

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92374 • (909) 307-2669 • Fax (909) 307-0539 • www.sbcountymuseum.org

News Release

Date: December 3, 2012

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For release: Immediately

Sabre-toothed cat fossils discovered in Las Vegas

An ancient and deadly hunter, itself the focus of a hunt lasting nearly a century, has finally come to light in the Nevada desert. Fossils of the extinct sabre-toothed cat, famed icon of the Ice Ages, have at last been discovered in the Tule Springs region north of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Paleontologists from the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, California reported the exciting new finds this week. The California museum team has been combing the upper Las Vegas Wash for fossils from the Pleistocene Epoch – the “Ice Ages” – for over a decade, finding hundreds of sites and thousands of fossils. But sabre-toothed cats – scientific name *Smilodon fatalis* – always kept a low profile. Until now.

“We’re ecstatic,” exclaims Kathleen Springer, Senior Curator for the San Bernardino County Museum and lead scientist for studies in the upper Las Vegas Wash. “We’ve been saying for years that these critters were out here, somewhere. It was just a matter of time until we found one.”

The initial discovery was made in 2003, during a survey conducted by scientists from the California museum that identified over 400 previously-unknown fossil sites in the upper Las Vegas Wash. The find wasn’t visibly spectacular – two broken limb bones eroding out of a small rise in the desert – and the identity of the fossils was obscured by surrounding sediment. In 2008, under a research grant from the Southern Nevada District Office of the Bureau of Land Management, San Bernardino County Museum researchers began collecting and curating the fossils found during their earlier surveys. The sabre-tooth site was relocated in June of this year, and the fossils have just finished being cleaned, stabilized, and identified.

“I hate to say, ‘We hit the jackpot’, this being Vegas – but we did!” jokes paleontologist Eric Scott, Curator of Paleontology for the San Bernardino County Museum and discoverer of the fossils.

The new discoveries date to approximately 15,000 years ago, according to radiocarbon analyses. “We’re establishing a tight radiocarbon chronology for the entire Tule Springs region,” says Springer, “and that work allows us to place individual fossils into our temporal framework. This is essential for understanding how living communities responded to environmental changes through time.”

Smilodon fatalis was a lion-sized predator with long, knife-like canine teeth. Scientists interpret sabre-toothed cats to have likely been ambush predators, hunting their prey through stealth and then disemboweling them with their canine teeth. The species died out at the end of the Pleistocene Epoch, eleven thousand years ago, and left no descendants.

Scientists and scholars have combed the desert north of Las Vegas, Nevada since the early 1900s, but none ever succeeded in finding sabre-toothed cats, which are frequently but incorrectly termed “tigers”. New York’s American Museum of Natural History, California’s Southwest Museum and the University of California, Berkeley, and Nevada’s own Nevada State Museum have all visited Tule Springs in expeditions dating from before 1920 through the early 1960s, and all made fossil collections. Bones and teeth of mammoths, camels, horses, and bison found their way into museum collections across the country. But sabre-toothed cats proved elusive.

“Meat-eaters are generally uncommon in the fossil record,” explains Scott. “In living communities, carnivores are far outnumbered by plant-eaters. The same holds true for past ecosystems. This makes fossil remains of extinct carnivores very rare and special – and very tough to find.”

The ongoing research in the Tule Springs region goes beyond just finding fossils, however. Funding from the Bureau of Land Management supports a comprehensive, integrative approach to Ice Age studies that emphasizes the geological age and context of the fossils. “We’re building on earlier studies,” says Springer, “and expanding what they learned. We’re seeing clear signals of regional responses to climatic changes through time, preserved here in the rock record, which have never been recognized before. The fossils are part of that picture, but there’s so much more going on here.”

The addition of sabre-toothed cats to the Tule Springs bestiary comes at a perfect time. This year marks the 50-year anniversary of the “Big Dig”, a massive interdisciplinary expedition at Tule Springs that explored the prehistory of the region at a scale never before attempted. On December 8th, the Nevada State Museum will

celebrate this anniversary with an all-day event, "Tule Springs 'Big Dig': Celebrating 50 Years of Exploration". The event will showcase new exhibits, produced by the San Bernardino County Museum and funded by the Bureau of Land Management, which present highlights of past and current studies at Tule Springs. Springer and Scott will each present talks on the paleontology and geology of the region.

"I expect," says Scott, "we may talk a bit about sabre-tooth cats, as well."

The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. For more information, visit www.sbcountymuseum.org. The museum is accessible to persons with disabilities. If assistive listening devices or other auxiliary aids are needed in order to participate in museum exhibits or programs, requests should be made through Museum Visitor Services at least three business days prior to your visit. Visitor Services' telephone number is 909-307-2669 ext. 229 or (TDD) 909-792-1462.

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NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: November 26, 2012

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
303 West Third Street, 4th Floor
San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302

www.sb-court.org

909-708-8769
Marsha G. Slough
Presiding Judge

Stephen H. Nash
Court Executive Officer

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2013-2014 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GRAND JURY

Volunteers for the 2013-2014 San Bernardino County Grand Jury are now being requested, announced Marsha G. Slough, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. The recruiting period is open for those citizens interested in serving. Successful applicants will serve as Grand Jurors for the period beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

To be eligible for selection a person must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of California and the County of San Bernardino for at least one year prior to appointment. Potential Grand Jurors are also required to possess sufficient knowledge of the English language, be in possession of their natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgment and of good character. By law, elected public officials are not eligible.

Service as a Grand Juror involves an average of 3 to 5 full working days per week. Compensation is \$25 per day plus meals and appropriate mileage. The regular Grand Jury meeting place is located in San Bernardino.

The County Grand Jury is charged by the California Penal Code to investigate all aspects of County, city and special district government, and to hear information on certain criminal investigations. All communications to the Grand Jury are confidential and the Grand Jury responds to all signed citizen complaints.

Interested citizens can complete the application on-line at the Grand Jury's website at www.sbcounty.gov/grandjury. Applications can also be obtained by calling (909) 387-3820, pick one up in person at the County Courthouse, 351 North Arrowhead Avenue, Room 200, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0243, or request one in writing at the same address. Applications may also be available at the various district Court offices throughout the County.

Applications will be accepted through **February 28, 2013**.

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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Vanhorne, (909) 387-4833



Supervisors Approve Contract with Fair Political Practices Commission

SAN BERNARDINO—December 18, 2012—Today, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a first-of-its-kind contract with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) that puts the political watchdog in charge of enforcing a local campaign law limiting contributions to candidates running for County offices.

“Contracting with the FPPC ensures our County’s campaign finance reform laws will be applied effectively and objectively,” said San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, who proposed the County’s campaign finance ordinance and also recommended contracting with the FPPC rather than creating an internal ethics commission to enforce the rules. “Why add another layer of County government when we already have an independent State agency that is qualified and capable of enforcing our campaign finance law? We can save money and bring greater efficiency by contracting with the State.”

The two-year contract authorizes the FPPC to bill up to \$493,296 to enforce the campaign finance ordinance. The amount billed may be less than the contract amount depending on the work required. If FPPC services exceed the amount allocated, Board of Supervisors’ approval would be required to increase the contract amount.

The FPPC was formed after the passage of Proposition 9 (The Political Reform Act) in 1974. The agency enforces campaign finance limits in place for State elected officials, and it also reviews State and local elected officials’ conflict of interest statements. Earlier this year, former Assemblyman Paul Cook introduced legislation to allow the FPPC to enforce the County’s campaign ordinance. Gov. Jerry Brown signed the law, which applies only to San Bernardino County, on July 24.

The FPPC will enforce a campaign finance ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors on Aug. 21. Under the ordinance, candidates for County offices cannot accept more than \$3,900 from a single source, including corporations, special interest groups, and individuals, per election cycle. Previously, Supervisors were allowed to collect unlimited contributions. The ordinance also requires all candidates for County offices and independent political action committees that support County candidates to electronically file contributions and expenditures if those cumulatively exceed \$10,000 in an election cycle. The State sets a threshold of \$50,000 for electronic reporting. Campaign information that is reported electronically can be posted online and made available to the public faster than if it is submitted on paper.

Candidates who violate the ordinance can be fined up to three times the contribution amount not properly reported or \$10,000—whichever is greater. Violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor. In addition, the ordinance provides for civil and administrative penalties for violators. The ordinance becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2013.

In 2011, Rutherford convened an Ethics Advisory Working Group made up of former elected officials and local civic leaders to consider and recommend ways to improve ethical accountability in County government. The group recommended Supervisors implement a campaign finance ordinance and debated whether the County should establish an ethics commission to enforce the rules. The group discussed how commissioners could be appointed without involving the local elected officials they would be expected to police. The cost of creating and maintaining an ethics commission was also a factor. The City of Los Angeles spends about \$2.2 million annually on its ethics commission while the City of Oakland and City of San Diego annually spend about \$266,000 and \$891,000 respectively to enforce their campaign finance rules.

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US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller (909) 382-2788

Fire Restrictions Lowered on San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino, Calif., December 4, 2012– With recent rain across the southland, forest officials on the San Bernardino National Forest reduce fire restrictions effective Wednesday December 5, 2012.

As a result of lowering the fire restrictions, visitors may have wood and charcoal fires in agency-provided campfire rings at campgrounds, picnic areas and yellow post sites. Recreational target shooting is permitted within designated sites in the Big Bear area and permitted areas on the San Jacinto Ranger District. “We ask the public to always call ahead and check conditions, since conditions do change, whether it’s a winter storm or the return of Santa Ana wind conditions,” said Forest Supervisor Jody Noiron.

Current fire restriction and guidelines in effect on the San Bernardino National Forest are as follows:

- Wood and charcoal campfires are allowed only in developed campgrounds, picnic areas and Yellow Post campsites within agency-provided fire rings or designated stoves.
- Campfire permits are required for propane and gas stoves and lanterns used outside of developed recreation sites.
- Recreational shooting is limited to designated sites and public shooting ranges operated under special use permit only, except those engaged in legal hunting.
- The 1N09 Recreational Shooting area remains closed.
- An approved spark arrester is required for any internal combustion engine operated on designated forest routes. These include chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles.
- Smoking is limited to enclosed vehicles, developed recreation sites and areas cleared of vegetation, three feet in diameter.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on the San Bernardino National Forest. Tracer, armor piercing, steel core, and Teflon ammunitions are also prohibited, as is discharging a firearm at any exploding target.

For more information, please call your local forest office at:

Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center 909-382-2790

Lytle Creek Ranger Station 909-382-2851

Idyllwild Ranger Station 909-382-2922
Mill Creek Work Center 909-382-2882
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 760-862-9984

For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

About the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

The San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of three Ranger Districts spanning 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. From the desert floor to the pristine mountain peaks, the San Bernardino National Forest offers natural environments, spectacular scenery, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, numerous recreational opportunities, and the solitude of quiet wilderness and open space for the over 24 million residents of Southern California and those visiting the area. The forest environment also provides habitat for numerous plants and animals and is crucial in sustaining drinking water, air, and soil quality.

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NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2012

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717

dwert@sbcounty.gov



Supervisors unanimously appoint McMahon as Sheriff

The Board of Supervisors today unanimously appointed Assistant Sheriff John McMahon to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Rod Hoops, who plans to retire on December 31.

The appointment was supported by the county's police chiefs and other law enforcement leaders, officials from communities that contract with the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services, and other community leaders and groups interviewed by an ad hoc committee of the Board of Supervisors.

The ad hoc committee, consisting of Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales and Supervisor Gary Ovitt, was charged by the board with reviewing and recommending options for the appointment of a new sheriff.

Chair Gonzales said the committee concluded that knowledge of the state's prison realignment program, experience in jail management, and a strong relationship with the county's cities and towns were qualities the new sheriff must possess, and that none of those from outside the department who expressed an interest in the appointment possessed those qualities. McMahon was the only person from within the department who expressed an interest in the appointment.

In addition to those qualifications, Chair Gonzales said those with whom she spoke had a very high opinion of Deputy Chief McMahon.

"Statements attributed to John McMahon included 'highly ethical', 'hard working', 'great reputation', 'fortitude', 'promotes diversity', 'good communicator', 'transparent', 'fair', 'diverse experience', 'strong community outreach', 'calm', 'engaged leader', 'a cop's cop', 'outstanding record', 'holds others and himself accountable,'" Chair Gonzales said.

Under the state's Open Meeting Law, the committee could not privately interview anyone interested in being appointed.

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Sheriff Appointment
December 18, 2012
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"Based on all of our meetings John McMahon has the respect of the department and the law enforcement agencies he works with, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, and Probation," said Supervisor Ovitt. "It became very clear that the right man for the job at this time is John McMahon."

The County Charter states vacancies must be filled by appointment rather than special election. The committee looked at the possibility of conducting a special election to change the charter followed by a special election to fill the remainder of Hoops' term. But the committee concluded that approach would be unfeasible since it would cost more than \$3 million and the soonest a new sheriff could take office would be January 2014. Until then the department would have to be led by an unappointed, unelected interim sheriff.

The committee instead recommended, and the Board unanimously endorsed, development of a charter amendment that would give the Board the option of calling a special election to fill future vacancies.

To those who had suggested an appointment rather than a special election might shortchange the electorate, Chair Gonzales pointed out that the County Charter had been adopted by voters.

"The County Charter was adopted by a vote of the people. The charter is the will of the people. Making an appointment is the will of the people," she said.

Chair Gonzales also candidly expressed frustration that Hoops had publicly endorsed McMahon as his successor, and assured the public that the outgoing sheriff's endorsement had no bearing on the Board's decision to appoint McMahon.

"We have taken into account everything that was submitted to us," she said. "Mr. McMahon deserves this, and not because the sheriff said so. Mr. McMahon needed to stand on his own, and he has done that."

A native of California and a resident of San Bernardino County since 1967, Assistant Sheriff McMahon attended Apple Valley High School and his formal education includes an Associate of Science degree in Police Science from Victor Valley College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union University. In 2007, he was inducted into the Victor Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame.

McMahon began his career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in 1985. As one of two assistant sheriffs, he is responsible for Criminal Operations for the entire organization.

Prior to his appointment to Assistant Sheriff, McMahon held the position of Deputy Chief with responsibilities over the vast Desert Patrol Stations, as well as the department's largest bureau, the Detentions and Corrections Bureau. He provided oversight to four large jail facilities.

McMahon held the position of Captain and commanded three separate divisions – the Central Detention Center, the West Valley Detention Center, and as Chief of Police for his hometown, Apple Valley. He held a variety of positions as a deputy sheriff, detective, sergeant, and lieutenant.



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jeanne Bonfilio
(424) 832-8219
Cellular: (310) 775-7980
December 5, 2012

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CalVet) IS HIRING NOW!

*The beautiful Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles
has many full-time positions available NOW!*

West Los Angeles – The Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles has at least 20 full-time positions available now – and more positions are anticipated! The stunning, new state-of-the-art facility has the capability to care for 396 Veterans in two levels of care: a skilled nursing neighborhood with Memory Care; and an assisted living neighborhood.

“The California Department of Veterans Affairs is looking for men and women to give back to those heroes who have given so much for our country,” said Peter J. Gravett, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

Working for the California Department of Veterans Affairs is very rewarding! The Department offers: A unique opportunity to serve those men and women who served their Country; a rewarding, civil service career path; excellent State of California health care, dental and vision benefits for the whole family; State of California retirement plans; 401K plans also available; a beautiful working environment; opportunities for advancement; training, and more.

Positions available immediately include:

Activity Coordinators	Physical Therapist I
Certified Nursing Assistants	Rehabilitation Therapist--State Facilities (Recreation)
Supervising Nurse III (Director of Nursing)	Resident Care Unit Leader
Director of Dietetics RD	Senior Psychologist Supervisor (Health Facility)
Licensed Vocational and Registered Nurses	Speech Pathologist I
Nurse Instructor (Electronic Medical Records)	Staff Psychiatrist
Occupational Therapist	Supervising Rehabilitation (Recreation)Therapist.

Job seekers can apply for the examinations now at:

<http://www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/Default.aspx>. Positions are being updated regularly and more job opportunities are expected. Job seekers are encouraged to log on to the website regularly for new and updated positions. **Veterans and disabled Veterans are encouraged to apply, and will receive**

preference points on all State of California examinations!

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Many positions are also available at the Barstow, Chula Vista, Fresno, Lancaster, Redding, Ventura and Yountville Veterans Homes of California! Apply for the examinations now! For more information about these exciting employment opportunities, visit or apply for the examinations on-line at <http://www.calvet.ca.gov/AboutUs/Jobs/Default.aspx>.

California has the largest number of veterans in the nation with nearly 2 million veterans calling the Golden State home, making up about 10 percent of the nation's total veteran population. For additional information regarding CalVet employment, veterans benefits, Veterans homes of California, educational resources, services, CalVet Home Loans, veterans license plates, and more, please log on to the CalVet's website at www.calvet.ca.gov.

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RCFE LICENSE #197607966

NEWS



From the Countywide Vision Project
www.sbcounty.gov/vision

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2012

For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4717
dwert@sbcounty.gov



Countywide Vision water inventory wins Good Government award

POMONA – Mark Twain is credited with saying whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting. For more than a century, California water purveyors have been notorious for warring over and hoarding their supplies, oftentimes to the detriment of the public.

San Bernardino County's Vision effort bucked that image in a big way in August when it unveiled the first-ever Countywide Water Inventory. The Water Inventory was honored in a big way Thursday night when it earned the 2012 Good Government Award from the Building Industry Association Baldy View Chapter.

The Countywide Vision's Water Element Group, which includes leaders from many of the county's water agencies, conducted a complete inventory of the county's water resources and determined that, acting separately, the county would not have enough water through 2035. But when the agencies' resources are combined, more than enough water will exist to meet the needs of San Bernardino County residents and businesses through 2035. But that is only if water users step-up conservation efforts and the public and local government leaders are willing to invest in projects that will store and protect additional water supplies.

County leaders have stressed the importance of conservation and support for new infrastructure as a key element for economic prosperity.

The Countywide Vision Statement, adopted in June 2011, calls on community leaders to work collaboratively to reach shared goals, and water agencies throughout the county had to work together and share information to create the inventory. This created a process that suggests the revolutionary prospect of agencies eventually sharing resources and supplies to meet the needs of county water users.

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“This is the year of ‘we,’” Kirby Brill, general manager of the Mojave Water Agency and a member of the Vision Water Element Group, has said. “There will be much more of an emphasis on working together in the context of the Countywide Vision. ... Silos are being destroyed.”

The inventory shows that the combined current and projected supplies of San Bernardino County water agencies will meet the demand of the county’s growing population in normal years and drought years through 2030, but just barely so. Demand will exceed supplies by 2035. However, demand can be met and exceeded through the development and improvement of water facilities and increased conservation efforts (see attached graph).

“We will have enough only if all things come together – investment and behavior modification,” said Celeste Cantu’, general manger of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and another member of the Vision Water Element Group. The complete presentation can be viewed on the Vision website at www.sbcounty.gov/vision.

The inventory is the first of many major deliverables the Vision process will produce as county residents and business, nonprofit, and government leaders work together to create the “complete county” outlined in the Vision statement, which also can be viewed at www.sbcounty.gov/vision.

The Vision Water Element Group is made up of leaders from county water agencies, business representatives and other stakeholders. It has been meeting regularly since January to discuss creation of the inventory and challenges faced by the county community as it strives to meet the water needs of an ever-growing region.

The Countywide Vision was developed last year in an effort to identify a common goal for all county communities and residents. The Vision was created from information received during 18 community meetings, an online survey, more than two dozen expert roundtables, and data from the county and all 24 cities.

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller 909-382-2788

Volunteers Needed to Count Bald Eagles

San Bernardino, Calif., December 3, 2012 - Volunteers are needed to help count bald eagles for the 35th season in the annual winter bald eagle counts in and near the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains on Saturday December 15, January 12, February 9, and March 9.

Concurrent Bald Eagle counts are held at Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Silverwood, Lake Perris, and Lake Hemet. Volunteers are stationed at vantage points around the lakes, where they watch for bald eagles during a 1-hour period on the count mornings. Volunteers record their observations on maps and data sheets. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol. A brief orientation is conducted prior to the count so volunteers know where to go and what to do.

“Through this method, the agencies and land managers have learned a lot about which areas are important to eagles and how the populations are doing. But we can’t do it without a lot of volunteers – we need their eyes to help us look,” said Forest Service biologist Robin Eliason.

The bald eagle counts for this winter are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings: December 15, January 12, February 9, and March 9. No experience needed. Signing up ahead of time is unnecessary – just show up at the designated time and location, dress warmly, bring binoculars and a watch.

- **Big Bear Lake** area volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Forest Service’s Big Bear Discovery Center on North Shore Drive for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information. Contact the Discovery Center (909-866-2789) for information about Eagle Celebrations.
- **Lake Arrowhead/Lake Gregory** volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Skyforest Ranger Station for orientation. Contact Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2832) for more information.
- **Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for orientation. Contact Kathy Williams or Mark Wright for more information about volunteering or taking an eagle tour (760-389-2303 between 8:00 and 4:00; or email: khwilliams@parks.ca.gov).
- **Lake Hemet** volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for orientation. Contact Anne Poopatanapong (apoopatanapong@fs.fed.us or 909-382-2935) for more information.
- **Lake Perris State Recreation Area** volunteers should plan to meet at the Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum at 8:00 for orientation. Contact the office for more information at 951-940-5600.

See websites for additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/>) and the California State Recreation Areas (www.parks.ca.gov).

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Background

The best time of year to see bald eagles in Southern California is during winter months when there is an influx of eagles. Migrating eagles typically begin arriving in the area in late November and leave in late March or early April.

Bald eagles are usually found close to water because their diet is primarily made up of fish and ducks. As winter approaches in those northern regions, lakes freeze over and waterfowl fly south. For bald eagles, that means that the food they eat has become scarce. So, they head south looking for areas with abundant food supplies and end up wintering in sunny southern California!

During the winter, southern California bald eagles are typically found at many of the lakes, including Big Bear Lake, Baldwin Lake, Silverwood Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Green Valley Lake, Grass Valley Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains and Prado Dam, Lake Perris, Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Matthews, and the Salton Sea to the south.

Through radio-tracking bald eagles, biologists learned that some of the same individual eagles return to the San Bernardino Mountains year after year. We also determined that there is a lot of movement of eagles between the different mountain lakes and that the lakes do not have distinctive separate populations—the eagles regularly move between the mountain lakes.

Radio-tracking and/or banding also revealed that the eagles that winter in the San Bernardino Mountains migrate to Southern California from Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Canada. Those regions are likely where most of our migratory bald eagles nest in spring and summer. Some of our San Bernardino Mountains' eagles were tracked all the way to Alberta and the Northwest Territories in Canada - that is about 2,000 miles one-way! For more information regarding bald eagle migratory routes for these and other California eagles go to the University of Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group's web site at (<http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/baeamigration.htm>). While the evidence suggests a northern interior migration for most of the bald eagles, some of our southern California eagles have traveled fewer miles, moving over from the Channel Islands.

Breeding populations of bald eagles in Southern California were extirpated by the late 1950s. Until reintroduction efforts began in the 1980s on Catalina Island, the southern-most nest site known in California was in Lake County. Since 2003, several pairs of bald eagles have decided that our southern California neighborhoods were too nice to leave – they built nests and have successfully raised families. Nesting bald eagles can now be found at Lake Hemet, Lake Skinner, Lake Matthews, and Big Bear Lake. As the populations continue to grow, more bald eagles are in our future.

This is exactly what happened at Lake Hemet in Riverside County. The female eagle with orange wing tags “02” hatched at San Francisco Zoo in 2000, and was released on Catalina Island as part of the reintroduction efforts. In 2004, she arrived at Lake Hemet and decided to take up year-round residence with the male bald eagle that was already there. Together, the pair has raised successful nests ever since then. In 2012, the first successful bald eagle nesting ever recorded in the San Bernardino Mountains happened in Big Bear Lake!

As bald eagles raise families in southern California, it is now possible to see bald eagles year-round (not just during winter migrations). Because of the influx of migrating bald eagles during the winter, the easiest time to see eagles is still between December and March.

The bald eagle is a success story of the federal Endangered Species Act – through protection under that law; its populations have recovered from the brink of extinction. Captive breeding

programs, reintroduction efforts, the banning of DDT, and public education have all helped in the recovery of this species. There are over 10,000 breeding pairs in the United States and they now breed again in all 49 of the continental United States (they have never bred in Hawaii).

Because of the population rebound, bald eagles are no longer in jeopardy of going extinct. While bald eagles are no longer protected under federal Endangered Species Act, they still have full protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act and under the State of California's Endangered Species Act. These laws make it illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. It is also illegal to possess bald eagle parts, even a feather.

Catching a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol is relatively easy during winter months. There are some fantastic opportunities for excellent close-up photographs too. Just look in the tallest trees around the lake near open water for perching eagles. Or, if the lake is partly frozen, look for eagles perched on the ice near small groups of ducks using the open water.

If you want to look for eagles in the Big Bear area, stop by the Forest Service's Big Bear Discovery Center (on North Shore Drive, 1-1/2 miles west of Stanfield Cutoff) and pick up a handout on eagles. Also, join us for one of our free public talks – call the Big Bear Discovery Center (909-866-2789) for dates and times.

If you are in Garner Valley and want to see the resident pair, stop by the Forest Service's Lake Hemet Day Use Area and just look across the lake. The birds are often flying overhead fishermen and or sitting in trees above the picnic area.

Remember that human presence may distract or disturb the eagles - so, try to limit your movements and do not make loud noises when they are nearby. If possible, remain in your car while looking at eagles - the car acts as a blind. Stay a respectful distance of at least 200-300' away from perched bald eagles. Do not get closer than ¼ mile away nesting bald eagles – trying to get a closer look may result in eagles becoming agitated and knocking eggs or chicks out to the nest. It is illegal to harm or harass bald eagles. Please do your part to help protect our national bird!

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

AT YOUR SERVICE

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December 3, 2012

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Supervisors Gonzales, Lovingood and Ramos take Oath

SAN BERNARDINO – Supervisors Josie Gonzales, Robert A. Lovingood and James C. Ramos began new four-year terms on the Board of Supervisors following Oath of Office ceremonies at the County Government Center today.

Supervisor Gonzales, who currently serves as Board of Supervisors Chair, will continue to represent the Fifth District, which includes the cities of San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, Fontana, and the unincorporated communities of Bloomington and Muscoy. Chair Gonzales has been on the board since 2004. She was re-elected in June.

"We now have a board that can communicate, that can discuss, that can disagree, and can arrive at a consensus by which thought has been processed and opinions have been shared and that the conclusion will be of benefit to the people," Chair Gonzales said today.

"Know that we will strive to put away hidden agendas, put away lack of communication, do away with what has so long inhibited and imbedded itself in this county," Chair Gonzales said. "We are at the forefront of a ... changing image that you all can be proud of when you say, 'I live in San Bernardino County. I am proud of my supervisor, I am blessed to have good representation.'"

Supervisor Lovingood represents the First District, which includes the cities of Victorville, Hesperia, Adelanto, Needles, and the Town of Apple Valley, as well as many unincorporated communities, including Wrightwood, Phelan, and Helendale. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November.

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"I ran on the idea and the concept that we are going to work on economic development for not only our First District but the entire county," Supervisor Lovingood said.

Supervisor Ramos represents the Third District, which includes the cities of Redlands, Highland, San Bernardino, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Yucaipa, Twentynine Palms, Big Bear Lake, Barstow, and the Town of Yucca Valley, as well as the unincorporated communities of Mentone and Pioneertown.

"We are destined to change the way San Bernardino County is viewed," Supervisor Ramos said. "We have to be able to start to work together as a board for the county as a whole. It's no longer one district or another."

Supervisors Gonzales, Lovingood and Ramos join Supervisors Gary Ovitt and Janice Rutherford in leading a dynamic public service organization of more than 19,000 employees working in 39 departments that provide a diverse array of vital public services. Those services include law enforcement, criminal prosecution and defense, fire protection, economic development, aid to the needy, road and flood control construction and maintenance, elections, parks, museums, libraries, airports, and a variety of healthcare services.