

The EAGLE TIMES



Protecting
Big Bear Valley's
native habitats and species
through
environmental education,
monitoring and advocacy

Volume 18-1

August 2023

Big Bear Fireworks—Do you realize the impacts?

Our eagle nest camera has provided the opportunity to watch the behavior of Jackie, Shadow and their chicks during loud exploding fireworks done over Big Bear Lake. July 4, 2019, Simba and Jackie were on the front porch sleeping. When the noise started, Jackie immediately flew off the porch. Simba went into 'freeze' mode and sat without moving a muscle until 20 minutes after the show had ended before crawling cautiously back into his nest. Jackie did not return until late the next day. On Memorial Day 2022, Big Bear did a quiet drone light show since Spirit was still in the nest. (Thank you!) July 4, 2022, Jackie and Shadow flew off the roost tree as the noise started and were not seen for nearly 6 days. This year, 3 fireworks shows were planned—Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. Jackie and Shadow flew away for each of the 1st two and did not return for a full day in May or 3 days in July.



Sadly, the severe effects of explosive fireworks on wildlife, the environment, domestic animals, and humans are not widely known. After realizing this lack of awareness, we gave a presentation at the Visit Big Bear board meeting. Our goal is to bring environmentally friendly alternatives to Big Bear that residents and visitors will enjoy, while still being respectful of the National Forest and amazing nature that surrounds us. The good news—the fireworks for this Labor Day have been cancelled! Plans are still up the air for the future, but we will continue our efforts in this direction. Go here to view the presentation slides and learn more about the fallout from fireworks: <https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Dangers-of-Fireworks.pdf>

Outdoor Adventure Days—the 8th Annual was the best yet!



This year's Outdoor Adventure Days event was based at the Big Bear Discovery Center for booths and all around the valley for outdoor activities. Many local businesses, organizations and agencies participated in this ecofriendly event and provided information and fun for all. The event showcases the great outdoor activities that Big Bear Valley has to offer, including hiking, kayaking, wildflower walks



(flowers that exist nowhere else in the world!), birding by boat and on foot, lake tours, bald eagle nest viewing (from a distance!) and more... all while enjoying the beautiful nature around you. Every activity had rave reviews, and the birding boat tours had the good fortune of spotting bald eagles on nearly every trip.



At the event, we also hosted the special Jackie & Shadow Bald Eagle party, which featured Eric Runningpath and his son Braden performing Native American dances in full regalia, and a bald eagle talk given by Sandy Steers. Jackie and Shadow fans from all around enjoyed Sandy's talk on the history and current status of bald eagles in the Big Bear Valley. We hope to see you at the event next year! (It's all free!) Follow the Big Bear Ecotourism website for updates. Next year's event will be June 22-23! <https://bigbearecotourism.org/outdoor-adventure-days/>

—Jackie and Shadow Update—

Our favorite bald eagles in the world, Jackie and Shadow, started their 2022-2023 nesting season early last October by adding sticks of all sizes to the nest, rearranging both old sticks and new ones, bickering over precisely where each stick was meant to go, and, of course, taking lots of time out for sweet



beaky kisses in the midst of all of it. After weeks of preparation and little peeks of on-camera mating, Jackie laid eggs on January 11th and 14th. As always, Jackie and Shadow took turns incubating...of course, with Shadow complaining at each shift change that his turn wasn't up yet! And with Jackie insisting on covering all nighttime and snowtime shifts.



Sadly, in spite of all their hard work and dedication, the eggs failed to hatch. After weeks longer than it takes the eggs to hatch, Jackie and Shadow started leaving them unattended for longer periods. During one of their absences, the eggs were breached by ravens, and the insides showed no sign of development. Either the eggs were not fertilized or development stopped early in the process, possibly from cold or other environmental issues.

Shadow started leaving them unattended for longer periods. During one of their absences, the eggs were breached by ravens, and the insides showed no sign of development. Either the eggs were not fertilized or development stopped early in the process, possibly from cold or other environmental issues.



Though the eggs did not hatch, Jackie and Shadow wouldn't give up. They diligently continued their work on nest building, mating and practice nest-sitting for several more weeks, even through heavy snows. But no new eggs came and summer vacation starting calling. Now they drop by the nest occasionally and are seen more on the nearby perches and roost tree. Please follow our public Facebook page where we keep you updated on the eagles and everything FOBBV is working on: <https://www.facebook.com/FOBBV>. And find the livestream for both cameras on our website www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org and YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@FOBBVCAM>

~~Camera Maintenance~~

While Jackie and Shadow are mostly out on vacation, FOBBV will be working on both camera systems to make sure all equipment and connections are in tip top shape for the upcoming 2023-2024 nesting season. We will also update some of the equipment to better monitor and report human activity near the nest, keeping our favorite eagle pair safe. Stay tuned to our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FOBBV> for information and updates on the planned and completed work! Please consider donating at: <https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/donate/> to help keep the cameras up and running Thank you VERY MUCH for your support!

Jackie and Shadow Online Shop Update

Thank you for keeping us working hard to design and bring in new items to celebrate Jackie and Shadow!

We still have our most popular treasures—like the fabulous Jackie and Shadow plushies!



Plus new T-shirts—



Eagle Cam Shows Lake Rising!

With all the heavy rain and snow (up to 9 feet deep in some places!) this winter and spring, the lake level rose an incredible 11 feet! Check out the change from Nov. 2 to May 31.



"Don't mess with Jackie,"
"Happy wife, happy life"
and "Together Forever"!

And several new must haves—baseball cap...beanies...jigsaw puzzles...Jackie & Shadow mug
...feathered friends' earrings (including bald eagles, of course)...framed nest photos...
...and a new children's book about the lives of Jackie and Shadow.

2024 Calendars arrive in the shop October 2023! <https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/shop/eagle-store/>

Development Updates



Project site—photo by Erv Nichols

Mooncamp:

As we previously announced, we won the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) lawsuit regarding the Mooncamp development project on 2 issues: insufficient analysis of emergency traffic situations and insufficient mitigation of endangered plant habitat destruction. This decision was not appealed.

The developers have gone back to the County about doing the additional environmental analysis and mitigation needed to seek reapproval. At the same time, we are working on having Mooncamp purchased through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. This purchase again did not make it into this federal budget cycle, so we are already working on it for the next one.

We are also looking into other funding, grants or **superheroes** to purchase this land for conservation. If you have any suggestions in any of these areas, please reach out to us at: fobbvinfo@gmail.com

The property is a primary foraging site for our Fawnskin nesting bald eagles and other bald eagles and hosts 17 acres of endangered Ashy Gray Indian Paintbrush and Pebble Plains habitat and other endangered species found only in Big Bear Valley.

Marina Point Development Project:

Marina Point was originally approved in 1983 and reappraised in 1991 for 19, 3-story condominium buildings plus a 100+ slip boat marina. We have been in litigation about this development for 20 years!

We won the most recent round of retrials and appeals, and Marina Point has filed yet another appeal—the 3rd one! It will likely be several months in the appeals process before we

have more information.

We are currently working with other agencies to have the huge pile of asphalt removed, a real eye sore amongst the beautiful nature around it. Currently, all development is halted until the appeal decision is final.



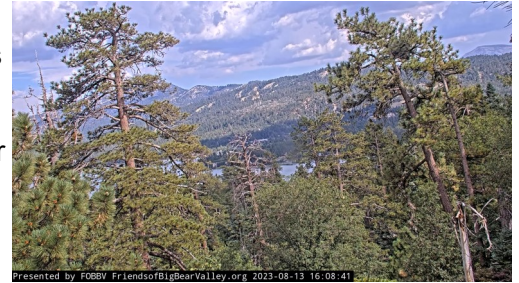
Project site on the north shore



Bald eagle foraging on site

North Big Bear Landscape Restoration Project:

Last month, the U.S. Forest Service signed final approval for this major tree removal project, with minimal and completely inadequate environmental review. The project, proposed to last for at least 20 years, covers 13,000 acres on the entire north side of Big Bear Valley from Big Bear dam to east of Baldwin Lake, including all bald eagle nesting, foraging and roosting areas and many endangered species habitats. This is one of the most biodiverse places in the entire country with unique, rare and endangered species, and much of that has been virtually disregarded in their proposed plan and decision.



Presented by FOBBV Friends of Big Bear Valley.org 2023-08-13 16:00:41

Over 1000 of you sent in comments and letters of objection to the Forest Service regarding this project!

A huge thank you to all of you who took the time to send those in!!

Because of those comments, the plan to add 47 miles of new trails and allow e-bikes on all trails has been deferred.

But, the Forest Service ignored all comments and objections on other aspects of the plan and approved the project with the completely inaccurate statement that it would cause “no significant impacts.”

In response, Friends of Big Bear Valley along with the John Muir Project and San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, has filed a legal complaint under NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), asserting that their approval violates NEPA on several counts. Among other things, this massive and controversial project requires a full and accurate Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that all habitats and species are properly protected and human safety is secured before it can move forward.

We would very much appreciate assistance in funding this essential legal action. If you would like to donate, go to: <https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/donate/> or send checks to Friends of Big Bear Valley, PO Box 422, Fawnskin, CA 92333. Any and all amounts are welcome and very helpful. Thank you for your support!

FOBBV is Seeking New Team Members!

Part-time contract assistance with:

Website Project Management

—Design and manage the development of a new, more expansive website

Social Media Communications Specialists

—assist with answering comments and questions on social media and email

Bald Eagle Stories

—assist in ‘voicing’ the stories of Big Bear’s bald eagles with innovative creative writing and entertaining visual media

For more info: fobbvinfo@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT!!



*****For the Love of Nature*****
Your donations support all this and more...



Big Bear Bald Eagle Cameras



Environmental Monitoring and Advocacy



Big Bear Valley Ecotourism Coalition



New Educational Programs

FRIENDS OF BIG BEAR VALLEY
2023 Donation/Membership Form

Please select type of membership or donation--

- \$25.....**Student/senior membership**
- \$50.....**Individual membership**
- \$95.....**Family membership**
- \$250.....**Wildlife Watcher**
- \$500.....**Bald Eagle Buddy**
- \$1000.....**Habitat Hero**
- Other amount \$ _____

PLEASE CONSIDER setting up a MONTHLY DONATION!!

Sign up at friendsofbigbearvalley.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Friends of Big Bear Valley is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible non-profit organization! EIN: 20-0650845

Join/Donate online at friendsofbigbearvalley.org

Or send checks to:

Friends of Big Bear Valley
P.O. Box 422, Fawnskin, CA 92333
fobbvinfo@gmail.com

Name: _____

(Note: We do not share our member information with anyone!)

Mailing address: _____

City, St., Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Your environmental concerns: _____



~~STAY CONNECTED~~

Please visit us online at all these places

WEBSITE (access to both eagle cam live streams, shop, eagle history)— friendsofbigbearvalley.org

YOUTUBE — 2 Live Streams + videos
<https://www.youtube.com/@FOBBVCAM>

FACEBOOK—Main FOBBV and eagle page:
www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Big-Bear-Valley-and-Big-Bear-Eagle-Nest-Cam-705508029491602/

Big Bear Bald Eagle FB group
www.facebook.com/groups/531281757566020/

(for more information on any of our articles:
fobbvinfo@gmail.com