



# 2015 Eastern Slope Conference

Association of Environmental Professionals—Central Chapter

September 24 to 26, 2015  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Join the Association of Environmental Professionals Central Chapter for the 2nd Eastern Slope Conference in Mammoth Lakes, CA. The conference will be at the Westin Monache Resort starting at 1:00 pm on Thursday, September 24, 2015 and continue through Friday, September 25, 2015. A Fly Fishing Mobile Workshop will be offered on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

The schedule will include a half day CEQA Essentials Workshop, a half day Advanced CEQA Workshop and a half day NEPA Workshop. A second track will offer a variety of topics including endangered species, cultural resources and tribal consultation. The Keynote speaker will be the former State Historic Preservation Officer and Chair of the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, Wayne Donaldson. The Opening Reception will provide a Legislative Update presented by AEP's Lobbyist.

Thursday evening attendees are invited to attend a mixer at The Side Door where appetizers and a free

drink will be available. The Side Door offers a dinner special for \$10 for those interested in staying for dinner. Friday evening we'll meet up at 53 Kitchen and Cocktails for dinner. Both restaurants are across the street from the hotel at the Village Shopping Center.

The conference fees include all sessions, Continental Breakfast on Friday, the Keynote Luncheon on Friday and a drink and appetizers at The Side Door.

AICP & MCLE Credits will be available.





# Conference Schedule

Time	Session 1	Session 2
<b>Thursday, September 24, 2015</b>		
1:00–2:45 pm	<p>NEPA Workshop  <i>Sean Bechta, Ascent Environmental &amp; Trevor Macenski, Stantec</i></p>	<p>AB 52 Workshop  <i>Kathy Bancroft, Lone Pine Shoshone Tribe, Laura Miranda, NAHC &amp; Monica Strauss, M.A., RPA</i></p>
2:45–3:00 pm	Break	
3:00–4:45 pm	<p>NEPA Workshop Continued</p>	<p>ESA/Bi-State Sage-Grouse Session  <i>Ted Koch, Nevada Fish &amp; Wildlife, Steve Nelson, Bishop BLM &amp; Wendy Sugimura, Mono County</i></p>
5:00–6:00 pm	<p>Opening Reception: Legislative Update  <i>Will Gonzalez, Gonzalez, Quintana &amp; Hunter, LLC.</i></p>	
6:30–8:00 pm	Mixer at The Side Door	
<b>Friday, September 25, 2015</b>		
7:00–8:00 am	Continental Breakfast	
8:00–9:45 am	<p>CEQA Essentials Workshop  <i>John Fox, Aleshire &amp; Wynder, LLP &amp; John Larson, Rincon Consultants, Inc.</i></p>	<p>Cultural Resources Analysis:            CEQA/NEPA/106  <i>Rebecca Allen, PhD &amp; Matthew Russell, PhD ESA</i></p>
9:45–10:00 am	Break	
10:00–11:45 am	<p>CEQA Basics Workshop Continued</p>	<p>Section 4(f)  <i>Kirsten Helton, CalTrans</i></p>
11:45–12:30 pm	Lunch at the Whitebark Restaurant & Lounge	
12:30–1:30 pm	<p>The Keynote speaker will be the former California State Historic Preservation Officer and current Chair of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation  <i>Milford Wayne Donaldson FAIA</i></p>	
1:45–3:00 pm	<p>Advanced CEQA Workshop  <i>John Kinsey, Wanger Jones Helsley PC, John Larson, Rincon Consultants Inc., &amp; Stacey Simon, Mono County</i></p>	
3:00–3:15 pm	Break	
3:15–5:00 pm	Advanced CEQA Workshop Continued	
6:00–7:30 pm	Dinner at 53 Kitchen & Cocktails	
<b>Saturday, September 26, 2015</b>		
8:00 –12:00 pm	Fly Fishing Workshop— <i>Gene Talmadge, AEP President</i>	



## Registration

REGISTRATION FEES	Category	Registration Fee
	AEP Member	\$100
	Non-Member—Private Organization	\$180
	Non-Member—Public Agency	\$160
	Student	\$75
	Registration Fee & Full Membership	\$240

To register go to: [www.aepcentral.net](http://www.aepcentral.net)

*Registration is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. Pre-registration is on-line only; fees must be paid in advance either by credit/debit card or check. Purchase orders are not accepted. On-site registrations may be accepted if space is available. No refunds or cancellations accepted after September 9, 2015. Substitutions are permitted.*

## Hotel Information

### The Westin Monache Resort

50 Hillside Drive  
Mammoth Lakes, CA  
(760) 934-0400

The conference will be held at the Westin Monache Resort. The AEP Conference Rate is \$159/night. This rate is available for rooms reserved for 9/23/2015 to 9/30/2015. Reserve your room by August 23, 2015 to receive the group rate.

Reserve your room by going to <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1505205871&key=50351EE>



## Program Descriptions

### NEPA Workshop

The NEPA Workshop is designed to give new and experienced Environmental Practitioners a basic understanding of NEPA, its applications, types of NEPA documents, the various methods for environmental determinations, and the differences and similarities between NEPA and CEQA.

### AB 52

Assembly Bill 52 (Statutes of 2014) amended CEQA to require consultation by cities, counties, and other CEQA lead agencies when requested by a Native American tribe along with an evaluation of a new environmental resource category called "tribal cultural resources." Effective January 1, 2015 for CEQA projects that have notices filed on or after July 1, 2015, this change to CEQA is very important to any lead agency where one or more Native American tribes have a cultural affiliation to resources within its jurisdiction. Following brief presentations about the new substantive provisions of the law, including tribal consultation, environmental review requirements and the new category of "tribal cultural resources," the panelists, which include the perspectives of Native American tribes, CEQA consultants and cultural resources specialists, will engage with the attendees in a roundtable format to answer questions and discuss pertinent issues surrounding the implementation of this important CEQA amendment.

### The Endangered Species Act and the Power of Partnerships: The Bi-State Sage Grouse Story

Occupying areas along the California-Nevada border, a geographically distinct population of sage grouse once faced a precarious future and was proposed to be listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Today, that's changed, thanks in large part to the unprecedented partnership effort by the Bi-State Local Area Working Group and its Bi-State Action Plan. This session reviews the nuts and bolts of the Endangered Species Act, and tells the success story of an historic collaboration that crosses boundaries between agencies, landowners, and states to recover the Bi-State sage grouse species and its habitat. These efforts led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw the proposal to list the Bi-State population in April 2015, and proves that diverse partners committed to a shared vision works to achieve wildlife conservation.

### Opening Reception: Legislative Update

Matt Klopfenstein will give a general overview of the 2015 Legislative Session with a focus on environmental and CEQA related legislation. The discussion will highlight AEP's activity in the Capitol this year, with in depth analysis of bills that AEP was engaged on. Mr. Klopfenstein's presentation will summarize key pieces of legislation from this year, including SB 119 and SB 32. Additionally, the talk will give insight into the political atmosphere of Sacramento and how that impacted legislation of interest to AEP. Finally, he will preview 2016 and invite ideas and feedback of policies important to the AEP Central Chapter.

### CEQA Essentials

The CEQA Essentials workshop will provide an introduction to the California Environmental Quality Act, and untwist the complexities of CEQA for those who need to understand the basics. The program is structured around the key CEQA concepts and steps: starting with deciding if a CEQA project exists, then continuing through the Preliminary Review, environmental analysis requirements and ending with



## Program Descriptions Continued

the CEQA Findings. Seasoned practitioners may benefit from the workshop as well as those new to the field, since important practice tips will be covered along with the fundamentals.

### **Cultural Resources Analysis: CEQA/NEPA/NHPA Section 106**

CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 regulations are all intended to consider impacts to cultural resources during project planning. When approached with thought and foresight, these are powerful environmental tools for project planning and implementation. We will review the “alphabet soup” of regulations, discuss coordination and compliance, and review requirements. We invite questions and discussion on successfully navigating cultural resource studies, creating efficiencies, and developing positive solutions for thorny or challenging issues.

### **Section 4(f)**

Section 4(f) of the U. S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 governs the use of land from “publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public or private historic sites” for Federal transportation projects. It is specific to projects that receive funding from or require approval by agencies of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Section 4(f) can be a complex and difficult law to navigate. This session will give an overview of the law and when it applies, as well as provide some tools for actually producing a Section 4(f) evaluation.

### **Keynote: Former SHPO & Chair of the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation**

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, was appointed by President Barack Obama as Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 2010. During his presentation, Integrating Section 106 in Environmental Decision Making, Mr. Donaldson will review the basics of historic preservation review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and will explore opportunities to integrate Section 106 with NEPA and CEQA to improve efficiency and preservation outcomes in federal decision making.

### **Advanced CEQA Workshop**

The Advanced CEQA Workshop provides key information on current CEQA issues, including the most recent legal developments and guidance, as well as special topics including SB 743, groundwater and water supply, and a refresher on CEQA efficiencies.

### **Fly Fishing the Owens River**

This is a TRUE mobile workshop - we will venture forth to explore the fly fishing opportunities of the Upper Owens River in the vicinity of Mammoth Lakes. Participants will receive a short introduction to fly fishing, including casting basics, fly selection, and fishing techniques. Participants will analyze stream conditions, determine the nature and type of insects present (on which trout feed), and assess the best approach for presenting the fly. We will spend 4-5 hours on the river, moving up and down stream as needed to find feeding fish. This will be all “catch and release” (barbless hooks will be used to ease the release of the fish).

If you have your own gear bring it! Fly-fishing gear can also be rented at The Troutfitter (in Mammoth Lakes).



# Sponsorships

Since 1974, the Association of Environmental Professionals has strived to “enhance, maintain, and protect the quality of the natural and human environment”. AEP has attracted more than 1700 planners, environmental scientists, biologists, lawyers, noise specialists, transportation planners, paralegals, archeologists, geologists, engineers, visual analysts, and other professionals in numerous disciplines. To continue the dialogue between environmental professionals we are now pleased to announce AEP Central Chapter’s 2015 Eastern Slope Conference. This conference will be held in Mammoth Lakes, California at the Westin Monache Resort. Sponsor submissions will be accepted until September 11, 2015.

## PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Includes:

- 2 Free Conference Registrations
- 1/2 Page Ad in Conference Materials
- Company Logo Recognition on the AEP Central Chapter Website for 1 Year

Cost: \$500

## SILVER SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Includes:

- 1/2 Page Ad in Conference Materials
- Company Logo Recognition on the AEP Central Chapter Website for 1 Year

Cost: \$200

## GOLD SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Includes:

- 1 Free Conference Registrations
- 1/2 Page Ad in Conference Materials
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Cost: \$300

## BRONZE SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Includes:

- 1/4 Page Ad in Conference Materials
- Company Logo Recognition on the AEP Central Chapter Website for 6 Months

Cost: \$100

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