. Our goal was to examine several graves along the Carson River Route of the California Emigrant Trail.

The Carson River Route was opened in 1848 from west to east by a group of discharged members of the Mormon Battalion who came to California with the US Army to fight the Mexicans. After about a year in California, a few members of this Mormon group were looking for a route over the Sierra. With their 17 wagons, they followed ancient Indian trails that led them over the mountains, eventually through Carson Pass, following the Carson River on the east. Their efforts created what I call "The Gold Rush Trail" because more '49ers traveled west using this trail than any other trail.

It is along this route where we suspected several pioneer graves might be located. All the sites tested by the dog confirmed them to be graves. However, when the dog was allowed to wander in the Tragedy Spring meadow and came in the vicinity of the grave pictured above, the dog did not react at all. So now we are wondering where the maiden's grave might be located. The only understanding we have is there might

be a grave in the meadow because of the stories related above.

What we failed to do was to have the dog examine the entire meadow. A rock mound to the right of the concrete curbing also received no reaction from the dog.

Now, just because the dog did not locate this site as a grave, does not completely rule out that it is a grave. It is only that we cannot verify it one way or the other. The wet conditions in the meadow might have interfered with the dog's sense of smell.

At this time, we do not know who put the concrete curbing or the four green poles at the corners. Should any of our readers have this information please contact us at the Ledger Dispatch.

Now, let us look at the two markers at the Tragedy Spring meadow grave site.



In 1986, our friend Carol Winters went to this gravesite as she often did. While spending some time there, she felt some strong spiritual connection. She then had this headstone made from a stone from Rocklin and had it placed on the grave. Carol is convinced that this is the grave of the maiden.

On October 4, 2004, the Amador County Sesquicentennial Committee commissioned and dedicated two interpretive markers to clarify and correct the long misnamed "Maiden's Grave."

One of the interpretive markers was located at the grave next to the highway listed as California Landmark #28 and the other two miles to the east in the Tragedy Spring meadow.

Let us look at the interpretive marker in the meadow.



This marker describes the story about the elderly woman that we have already covered in detail. It was the goal of the committee to correct the history but to not remove the incorrect markers. It was decided rather to have them as part of the history, the myth, and the legend.

However, that is not the end of my ongoing search for the "Maiden's Grave" in the Tragedy Spring meadow.

### **The Myth Continues**



In 2004, I was having a conversation with my dear friend Norma Ricketts, author of numerous books and articles; among the subjects are the Mormon Battalion and Tragedy Spring.

Norma related a story of a psychic named Betty Laarveld who claimed she could locate historic graves and tell who was buried in them.

Betty had heard about the grave at Tragedy Spring where three Mormon men were killed by Indians in 1848 and she wanted to visit the grave. On August 12, 1983, Norma took Betty and her three children to that grave near spring.

Upon arriving at the grave, Betty sat and meditated with her hands on the grave. When she was finished, Betty related a long story about how and who killed the three men buried there. Her story does not come close to matching the story that we find in the historic record.

(Read the story of Tragedy Spring in my three-part article in the April 2021 editions of the *Ledger Dispatch*.)

I tell you this because as the group was leaving Tragedy Spring, Betty spotted the grave in the meadow, and she wanted to visit it.

Betty sat down with her hands on the grave and asked Norma to write down her words.

Juliette Mertens

Died July 30, 1850

Age 17

Daughter of William and Mary  
Mertens of Ohio

Parents buried in San Joaquin  
settlement

Not knowing what to do with this information, Norma kept those notes for all those years before passing them on to me after learning about our project to interpret the two graves. So now I am sharing them with all of you, in the hopes you know why I support the use of documents and facts, not the “Myths.” However, my friend Doug Ketron always says; “Don’t let the facts get in the way of a good story.”

I love the Myths and Legends because they are fun and add color to the story as long as they don’t displace the facts.

All photos taken by Frank Tortorich  
unless otherwise indicated.

6-22-2021

## **The Ancient and Majestic Black Oaks of Fleming Meadow**

By Lester Lubetkin

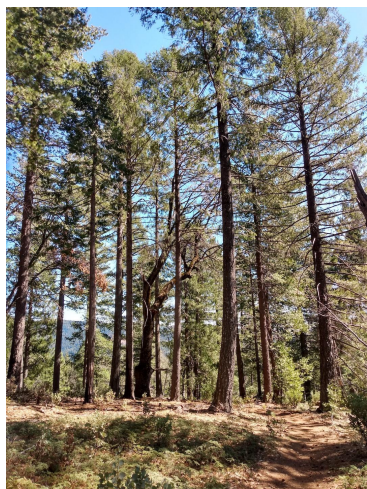
Take a hike out on the trails in the  
Fleming Meadow area (Placerville



Ranger District, off  
of Mormon Emigrant  
Trail Road  
just across from Sly  
Park) and you will  
find some  
magnificent  
California black oak  
(*Quercus kelloggii*)

*Looking up the trunk of one of the majestic California black oaks*

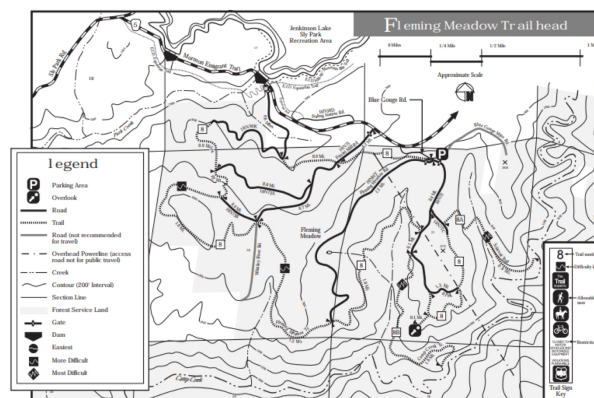
trees interspersed amongst, and hidden beneath, the pines, cedars and Douglas fir trees. Some of these centuries old black oaks have trunks that are over four feet in diameter and stand over 90 feet tall. But as you look closer you will notice that for many, the upper branches are stretching for the sunlight and some



Centuries old black oak engulfed by pines and other conifers.

are dead or dying. The tall, slender conifers that make up the bulk of the forest look to be strangling the ancient black oaks, starving them of sunlight and space. These trees tell a story about the forest here - one of past nurturing and care-taking, one of the use of fire followed by fire suppression, and one of changes in the mix of trees in the forest. Someone who can help unravel this tale is Pat Ferrell, prior Placerville Ranger District Timber Management Officer and later Forest Timber Contracting Officer (now retired).

are dead or dying. The tall, slender conifers that make up the bulk of the forest look to be strangling the ancient black oaks, starving



Fleming Meadows trailhead is reached by travelling east on Mormon Emigrant Trail about 2 miles from the intersection with Sly Park Road, then turning south (right) on Forest Road 10N72 and proceed to the trailhead.

The acorns from California black oaks were an important staple for the indigenous people over much of California for many centuries. As Jonathan Long and others (2017) tell us, black oak acorns were a cherished food and have had an important role in cultural rituals and traditions, including dances, festivals and ceremonies. The black oak acorns and the trees are also essential for various wildlife species, either for food or nesting habitat (such as deer, squirrels, woodpeckers and quail) and supporting the prey species for some predators (including fisher and



spotted owls). The native people over the millennia learned that by caring for the oak trees they could enhance the acorn crops and

encourage the presence of the wildlife that these people depended on. One of the main tools they used was **fire**. By regularly igniting low-intensity

ground fires, the indigenous people were able to make acorn collection easier, but also stimulate acorn production, control insect populations and reduce the number of other trees that were competing with the black oaks.

**Black oaks** (*Quesrcus kelloggii*) can be recognized by their broad, deeply lobed leaves with sharp points at the ends of the lobes. However, black oak is one of the deciduous oaks, so you will need to look at the dry leaves on the ground if you are out in winter. The acorns are oblong to somewhat squat and sit deep in a cup with thin ragged scales. The bark is typically dark grey and deeply furrowed. In fact, it was the color of the bark that led pioneer botanist Dr Albert Kellogg to name this species "California black oak" (Pavlik and others, 2014).



Walking through the forest in the vicinity of

Fleming Meadow some 200 to 300 years ago, you would have seen a more open, park-like forest with a number of medium to large black oak trees interspersed with large Ponderosa pines (the common 3-needled pine found at this elevation), along with Sugar pine (5-needled with long, pendulous cones), cedar and other conifers. Douglas fir and white fir would have been much less common. Standing still, you may have heard sounds from nearby seasonal villages of the local indigenous people or smelled smoke hanging in the air from the seasonal burning.

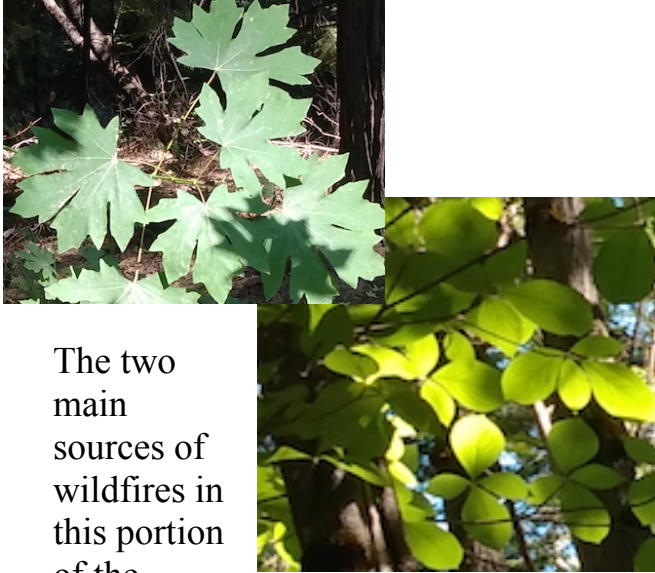
But the scene in the forest at Fleming Meadow started to change drastically around 1849. With the influx of gold seekers, and those coming to support the needs of the gold-seekers. The banks and beds of the streams and creeks, like Camp Creek, were heavily mined, to extract the gold that had accumulated there. The conifers along the streams and hillsides were cut down to provide lumber for sluice boxes, flumes, wood for cooking and temporary living structures. Once the streams had been stripped of their gold, the miners were replaced by lumbermen, eager to produce the wood products being sought after by the growing population in this part of El Dorado County and beyond.

One such lumberman was Henry Otis Hooper. Hooper owned and operated the Pacific Door and Sash Company, with a sawmill and factory on the south side of Clear Creek, although his family's home was in the vicinity of Fleming Meadow. In fact, the meadow is named after the second owner of Hooper's home, John J. Fleming (Peabody, 1988). Both Hooper and Fleming were producing shakes, which are most often derived from cedar and pine. Another sawmill in the vicinity of Fleming Meadow was the Ferrari Mill, located west of Fleming Meadow. One can imagine with these sawmills, along with others in the vicinity of Sly Park, the forest here would be significantly reduced in the number of trees and the types of trees still standing. And because of the hazard to the mills and



homes from forest fires, this would be the start of suppressing wildfires.

While you are out on the Fleming Meadow trails, be sure to take the opportunity to enjoy the big leaf maple and dogwoods!



The two main sources of wildfires in this portion of the Sierra

Nevada were (and still are) from lightning and people. The big change that took place was that prior to 1849, fires were commonly started intentionally by the native people as a management tool. After 1849, human-caused fires were often unintentional, caused by carelessness or inattentiveness (the one exception was ranchers that continued to use fire as a tool to maintain open grazing areas for livestock). However, fire suppression after 1849 was limited by the availability of firefighters, appropriate tools and the lack of easily accessible water or retardants.

That changed with the advent of the Forest Service. Now, there was a workforce that could monitor for wildfires, could quickly respond when fires were detected and had the

appropriate tools to effectively fight fires. As fire suppression became more effective, along with other forest management techniques, the character of the forest started to change. The mix of tree species started to change, in some cases starting to favor shade-tolerant tree species (such as white fir and Douglas fir). There was also an effort at encouraging economically important tree species which were primarily the conifer species. While black oaks were important for wildlife and traditional cultures, they were not as appreciated in the first half of the 20th Century by Forest Service managers.

By the second half of the 20th Century, the Forest Service had started to recognize the ecological importance of black oaks and other oak species and was starting to see the changes in the forest resulting from the policy of quickly putting out wildfires. The Forest Service started to look into using various techniques to reduce burnable fuels on the forest floor and removing ladder fuels that might carry a fire into the crowns of the more mature trees - essentially working to return the forest to conditions similar to those created by earlier indigenous fire use.

Forester Pat Ferrell described another recent change in forest management that you can see as you walk the trails in the Fleming Meadow area (if you look very closely!). Back in 2007 to 2008, staff on the Placerville Ranger District started planning to reduce the hazardous fuel loading in the area

around Fleming Meadow and beyond through thinning the forest and prescribed burning the understory. The project also focused on restoring the health of the black oaks by removing some of the conifers that were shading or crowding the black oaks. Now, more than 10 years after project implementation, you can see some of the black oaks have been released and are putting on fresh growth! Scientists predict that with climate change, black oaks may fare well and form a larger part of the low- to mid-elevation forests. And certainly forest management like around Fleming Meadow will help restore the health of the black oaks and the ecosystem they support.



Looking at the young shoots and branches from releasing this ancient California black oak tree.

#### References and Other Sources:

Long, J.W., and others, 2017, Managing California Black Oak for Tribal Ecocultural Restoration; Journal of Forestry, 115, 5; pp 426-434.

Pavlik, B.M, and others, 2014, Oaks of California; Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, CA. 184 p.

Peabody, G.W., 1988, The Historical Perspective Supplement for the Pleasant Valley - Oak Hill - Sly {ark Area Plan and Environmental Impact Report; El Dorado County Community Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division, 640 p.

## Confessions of a Newbie Backpacker

By Robyn Sandperl

Being somewhat new to backpacking, I set a goal for this summer. I wanted



to tackle a short through hike. Desolation Wilderness was our destination.

We entered at Wright's Lake and headed up and over Rockbound Pass. After a lunch stop overlooking Doris Lake we headed





down, past Lake Lois and on to Schmiedel Lake for our first night. Although somewhat populated, we

were able to find a great spot, fight off the mosquitoes, and make camp. On

Day 2 we ventured out the McConnell Lake Loop. Some of this was on trail, some just picking our route across granite.



Our destination was 4 Q Lakes. We found the perfect spot at the 4th lake, and had the entire lake to ourselves.

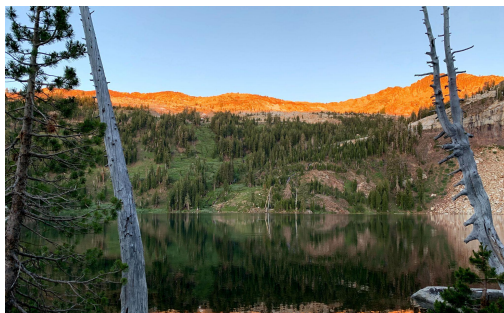
Even the mosquitoes left us alone! Day 3 we headed across the Rubicon River, past the Velmas and down the Bayview Trail to Emerald Bay. Having never done a trip like this I learned A LOT!

- \*I hate mosquitoes!

- \*Rethink necessities (My 2nd trip of the summer I was able to lighten my pack by over 2 pounds)

- \*Backpacking is hard work!

- \*Nothing beat those sunsets and sunrises!



## The portion of the Pacific Crest Trail Closed by Tamarack Fire Reopens July 31st

Forest officials on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will reopen a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that was closed due to the Tamarack Fire. The Pacific Crest Trail between California State Route 88 and California State Route 4 (Ebbetts Pass) will reopen Saturday, July 31 at 12:01 a.m.

“While we’re reopening this portion of the trail, hikers should be cautious,” said Forest Patrol Captain Don Harris. “We’re seeing more containment of the Tamarack Fire, but smoke may still be visible from the Pacific Crest Trail. Because of firefighting operations currently taking place east of the PCT, hikers are encouraged to stay on and hike directly through this portion of the trail.”

Fire Information:

- Inciweb:

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7674/>

- Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/tamarackfireinfo/>

- Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/tamarack\\_fire](https://twitter.com/tamarack_fire)

- Public Information Phone:

775-434-8629

For Forest closure information, please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/htnf/alerts-notices>.