



RMEF Nevada News

August-September 2012

RMEF Volunteers Best in the World!

For the first time in RMEF history, annual labor donated by RMEF volunteers last year exceeded \$17 million in total value. We're on pace for even more in 2012. There is no thank-you big enough to express what this means to the RMEF mission.

As an RMEF volunteer, you're part of a team that has conserved more than 6 million acres of habitat, secured public access for current and future generations of hunters, restored elk herds to six (and soon to be seven) states and provinces, and delivered a positive message about hunting and conservation. You've hosted banquets and other fundraisers, sold memberships, removed untold miles of old fencing, built guzzlers and left your mark on elk country in countless other ways. Because you're leaning into the RMEF harness, together we've become one of the most effective conservation organizations in the world.

On behalf of all Americans who appreciate elk and other wildlife, wild country and traditional outdoor lifestyles, thanks for all you do!

Best regards,

M. David Allen

President and CEO

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Thank You Volunteers!

As you can see in the in the letter from our CEO, David Allen, volunteers have contributed more than \$17-million in time, energy and work, doing everything from committee work on banquets and youth events, to replacing broken-down fences with new, wildlife friendly ones and knocking out guzzlers in the driest state in the Union.

Every little bit adds up and every minute of your time is so valuable to us.

There were 10 banquets, a golf tournament and two youth events held in the Nevada Region this year. This represents thousands, of hours of committee meetings, shopping for merchandise, hunting up donations, organizing, setting up and tearing down. Volunteers start early and finish up late on the day of the event.



Already this year, RMEF volunteers helped rebuild fences at two guzzlers in Elko County and put elk jumps in a new fence in Nye County. Volunteers will be helping to remove young juniper trees that

are encroaching on elk, mule deer and sage grouse habitat in White Pine County.

In 2013, Nevada RMEF volunteers will put on 10 banquets. Volunteers will also work on two youth events, more pinon/juniper removal projects in White Pine County, a burn and weed treatment in Elko County and a guzzler project in Nye County.

You guys are the best!

Les Smith, RMEF Nevada Regional Director

Be A Volunteer!

If you're passionate about hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation contact one of the fine leaders listed below to become a volunteer.

Carson City - Gunny Benson	775-230-6086
Pahrump - Mike Dryer	775-727-5894
Winnemucca - Lyle Avey	775-304-0771
Reno - Paul Shapiro	775-636-3973
Ely - Kathy Ricci	775-293-0040
Elko - Mary Atkinson	775-934-4951
Tonopah - Chrissy Pope	775-277-0149
Fernley - Mark McKay	775-434-3741
Las Vegas - Tom Beranek	702-896-4476
Lassen County - Gordy Ponting	530-257-0556



WESTERN NEVADA CALF CAMP 2012



C.K. Baily, kid's auctioneer



Kathy Baily teaching fly-tying



Debbie Smith - airbrush tattoos



Rich Knight 4-H Shooting Sports



There's nothing that tickles the fancy of an old hunter like the smiles of a bunch of kids, having a great time shooting and learning about the great outdoors.

And, that's just what parents, grandparents and volunteers got to enjoy as kids of all ages got to experience a bit of hunting, fishing and conservation at the Western Nevada Calf Camp, June 30, 2012 at the Capitol City Gun Club, in Carson City.

Activities included the youth archery by Clear Creek Bowmen, RMEF inflatable BB-gun range, 4-H shooting Sports Trailer and air rifle and pistol. NDOW provided classes in fly tying and casting, wildlife ID, the Operation Game Thief trailer and Color Nevada Wild! Participants of all ages got wildlife, airbrush tattoos from Debbie Smith and took a turn at LaserShot, by Larry Harris and his wife Cathy.



Just like last year, the kid's live auction was all the rage. And, like last year, there were some clever and sophisticated bidding strategies by even the smallest bidders. This was C.K. Bailey's second turn as MC and auctioneer. Everyone had a great time, especially the adults, watching the miniature, high-rolling superstars at auction.



This year's Western Nevada Calf Camp was loads of fun for kids and adults. And, everyone is already looking forward to next year's event.

We wish to thank the following sponsors & organizations -



The Luckiest Kid in Nevada

Nolan Shine must have been the happiest kid in Nevada, on June 30th, when he found out that he had won the coin toss, at the Western Nevada Calf Camp, for a youth cow elk hunt in Utah.



Nolan was competing in a wrestling tournament in Carson City on the afternoon of the Calf Camp. So, his mother tossed his coin, winning over competitors from Pahrump, Tonopah, Elko and Susanville, California.



At the age of 15, Nolan is an experienced hunter. But, this is his first elk hunt. And, going hunting with Lone Tree Outfitters will make this hunt the experience of a lifetime.



888-918-2391 or 435-212-6525
lonetreeoutfitters@hotmail.com

Summer Events



Teachers travelled from all over the state to learn about Nevada's geology, wildlife and habitat, at the *Great Basin Outdoor School*, at Camp Success, northeast of Ely. These well educated teachers will take what they learned about wildlife and wild lands back to their classrooms this fall.



Over the weekend of July 20-22, 2012, 47 young sportsmen and women travelled to Winnemucca Ranch, 30 miles north of Reno, where they enjoyed a weekend of hunting and fishing, shooting and outdoor skills training, at the

Maison T. Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp.



Ely Golf Tournament

July 14, 2012, 43 golfers descended on the White Pine County Golf Course to participate in the annual "scramble." After weeks of sunshine and dry weather all summer, it rained every day for three days leading up to

the tournament and on the morning of play. But, by the afternoon the weather cleared and everyone enjoyed the tri-tip dinner with all the fixin's. It was another great golf event in Ely for RMEF.



Fence Work on Elko County Guzzlers

On Saturday, July 14, 2012 eight Volunteers, including RMEF Elko Chapter Chairs Mary and Kim Atkinson, committee member Candido Mendive, and six NDOW employees replaced a T-post and cable fence around the North Pequop guzzler with a pipe rail fence. The cable fence had been breached by cattle and both tanks were dry.

After lunch, the workers replaced a section of barbed wire fence with Liberty Pipe fence sections, existing Liberty fence was reinforced by T-posts and clamps and maintenance was performed on one of the apron drains on the Murdock Mountain guzzler.



Warner Fence Project

Over the weekend of July 20-22, RMEF volunteers from Tonopah, Boy Scouts from Round Mountain, Forest Service, BLM and NDOW employees got together to put elk jumps in along an old fence line at Warner Creek

Ranch 60-miles northeast of Tonopah. Most of the "manpower" showed up for work on Saturday. Over the two work days of the project six elk jumps were installed. Tom Donham, area NDOW biologist and RMEF Tonopah co-chair, headed up later to install two more jumps.

Some of the volunteers, camped on the site Friday and Saturday nights. They woke up Sunday morning to the scene below.



Bear Hunt Controversy an Opening for Anti-Hunters



When the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners met last March, it was clear that closing the Tahoe Basin to bear hunting had nothing to do with public safety or wildlife

management. It was all about the polarizing politics left over from last year, when rogue members of the past wildlife commission pushed the bear hunt through, over everyone's objections.

Emboldened by the commission's action, No Bear Hunt Nevada and an anti-trapping group, Trail-Safe, went to the Sunset Subcommittee to try to move NDOW from its current department status, to a bureau under the Division of Environmental Protection, in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Then, they could pack the board with their own "general public" representatives.

Groups like No Bear Hunt Nevada claim to represent the wishes and values of the "general public." However, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service surveys show that 95% of Americans feel wildlife agencies do a good job taking care of wildlife and 78% strongly support hunting in wildlife management.

The Sunset Subcommittee took no action on the No Bear Hunt Nevada proposal. But, the anti-hunting crowd is clear, they're taking their fight to the legislature, already currying favor with some long-standing legislators and new candidates.

The stage is set for a battle-royale over the future of wildlife in Nevada. On one side, there are 156,888 people who hunt, fish and trap in Nevada. They pay for more than 80% of wildlife management, through license fees, excise taxes and donations. And, they inject hundreds of millions of dollars into Nevada's economy. On the other side, the people active in groups like No Bear Hunt Nevada may number in the dozens. They contribute nothing toward Nevada's wildlife, but expect to have the majority say in how it will be managed.

This battle will be won by those who speak up. Talk to your representatives in the legislature and candidates who want your vote. Remind them of your contribution to Nevada's wildlife and Nevada's economy. Let them know that you expect to be fully represented in any decisions they make about Nevada's wildlife.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in March affirmed the constitutionality of Congress' removal of wolves from the federal endangered species list. The deadline to appeal that decision passed quietly in June, with no action from animal rights and anti-hunting groups.

Attorneys representing the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation said that means the case will not advance to the U.S. Supreme Court, and that the litigation has ended in favor of science-based, state-regulated management and control of wolves.

"A lawsuit that began in 2011 in Judge Donald Molloy's courtroom in Missoula, Mont., following the Congressional

de-listing is finally over — and conservation has prevailed," said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO. "No appeals paperwork had been filed by end of the day on June 12, so the Ninth Circuit's decision is absolutely final."



Senate Farm Bill Passes



The re-authorization of the Farm Bill passed the Senate with bi-partisan support, but not without the usual wrangling over several key amendments, including amendments to remove all the conservation programs that benefit Nevada's wildlife and landowners.

In the final version there was something for both sides, conservation programs were preserved in the final bill, but consolidated, saving \$6-Billion in administrative costs, cuts were made to food stamp programs and there is new insurance on profits for commodities traders. Senator Reid voted for the bill, while Senator Heller voted against it.

The bill was in conference committee. Both Republicans and Democrats were working hard to get it to a vote before the summer recess.