

## State Wildlife Action Plan 2015

Greetings Armand,

I attended the Bishop **Scoping Meeting**. I'm a retired public schools ground supervisor and recent transplant from Riverside County so my interests are simply from a concerned citizen's standpoint. Not a hunter, fisherman, or rancher, more of a birder/tree-hugger type. But the mature stewardship of the natural environment is rightly an emotionally charged topic for us all, undoubtedly why you chose your particular career path.

Your "pistachio shells" anecdote was perhaps one of the most salient take-aways from the meeting for me (along, of course, with that little cadre of vocal, local ranchers who came loaded for bear over the Yellow-legged Frog issue). Maybe we all have those awakening and poignant "pistachio" moments when we're forced to see Man-made ugliness impacting the innocence of nature. Seeing a fledgling Great Blue Heron dead and hanging several feet below its nest, suspended by fishing line tangled around its feet was, for me, such a moment.

Such moments are a deep and primal wake-up call for our awareness that the nature of things must go beyond the adolescent sentiment that pristine nature should not be subject to the laws of entropy. That's not to say that Mankind isn't to be held accountable for our part in the degradation of our environment and the extirpation of species.

Comments/Recommendations: Full disclosure (honesty) from all parties is of primary importance, even in an era where everybody lies to enhance and protect their position. **SWAP** recommendations should address that which is realistically (budgetarily) sustainable. As climate change takes center stage (maybe), aligning ourselves with that which is inevitable rather than trying to hold it back is arguably appropriate (the expansion of pinyon and juniper ranges for example, the extirpation of species lower on the food chain than cattlemen, for another).

I hope you heard the laments of the various rancher-types that spoke out at that meeting. They distrust the Sacramento/Washington D.C. types. They feel impotent and marginalized by governmental types who for too long have abused their own positions with an arrogance and indifference to the impacts their legislating have on local economics. Though your efforts to bring **SWAP 2015** to the regional level are an important first gesture, the people that come to those meetings need to feel that they're really being heard and that local spokesmen have a direct and valued link to Sacramento and Washington.

Thanks, Armand,



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