High water levels delay fish stocking in Nevada

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

All that water rushing from the mountains has state biologists putting fish-stocking plans for Northern Nevada rivers on hold.

Most years, the Nevada Department of Wildlife is planting trout in the rivers as early as March. Not this year.

March storms kept river levels high, and as a plentiful mountain snowpack begins to melt, they will rise higher, turning churning rapids muddy.

On Tuesday, the Truckee River at Farad was flowing at 1,150 cubic feet per second. Flows are expected to remain steady for the next couple days as temperatures cool, then begin to rise again as the days warm.

Runoff “should really start to climb” in early May, probably peaking late in the month, said Dave Wathen, a hydrologist with the federal water master’s office.

Read the whole story

Ski report: Counting down the days left



Celebrate on the slopes that tax day isn't until April 18 this year. Somehow you must be able to write-off your ski day.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Officials pump up benefits of cycling event, Hwy. 50 closure

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – It was part informational session and part cheerleading rally as more than 60 people gathered to hear about what could be the convergence of the start of North America's largest road bike race and the main artery to the South Shore being closed.

A Caltrans rep and consultant from its hired public relations firm started the Thursday night meeting at Horizon hotel-casino with a brief overview of the plans to soon close Echo Summit in order to replace the dilapidated rock wall.

That was followed by an enthusiastic talk from Alison Green, marketing coordinator with Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, about the Amgen Tour de California.

With predictions of 35,000 people being on the South Shore for the 10:30am May 15 start of the multi-day cycling event, it could be a scenic inconvenience if spectators have to come to the area some other way than Highway 50.

Deanna Shoopman, Caltrans Tahoe basin outreach coordinator, was adamant and repetitive in saying no date has been set for when the highway will be closed. When it is, though, it will be off-limits for two weeks solid, 24 hours a day. After that, it will be subject to delays for up to six weeks.

B Gorman, executive director of Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, spoke of her experience of traveling between Tahoe and the Bay Area every weekend before moving to South Lake Tahoe. She said she always found it faster during heavy traffic – like what the Highway 50 one-way traffic will be like – to go via Highway 88 by Kirkwood. Plus, she added, it's a great route on a motorcycle.

One glimmer of hope for workers who commute between the South Shore and locales on the other side of the closure is Shoopman will know by Monday afternoon if those people will be granted a permit to get through the construction area.



The rock wall at Echo Summit that will be replaced. Photos/LTN

"We know it will not start until (at least) the first week of May," Shoopman said of the initial two-week, 24-hour a day

closure.

The good news is Heavenly Mountain Resort and Sierra-at-Tahoe will be able to stay open through Easter weekend knowing skiers and employees can get to the mountains.

Shoopman was also emphatic in stating the decision to close will be based on having a 10-day window of clear weather.

Cyclists will also be banned for the first two weeks while work is being done.

When it comes to the Tour de California, some firsts are being set with it starting in Tahoe. This is the highest elevation start, riders make two passes through the start area, and it’s the first time Nevada is part of the event. The other first is having 19 professional teams compete – the largest number in the event’s six-year history.

The eight-day race ends in Thousands Oaks, headquarters of Amgen, the tour sponsor.

The Tahoe portion starts in Stateline with riders leaving near the entrance of MontBleu casino May 15. They are expected to average about 28 mph, finishing the 72-mile loop about 1pm, and then ending the first stage at Northstar-at-Tahoe. The next day the riders take off from Squaw Valley as they head south through California.

One audience member asked what happens if it snows May 15. Gorman said the race coordinators have a contingency plan they have not shared with her.



Alison Green talks April 14 about the Tour de California.

It’s expected to be one big party along Highway 50 from Stateline to the Y. The LTVA’s Green said there is talk of having deejays on opposite sides of the street competing to get the crowds excited and keep them entertained while they wait for the cyclists to ride through.

“The best thing to do that day is park somewhere and then get out on your feet,” Green said.

The roads involved with the race will have rolling closures as the cyclists come through, which could cause delays of 30 minutes. This also means BlueGo buses will not be running their usual routes.

It will be up to private property owners – which is what the bulk of Highway 50 is except for Linear Park and the eventual Lakeview Commons site – do when it comes to allowing parking for non-customers and activities on their property.

Lauren Thomaselli, events coordinator for the city, said a map is being prepared of all the events along the cycling route on the South Shore.

A slew of events are being planned for 10 days before the pros take to the road.

The April 14 informational meeting replaced the annual tourism conference the South Shore chamber and LTVA have been putting on.

One of the things that kept being talked about was businesses should tap into the spectator demographic – ages 25-45 – because they travel with full wallets.

More information about the road closure is on this website.

Information about the cycling event is here.

AYSO soccer program looking for players

AYSO of South Lake Tahoe has open soccer registration April 19-20 6-8pm, April 30 9am-noon and May 3 6-8pm at the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena.

AYSO's six philosophies are Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship, and Player Development.

Cost is $75 per player. Family discounts and scholarships are available.

More information is on the website or call (530) 542.2562.

Ski report: Fresh layer of snow



A little bit of fresh snow fell yesterday – though it’s not quite a powder day.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Input sought on Independence Lake

The Nature Conservancy is welcoming public ideas and feedback about the recreation and access management plan currently under way for Independence Lake located in Northern California in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The Nature Conservancy is offering several ways for the public to provide input. The first method will be two public meetings.

* April 18 at the Loyalton Social Hall – Open House 5:30, 6pm meeting, 105 Beckwith St., Loyalton.

* April 19 at the Truckee Town Hall – Open House 5:30, 6pm meeting, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee.

Additionally, the Nature Conservancy has set up an online survey to collect input on specific strategies related to management issues. To ensure each person may only fill out the survey once, sign-in is required.

An independent blog has also been set up to provide information about the issues and public outreach process.

The Nature Conservancy acquired property around Independence Lake in spring 2010 and is currently working with partners, including the Truckee Donner Land Trust to:

· Preserve critical habitat for native fish and wildlife

· Reduce the risk of introduction of aquatic invasive plants and animals

· Implement forest management strategies to decrease the risk of wildfire

· Allow visitors to access the lake and enjoy the property in ways that are compatible with the conservation of this precious resource.

Sugar pines to be replanted in Angora Burn area

The Sugar Pine Foundation will be planting fungus-resistant sugar pine seedlings in the Angora Fire burn scar on April 30 from 10am-noon.

Seedlings, tools, instruction and light refreshments will be provided.

Bring the family, a trowel or a shovel if you can. Carpooling is encouraged.

Meet at the intersection of Mt. Rainier and Cliff drives.

For more information, email admin@sugarpinefoundation.org.

Ski report: Blustery day



Wind may be blowing the chairlifts around so much that they won’t be operating everywhere on the mountain.

Here is the ski reportt from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

LPGA Legends Tour stopping in Reno

Patty Sheehan, World Golf and LPGA Hall of Famer, in partnership with The Legends Tour, the official senior tour of the LPGA, are bringing The Legends Tour to Hidden Valley Country Club in Reno June 3–6.

The official three-day tournament, Patty Sheehan & Friends, boasts a field of 40 LPGA Legends competing in a two-day, stroke play tournament for a $225,000 purse. In addition to Sheehan, LPGA Hall of Famer Betsy King, LPGA Hall of Famer Pat Bradley and 2011 U.S. Solheim Cup Captain Rosie Jones have confirmed that they will be teeing it up in Reno this June.

Tournament week begins June 2 with a junior clinic for girls of The First Tee as well as professional practice rounds and an evening pairings party for sponsors and guests. The Patty

Sheehan & Friends Pro-Am is set for June 3. The first round kicks off tournament play on Saturday with the final round Sunday. A Monday Pro-Am has been added due to demand.

Tickets for Patty Sheehan & Friends are $10 per day and are available online. Admission for ages 17 and under and military personnel is free.

Tournament proceeds benefit the newly-formed Patty Sheehan Foundation designed to support local charities and the Reno community.

University Extension sponsors BMP workshops

The 12th annual Best Management Practices Workshops put on by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension will be April 26 and April 28.

Choose from two workshops:

* Full-day Basic Best Management Practices Workshop on April 28 at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

* Half-Day Refresher Workshop on April 26 at Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in Stateline for those who have completed the Basic or Refresher Workshop within the past two years.

Whether you attend on April 26 or April 28, you will:

* Find out how construction and landscaping activities can contribute to water pollution in Lake Tahoe and how to install BMPs as recommended in a BMP Site Evaluation.

* Become familiar with new developments in the BMP Retrofit Program at Lake Tahoe.

BMP Workshop Topics for 2011:

* How to pass a final inspection – tougher standards apply

* Avoid costly installation errors

* New, tougher criteria to qualify for listing in the 2011 BMP Installation Service Providers List. Passing new exam required for both workshops

* Spanish BMP Workshop also available on April 28.

Space is limited, so register early, (775) 832.4150.