

The EAGLE TIMES



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

Volume 18-2

December 2023



Happy Holidays from Friends of Big Bear Valley

~~~Celebrating 2023~~~

**THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING ONGOING SUPPORT!!**

All of our activities and priorities are about appreciating and protecting nature and connecting people with its awesomeness! You allowed us to move forward on many actions throughout this year.

—We shared Jackie and Shadow with the world: updated and maintained our live stream cameras and systems; posted many of their stories; learned more about them and the surrounding nature; answered your beautiful questions and curiosities.

—We began the expansion of our environmental educational programs: brought more nature facts to our social media stories, expanded our website information and our programs to bring zoom and live nature talks to students, agencies and the public.

—We continued protecting and preserving Big Bear Valley's unique and irreplaceable natural habitats for everyone to treasure and enjoy: won in court to stop an endangered species damaging development and worked with other groups toward permanent conservation of that and other properties; continued one court action and began another to enforce state and federal environmental laws; participated in the environmental process on multiple project proposals.

—We sponsored our 8th Outdoor Adventure Days: shared our beautiful valley's outdoor activities with the public free of charge; and supported our local businesses.

To continue your support: [friendsofbigbearvalley.org/donate/](https://friendsofbigbearvalley.org/donate/) Any amount is welcome and appreciated!  
Friends of Big Bear Valley is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All contributions are tax deductible (EIN: 20-0650845)

## Maintained and Ready for Nesting Season

We accomplished all of our goals for our fall camera and system maintenance.



All work inside Jackie and Shadow's nesting habitat was done in early September—we do camera and system maintenance work in the habitat during late summer and early fall, when the eagles are mostly away from the nest and hanging out elsewhere around the lake. They sometimes come to the nest afterward to make sure we didn't mess up any of their sticks, but mostly they ignore the operations.

On the nest camera, we replaced the microphone to make sure those beautiful sounds of nature are always present and also relocated it a bit to block wind noise and better hear nest activities. We reaffirmed that everything is held tightly in its best location plus replaced and waterproofed a few cable connectors. Big Thank you to Dr. Peter Sharpe (Sharpe Wildlife Consulting, LLC) for his camera, systems and eagle expertise in managing the maintenance operations, and to biological climbing expert Nate

Melling for a beautiful job of ascending 145 feet to the nest and attending to all the intricate details of replacing, connecting, relocating, anchoring and waterproofing.

Part of every maintenance operation is to make sure anything dangerous to the eagles or chicks is removed from the nest—this year it was the long, orange twine that Jackie brought to the nest during one of her stick deliveries.

We also completed some major work on cam2 (the wide-angle camera) with more climbing, rewiring, waterproofing and system component replacement to make the sound on this camera as clear and beautiful as the nest camera. Besides Pete and Nate, thank you also to Carl Picciolo (Mountain Smart Homes), Mike and Cindy Bode and Cali Condor for extensive device, electrical and research support to make all this happen. This year, we posted signs to inform hikers that this area is sensitive and protected. And finally, when the livestreams were getting a bit wonky, Carl and Cali worked on replacing and resetting components of those systems.

Our maintenance is actually a big and ongoing operation, not only with the cameras themselves, but with all of our ground operation systems and our live streaming systems, located away from the cameras and habitat. Big thank you's to everyone involved in all of this year's maintenance!

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](http://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org) and our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@FOBBVCAM>



## Outdoor Adventure Days

—-the 8th Annual was the best yet!

Our Outdoor Adventure Days has grown significantly over the past 2 years. The event allows us to showcase the many, varied outdoor adventures that Big Bear Valley has to offer. It supports our local businesses while allowing them to see how the nature all around us brings the tourism that supports them.

This year we plan to bring in new and expanded adventures, connect with additional eco-friendly businesses to participate and grow the marketing and outreach for the event. With that, we are seeking additional assistance in planning and running this fun-filled event.

Next year's OAD will be June 22-23!

Our steering committee

discussions and planning will begin in January.

Please contact us at [fobbvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fobbvinfo@gmail.com) to get involved. <https://bigbearecotourism.org/outdoor-adventure-days/>



## Jackie and Shadow's Online Shop

**2024 Calendars are in stock!** And so are many more of your basic Jackie and Shadow necessities. We have new long sleeve t-shirts and a soft, cuddly hoodie added to our super list of t-shirts, books, puzzles and much more. All shop purchases go to support our FOBBV mission and activities.

<https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/shop/eagle-store/>





## **New Team Members** **for our growing community!**

Our small nonprofit FOBBV is expanding and looking for some very special people to join the team as we grow. **If you have a strong emotional connection with nature and understand why Jackie and Shadow are watched by so many, you are who we are looking for!**

If you might be interested and have expertise in

- non-profit organization and administration,
- bald eagles (especially Jackie and Shadow),
- special habitats and species,
- nature story-telling,
- social media communications,
- administrative assistance,
- merchandise design and management,
- membership and public outreach and marketing,
- fundraising,
- volunteer coordination,
- or other special skills,

please contact us at: [fobbvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fobbvinfo@gmail.com)

## **Fireworks in Big Bear**

Our eagle nest camera provides the opportunity to watch the behavior of Jackie, Shadow and their chicks during loud exploding fireworks done over Big Bear Lake. In the past they have had very negative reactions, such as leaving the nest for days, or going into 'freeze' mode for over an hour.

The impacts are intense on the environment, wild animals and birds, as well as pets and people. Since the severe effects of explosive fireworks are not widely known, we gave a presentation at the Visit Big Bear board meeting. With this new information they cancelled fireworks planned for the last Labor Day and are willing to work with us about the plans for future firework displays.



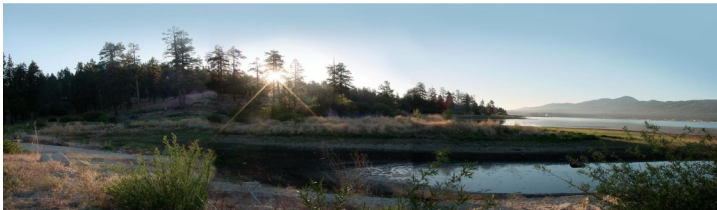
Our goal is to bring environmentally friendly alternatives to Big Bear that residents and visitors can enjoy, while still being respectful of the National Forest we live in and the amazing nature that surrounds us. We will continue our efforts in this direction. View the presentation slides here to learn more about the fallout from fireworks:

[www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Dangers-of-Fireworks.pdf](http://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Dangers-of-Fireworks.pdf)

## **Development Updates**

### **Mooncamp**

This property is a primary foraging site for our Fawnskin nesting bald eagles and other bald eagles, hosts 17 acres of endangered Ashy Gray Indian Paintbrush and Pebble Plains habitat plus other endangered species found only in Big Bear Valley. The proposed project would build 50 homes and a large marina (over 50 boat slips).



Since last year when FOBBV won the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) lawsuit regarding this Mooncamp development project, two paths have been moving forward simultaneously...

1- The developer is working with the County about doing the additional environmental analysis and mitigation needed to seek reapproval.

2- At the same time, we are working with the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust with a goal to have the property purchased through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund or through a state or private fund. The next budget cycle for federal funding is this spring for a 2025 purchase.

The developer is not against the idea of conserving the property if we can find the funding for the purchase. If you have suggestions for grants or funding of any

### **North Big Bear Landscape Restoration Project:**

This 13,000 acre major tree-thinning project, planned to last for at least 20 years, covers 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. The Forest Service approved it with minimal review and no Environmental Impact Study. 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 the Forest Service approval of this project violates NEPA on several counts. The court is now in the process of setting briefing and hearing schedules.



### **Marina Point Development**

Originally approved in 1983 and reapproved in 1991 for 19, 3-story condominium buildings plus a 100+ slip boat marina, we have been in litigation about this project for 20 years!

We won the most recent round of retrials and appeals, but another appeal has been filed. Currently, all development is halted until the appeal decision is final. It might be a few months before we have any final information.



Bald eagle foraging onsite

If you would like to assist in any of these essential legal actions, 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 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](https://www.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](https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org)

Or send checks to:

Friends of Big Bear Valley  
P.O. Box 422, Fawnskin, CA 92333  
[fobbvinfo@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org)

YOUTUBE — 2 Live Streams + videos

<https://www.youtube.com/@FOBBVCAM>

FACEBOOK—Main FOBBV and eagle page:

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

Big Bear Bald Eagle FB group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fobbv>

(for more information on any of our articles:

[fobbvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fobbvinfo@gmail.com)