

Welcome to the Latest Lake Berryessa News Newsletter.

November 1, 2021

Everyone is happy with the first big rain of the season. Hopefully much more to come.

Actually there is not much news to report. Everyone is waiting for Napa County to provide some word about the future.

Spanish Flat Recreation Area and Steele Canyon Recreation Area Are Closed

The interim agreements with Spanish Flat and Steele Canyon Recreation areas terminated yesterday, October 31. The companies have until November 30 to remove their personal property and any facilities investments they made. Their websites have been deleted. No word yet from the County on the status of the two locations after November 30th.

Remember: "Without The Lake Berryessa News, there would be no Lake Berryessa news."

Is Facebook a mental illness or just a place for the mentally ill to gather and babble?

A few years ago I was managing the Facebook and Twitter feeds for a political campaign. I was astonished by the number of trolls and aggressively mean people making stupid comments not based on the reality of the discussions taking place. I've found this to be true even on my Lake Berryessa News Facebook page. I can post a simple news item about the situation at the lake and get some morons coming out of the woodwork to complain about something totally unrelated to the post. Some seem to believe that Gavin Newsom is responsible for every bad thing in their lives, including the zits on their butts.

Many experts contend that social media has contributed to an attitude of rudeness. People feel they have to share their opinions on everything, everywhere, at all times, even if backed up by scant knowledge. And then they have to broadcast that opinion, self- importantly. Most don't understand that almost no one cares what they think or say. They also don't understand that a Facebook post has a lifetime of only about 48 hours. They are simply talking to an audience of one in their own mirror.

My Lake Berryessa News Facebook page has about 24,000 likes. Of course they are not all active, but an interesting post about what's happening at the lake can get more than 12,000 hits in one day. My Lake Berryessa News web site can get thousands of hits in a day when some news is breaking - as when Glory Hole overflowed for the first time in 10 years back in 2017. The Lake Berryessa News YouTube videos by my son, Evan, got millions of views around the world. You can see these videos on my website at:

www.lakeberryessanews.com/photo-album/lake-berryessa-historical-2/

I've been very lenient about what folks post on the Lake Berryessa News Facebook page. Wide communication about the situation at the lake is my goal. I often respond to a post to answer a question or provide additional information. I enjoy the interactions with my readers, stories from the past, positive comments and suggestions for the future.

But I realize I may have contributed to the negativity (sometimes simple inanity) in some Lake Berryessa News Facebook threads. The Lake Berryessa News Facebook page is not an "interactive news site" for people to use as a chat room to communicate with their friends. It is not meant to be a site for baseless negativity and stupid comments - and yes, I get to decide what those are. And I will delete them.

As owner, publisher, editor, and only staff member (unpaid) The Lake Berryessa News is meant to provide the latest news and information about what is happening at the lake, including the plans for the future revitalization of the lake.

My son, Evan, proposed a new approach:

"Skepticism Without Criticism".

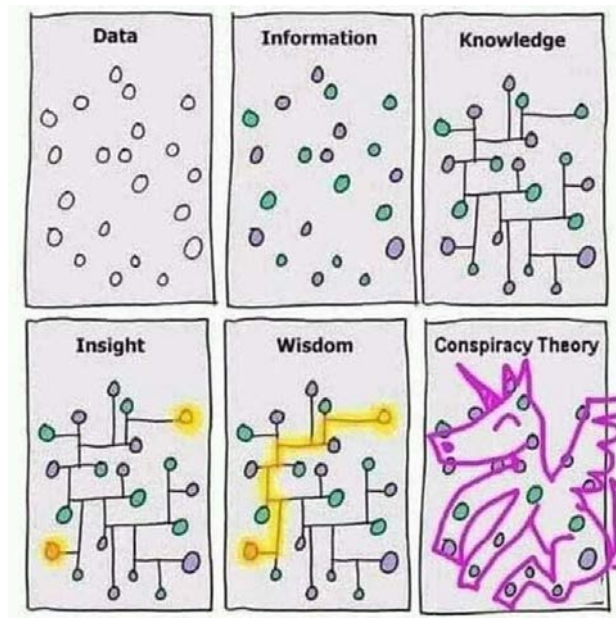
People can be skeptical without being critical. For example, you may look at the Sun Lake Berryessa, LLC. plans for the revitalization of the lake and not agree with some of the

proposals. That doesn't mean you need to post a negative comment about that particular proposal or trash the whole plan. Remember the details all still need to be worked out. It's only your personal opinion.

I know some of you may think you are smarter than a billion dollar company planning to invest \$500 million dollars in the lake resorts over time with a professional staff of recreation planners and marketing experts dedicated to the future success of Lake Berryessa. But maybe you're not?

On another annoying-to-me note. The news feeds can get long for an interesting topic I post. Please don't clutter it up with inane comments. I just deleted a comment a couple of days ago where the person simply wrote "Wow". I don't know what was going on in that persons' mind, likely the adrenaline rush at seeing their name on the computer screen.

If you don't like what I've written, simply unlike my page.

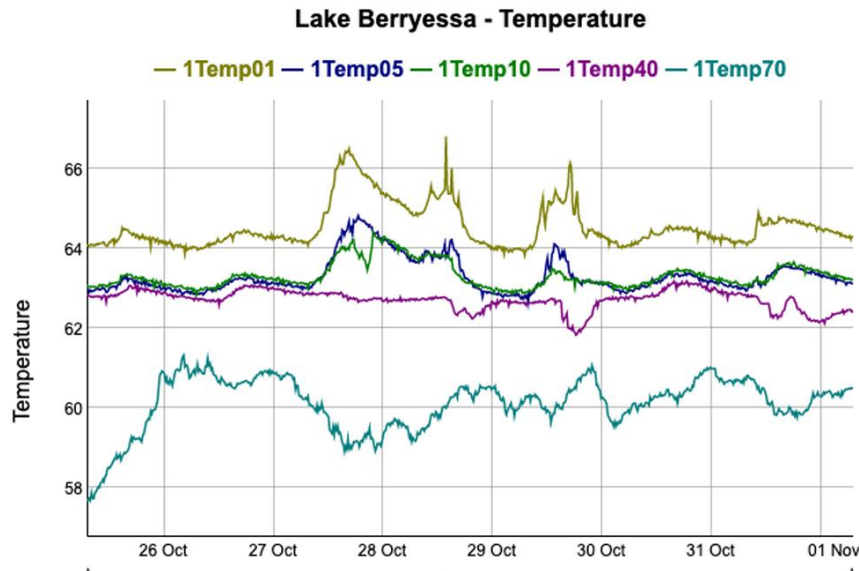


Lake Level as of Monday, November 1, 2021

The lake is stable at 404.2 feet - 35.8 feet down - and has stopped rising. Watch it for yourself at: www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/index.htm.

Official rainfall total at Monticello Dam is at 7.17 inches. Last year the level was at 418.9 feet and zero inches of rain on this date.

First rainfall last year was .09 inches on 11/14/21. We only got 9.44 inches for all of the season. Water temps continue to converge on 62 degrees top to 70 feet down, but full turnover has not yet occurred. We need more wind and wave action.



Aetna Springs resort in Pope Valley for sale again

Paul Franson (www.napalife.com)

The magnificent old Aetna Springs resort in Pope Valley is for sale again. Developers have proposed restoring the property into a luxury resort numerous times. I've written about it often, always hoping that someone would save the historic buildings before they have hopelessly deteriorated. The resort is one of Napa County's treasures but remote resorts fell out of favor. I suspect they may be coming back, and a helipad or airstrip might be great, if the county would approve them.

In Dec. 2018, CBRE Hotels and Compass Real Estate, the company marketing the resort, announced its sale to Alchemy Resorts for \$22 million. The seller was Dallas' police pension system, which had invested nearly \$111 million in it. The deal then included the 3,100 acres including the 672-acre resort, the closed 130-year-old, nine-hole golf course and land around Lake Luciana and Turkey Hill proposed for vineyard estates. George Smith Partners secured \$29,000,000 for the acquisition of the resort, but I'm not sure of the discrepancy in prices.

When Aetna Springs was originally built in the late 19th century, the property's natural mineral springs were the main attraction. It operated for decades as a summer retreat with lodging, dining, golf, tennis, swimming and live entertainment. According to the CBRE's marketing information, Aetna Springs currently totals approximately 2,870 acres with 670 acres to the west and 2,200 acres eight miles east, near Lake Julian.

The property comprises producing vineyards, a modern community clubhouse, the golf course (currently closed) and approximately 40 estate lots. It notes that future plans include a resort village (depicted above), a spa and wellness gardens, a boutique winery, restaurants and resort amenities. The eastern portion of the property surrounds Lake Julian where estate homes are planned with access to the lake for recreational activities. The three neighborhoods at the lake are known as Julian North, Julian West and Julian East.

A second resort is planned at Julian West as a luxury campground and reservoir with 40 glamping units and a restaurant. There is potential to expand the existing vineyards, 27 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Petite Syrah. An additional 300 acres are plantable. A winery and tasting room are planned and approved for the annual production of 57,000 gallons.

CBRE reports that "several top resort operators have expressed an interest in managing the resort at Aetna Springs, including Six Senses Resorts, with its focus on sustainable development and wellness." The website is www.cbredealfow.com www.cbre.us.

Below: Aerial view of Aetna Springs today from the eastern entrance

Welcome to the Latest Lake Berryessa News Newsletter.

Sunday, November 14, 2021

"Without The Lake Berryessa News, there would be no Lake Berryessa news."

Your first Sunday dinner at a new friend's house!



Lake Berryessa Revitalization Takes Another Step Forward

At the Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 new interim contracts with Sun Lake Berryessa, LLC should be approved for the continuing operation of Steele Canyon Recreation Area and Spanish Flat Recreation Area. These contracts will run from December 1, 2021 to November 30, 2023.

The contracts are quite thorough and appear to be a foundation for the final contracts which will include the detailed development plans, Disposition and Development Agreements (DDAs), which are scheduled to be completed in 2023.

The contracts also include new fees for the recreation areas, which are higher than the old fees, but have been approved by the Bureau of Reclamation based on a recently completed a rate comparability study.

The interesting part of the new contracts are the required and authorized services to the public. It is not clear how soon after November 1, 2021 many of these services will be available. These are 2-year contracts and many of the services will be phased in as quickly as feasible.

The services listed below for Steele Canyon are the same as those listed in the Spanish Flat contract.

1. Required Services - Steele Canyon Recreation Area

During the term of this Interim Concession Contract, the Concession Contractor shall provide the following Required Services to the public within the Concession Area:

a. Boat Launching - Manage, operate, and maintain a suitable lake access area for launching car-top boats, personal watercraft and paddle craft (trailered launching shall not be provided) ; launching amenities including signage, designated parking stalls, 5-mph buoys, restroom facilities, and trash and recycling receptacles.

b. Day Use - Manage, operate, and maintain day use sites which provide visitors a picnic table, barbeque, and access to the lake. The Concession Contractor shall also provide related day use amenities including signage, single vehicle parking stalls, truck and trailer parking stalls, trash receptacles, and trash disposal services along with restroom facilities and hand washing stations for day use visitors in accordance with this Interim Concession Contract and in the required quantities shown in Exhibit B.

c. Camping - Manage, operate, and maintain camping sites (campsites for tent only, recreational vehicles (RV) only, and standard multipurpose use) in accordance with this Interim Concession Contract and in the quantities shown in Exhibit B. Camp sites shall include a table, barbeque/fire ring, tent site as applicable, parking stall, and access to the lake. Concession Contractor shall provide supporting amenities including signage, trash and recycling receptacles, restroom facilities, and hand washing stations and shall service those amenities to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment. Required quantities for restrooms shown in Exhibit B.

d. Retail Sales - The Concession Contractor shall manage, operate, and maintain public retail sale areas featuring bottled potable water at a minimum .

e. Buoys - The Concession Contractor shall manage and maintain Reclamation furnished 5-mph buoys at the Concession Area as specified in Exhibit B.

f. Site Security - The Concession Contractor shall assume full responsibility for providing for the security and safety of the public, and for facility and resource protection within the Concession Area. The Concession Contractor shall provide security at a level necessary to ensure public safety, including facility and resource protection for the term of this Interim Concession Contract. During peak periods additional safety and security personnel may be required to be provided by the Concession Contractor. Security personnel shall be registered with the State of California. Security Requirements are further specified in Exhibit D.

2. Authorized Services

During the term of this Interim Concession Contract, the Concession Contractor may provide the following Authorized Services with prior approval by County:

a. Marine Fueling Service - Provide, operate, and maintain manned fueling facilities and service for vessels.

b. Watercraft Rental Operation - Manage, operate, and maintain rental facilities and provide pleasure boats and Personal Water Craft for rent to the public.

c. Wet Slip Rentals - Provide, operate, and maintain temporary wet slip rentals for privately owned boats. County may limit rental wet slips of any size in accordance with allocations set forth in Applicable Laws including current or future policy regarding lake-wide capacity decisions.

d. Day Use - Additional day use sites which provide visitors a picnic table, barbeque, and access to the lake may be authorized as shown in Exhibit B. Additional day use sites shall provide the same level of amenities and service provision as those required by Section 2.B.I, of this Interim Concession Contract.

e. Camping - Additional tent, RV, and standard campsites providing a table, barbeque/fire ring, parking stall, and access to the lake may be authorized in the quantities shown in Exhibit B. Additional camping sites shall provide the same level of amenities and service provisions as those required by Section 2.B.I , of this Interim Concession Contract.

f. Retail Sales - Management , operation, and maintenance of public retail sales featuring supplies such as firewood, sundries, souvenirs, and groceries, along with camping, boating, and fishing supplies. County shall retain the right to prohibit the sale of any items determined to be inappropriate, obscene, or illegal for retail sales at such concession areas.

g. Trailered Boat Launching - Manage, operate, and maintain a suitable boat launch area for launching trailered boats; courtesy docks, and launching amenities including signage, designated single vehicle parking stalls and truck and trailer parking stalls, 5-mph buoys, restroom facilities, and trash and recycling receptacles.

h. Manage and operate a Reservation Service for the purpose of receiving advance reservation of day use and camping sites at the Concession Area.

The following documents are available for download:

[Interim Concession Contract - Steele Canyon Recreation Area](#)

[Interim Concession Contract - Spanish Flate Recreation Area](#)

[BOR Letter of Approval](#)

[Fee Changes - Steele Canyon](#)

[Fee Changes - Spanish Flat](#)

Steele Canyon				Spanish Flat			
Facility or Service		prior fee	new fee	Facility or Service		prior fee	new fee
RV Campsite (Max 2 vehicles)	(2 guests)	\$43	\$55	RV Campsite (Max 2 vehicles)	(2 guests)	\$45	\$55
	(each add'l guest – max 8 guests)	\$5	no change		(each add'l guest – max 8 guests)	\$5	no change
Standard Campsite (Max 2 vehicles)	(2 guests)	\$40	\$50	Standard Campsite (Max 2 vehicles)	(2 guests)	\$45	\$50
	(each add'l guest – max 8 guests)	\$5	no change		(each add'l guest – max 8 guests)	\$4	\$5
Tent Only Campsite (Max 1 vehicle)	(2 guests)	\$34	\$45	Tent Only Campsite (Max 1 vehicle)	(2 guests)	\$25	\$45
	(each add'l guest – max 4 guests)	\$5	no change		(each add'l guest – max 4 guests)	\$5	no change
Extra Person (day use) per person, walk in		\$5	no change	Extra Person (day use) per person, walk in		\$5	no change
Pet Fee per pet, per day or night of camping		\$5	no change	Pet Fee per pet, per day or night of camping		\$5	no change
Extra Vehicle/Parking per vehicle, per night of camping		\$10	no change	Extra Vehicle/Parking per vehicle, per night of camping		\$10	no change
Day Use per vehicle		\$15	n/a	Day Use per vehicle			
	Option 1: per vehicle up to 4 guests	n/a	\$20		Option 1: per vehicle up to 4 guests	\$20	no change
	(each add'l guest)	n/a	\$5		(each add'l guest)	\$5	no change
	Option 2: per vehicle up to 2 guests	n/a	\$14		Option 2: per vehicle up to 2 guests	\$14	no change
	(each add'l guest)	n/a	\$5		(each add'l guest)	\$5	no change
Boat Launch				Boat Launch		\$23	\$30
	registered camper	\$10	no change		Annual Day Use Pass	\$150	\$175
	general public	\$23	\$30		Annual Boat Launch Pass	\$275	\$350
Annual Day Use Pass		\$145	\$250		RV Dump Fee	n/a	\$25
Annual Boat Launch Pass		\$325	\$350				
RV Dump Fee		\$25	\$25				
Slip Fee							
	daily	\$30	n/a				
	monthly	\$276	n/a				

Some Hopeful Sunday Philosophy

Don't let the QAnon crazies, the criminal anti-vaxxers, the cowardly unvaccinated, and the certifiably-stupid politicians get you down. Take a breath and remember that most people are good and only want the best for their families and friends and the world in general. Here are some positive thoughts and suggestions to go with your Sunday. First up is my favorite prayer.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

A rule of ethical conduct paraphrased from the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). In other religions and belief systems there is a similar concept of "the ethic of reciprocity", also called the Golden Rule.

One of the earliest rules of this type is from the Old Testament days of Moses: "Love thy neighbor as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18). Similar rules have also appeared over time:

- ca. 950 BC: "...by making dharma (right conduct) your main focus, treat others as you treat yourself." - Mahabharata Shānti-Parva 167:9 (Hinduism)
- ca. 600 BC: "Avoid doing what you would blame others for doing." – Thales (Greek philosopher)
- ca. 500 BC: "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."
- Buddha Udanavarga 5:18 (Buddhism)

- ca. 500 BC: "A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated." — Sutrakritanga, 1.11.33 (Jainism)
- ca. 480 BC: "Is there any one word that could guide a person throughout life?" The Master replied: "How about 'shu' [reciprocity]: never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself?" - Confucius Analects 15:24
- ca. 400 BC: "Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you." - Isocrates (Greek philosopher)
- ca. 350 BC: "That which you hate to be done to you, do not do to another." - Egyptian Papyrus, Brooklyn 47:218:135
- ca. 50 BC: "What you do not want to happen to you, do not do it yourself either." - Sextius (Greek philosopher)
- ca. 1 AD: "Do not do to others what you know has hurt yourself" - Tirukkural (Tamil Hinduism)
- ca. 400 AD: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation..." - Babylonian Talmud Shabbath 31:a (Judaism)
- ca. 600 AD: "None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." - Muhammad, various hadiths (Islam)
- ca. 800 AD: "Whatever is disagreeable to yourself, do not do unto others." Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29 (Zoroastrianism)
- ca. 1200 AD: "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." Treatise on the Response of the Tao (Taoism)
- ca. 1400 AD: "If the entire Dharma can be said in a few words, then it is — that which is unfavorable to us, do not do that to others." Padmapuraana 19/357–358 (Hinduism)
- ca. 1850 AD: "And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou chooseth for thyself." Baha'ullah (Baha'i Faith)

Social Justice Through a Veil of Ignorance (John Rawls)

All people are biased by their situations, so how can people agree on a "social contract" to govern how the world should work. Philosopher John Rawls suggests that we should imagine we sit behind a veil of ignorance that keeps us from knowing who we are and identifying with our personal circumstances. By being ignorant of our circumstances, we can more objectively consider how societies should operate.

Two primary principles supplement Rawls' veil of ignorance: the liberty principle and the difference principle.

According to the liberty principle, the social contract should try to ensure that everyone enjoys the maximum liberty possible without intruding upon the freedom of others.

According to the difference principle, the social contract should guarantee that everyone an equal opportunity to prosper. In other words, if there are any social or economic differences in the social contract, they should help those who are the worst off. And, any advantages in the contract should be available to everyone.

So, according to Rawls, approaching tough issues through a veil of ignorance and applying these principles can help us decide more fairly how the rules of society should be structured. And fairness, as Rawls and many others believe, is the essence of justice.

Lake Level as of Sunday, November 14, 2021

The lake is stable at 404.2 feet - 35.8 feet down. The ground has dried out enough that the latest light rain of .57 inches has had no effect on lake level. Official rainfall total at Monticello Dam is at 7.97 inches. Last year the level was at 418.5 feet.

First rainfall last year was .09 inches on 11/14/21. We only got 9.44 inches for all of the season. Water temps continue to converge on 62 degrees top to 70 feet down, but full turnover has not yet occurred. We need more wind and wave action.

Lake Berryessa is at 60.5% capacity (Gamble Gauge)

Stork Metric: the lake is still "about 8 buoys down".



Sunday Smiles

Free Sunday Funnies at: <https://comics.azcentral.com/>

Guy Named Brandon Unsure Why He's Suddenly So Popular Among
Crazy Uncles & NASCAR Fans

Recent study shows that 8 in every 10 Americans do not want to be part of a statistic

Climate Scientists Warn That Fish Will Be Under Even More Water By 2065

Paid Leave Struck Down By People Who Do Combined 4 Hours Of Work Annually

Billionaire Buying Sandwich Unfairly Targeted With 5% Sales Tax

'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom' Casting Assistant Discusses Difficulties Of Finding Extras
Who Are Willing To Be Eaten Alive

COVID Researchers Report Vaccine Efficacy May Drop To 0% After Death

Mark Zuckerberg announces Facebook will be renamed as Farcebook

A Dangerous New Strain of Covid-19 Mutates to Target Only Stupid People

New smart workout mirror shows you how you'll die if you don't get your act together

Napa County's Defensible Space Enforcement Program Will Begin April 1st.

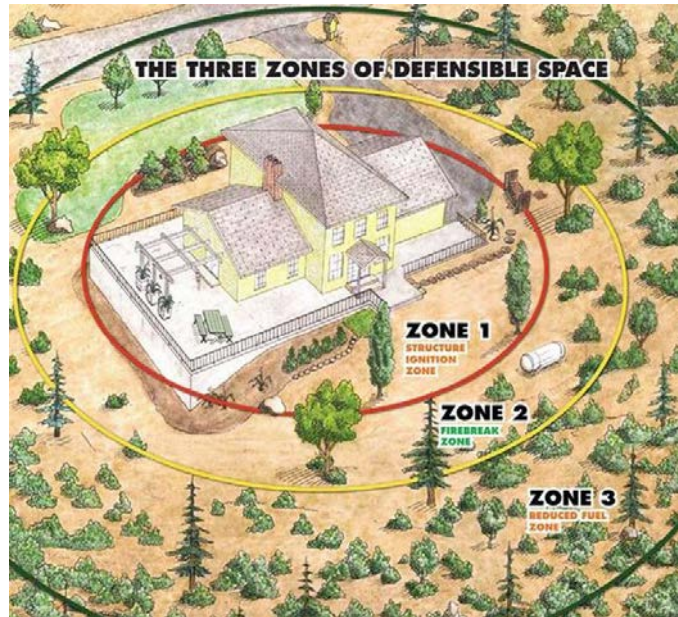
With the onset of winter approaching, now it the best time to request a consulting inspection. We will identify and provide a scope of work so that you have time to reduce fire hazards, meet Napa County's defensible space ordinance and to ensure that your property is ready for the 2022 fire season.

For more information please visit www.countyofnapa.org/firemarshal

Beginning January 1 in California the seller of a home in a designated high fire area built before 2010 must disclose to the buyer conditions that make the home vulnerable to wildfires. The seller must provide documentation stating that the property is in compliance with local laws pertaining to defensible spaces or local vegetation management laws.

Are you familiar with the three zones of defensible space?

Each zone is established at a specified distance with the intention of affecting the behavior of a wildfire entering the outermost zone. This helps to eliminate pathways for a fire to burn directly towards the home, reduces radiant heat exposures, and offers a safe route for evacuation and for firefighters to defend the structure. Now is the perfect time to ensure you have an adequate defensible space surrounding your property: bit.ly/NFDefSpa



Pope Valley From the Air

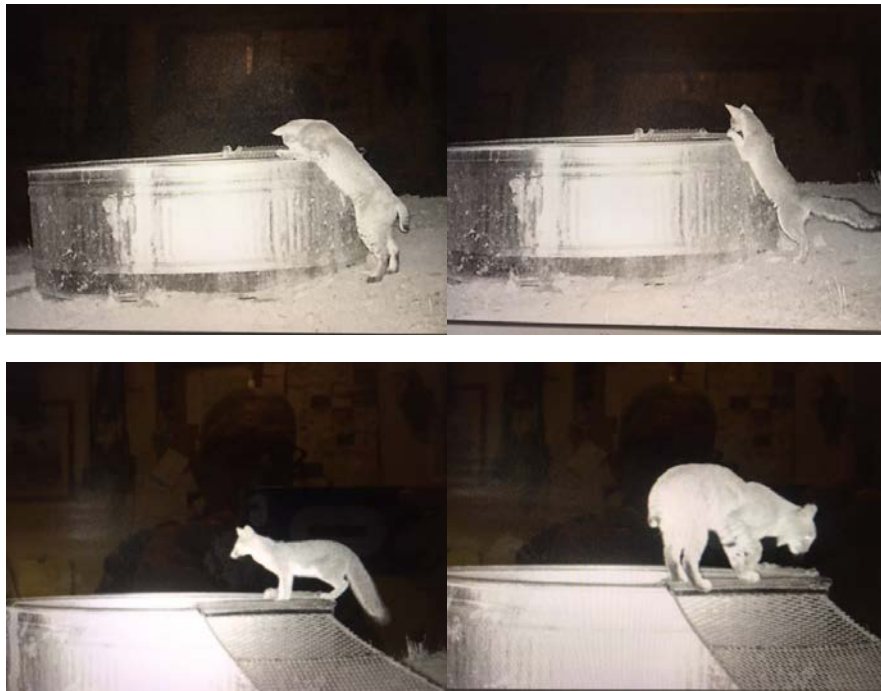
Some nice drone shots of beautiful Pope Valley.





Notes from the East Side of Lake Berryessa

George Gamble, east side cattle rancher, writes, "Since there have been such dry conditions in the hills, I put out some cameras at a few water troughs to see what was going on with the wildlife. I found the long-legged critters had no problem getting a drink. It was the short-legged animals who needed a boost. So, I devised a ramp and to my surprise the shorties took right to it. The pictures show the results."



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Wildfire Risk Assessments
Defensible Space/Land Management
Home Hardening Upgrades
Water System Design & Install
Community Project Planning

Complete Wildfire Defense website: <https://completewildfiredefense.com/>