



EL DORADO COUNTY FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION 2025-2026

**PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 15, 2026**



MISSION STATEMENT

El Dorado County Fish & Wildlife Commission is committed to having abundant, healthy and diverse fish and wildlife in El Dorado County.



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Dennis Byrne – District I

Dennis has served on the commission for 14 years. His hobbies include building, installing, and maintaining bluebird and wood duck boxes as well as collecting, refurbishing, and gifting fishing rods and reels to local children. He assists in local wildlife projects to include deer crossing signs and the California Department of Wildlife dove banding project. Dennis helps with sourcing and stocking fish in local ponds and supports local children's fishing derbies.



Larry Robinson – District II

Larry Joe Robinson is a native of El Dorado County. He serves on the County Council of the Abnaki West Coast Indian Tribe and is a former member of the El Dorado Indian Council. He has been an avid hunter and fisherman for more than 50 years, whose passion is wildlife conservation.

Jim Davies – District III

Jim Davies is a licensed forester who has worked and lived in El Dorado County for over 50 years. Passionate about the county's forests and wildlife, Jim now works with the El Dorado Resource Conservation District, rehabilitating burned landscapes and implementing fuel reduction projects within the urban-suburban-wildland interface.



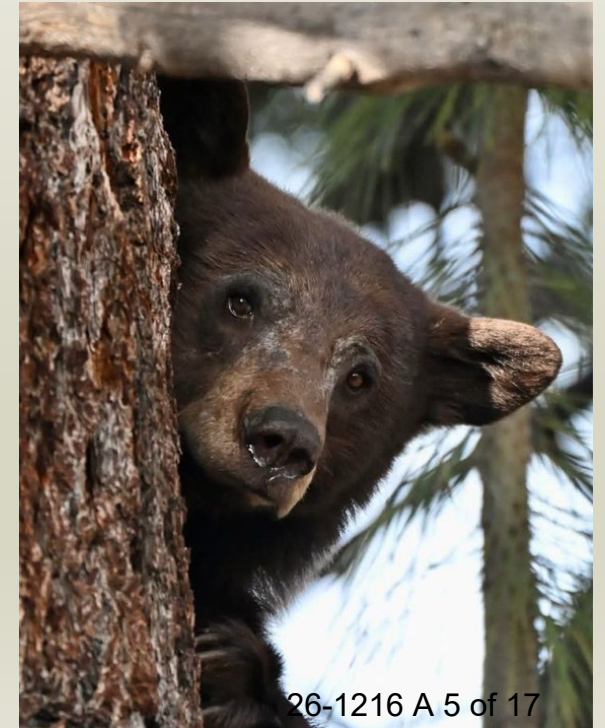


Patrick Weddle – District IV

Patrick Weddle is a retired entomologist specializing in integrated pest management and pesticide policy reform. He has been a resident of El Dorado County for 52 years. A life-long outdoorsman, Pat especially enjoys fly fishing. He has served on the El Dorado County Fish & Wildlife Commission in various capacities since he retired in 2011.

Leona Allen – District V

Leona is a life-long resident of Tahoe's portion of El Dorado County. Her passion for fish and wildlife conservation comes from growing up in the naturally rich environment of the Sierras and being trained to track animals by her father. She volunteers as an Interpretive Ranger at Taylor Creek Visitors Center, monitoring the Black Bear population to keep them safe.





Heather Gardner – At Large

A UC Davis alumna with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Equine Studies, Heather spent several years as a horse breeder and has a lifelong passion for caring for animals, both large and small. She has over three years of volunteer experience with Foothill Dog Rescue and is a member of the Monarch Fellowship. In her free time, Heather enjoys fly-fishing, gardening, and exploring the outdoors with her family. She remains deeply engaged in her community and is committed to environmental and wildlife stewardship.

Dr. Steven Schwarzbach – At Large

Dr. Steven Schwarzbach, PhD, Ecology, retired from the USGS in 2014, where he had been the director of the Western Ecological Research Center for 10 years. Prior to his tenure with USGS he spent 14 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, where he was the chief of the Environmental Contaminants Division of the Sacramento Field Office. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the Board for the El Dorado Resource Conservation District and has been a resident of El Dorado County for 45 years.





WHAT WE DO....

➡ Advise the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors regarding wildlife conservation, fishing, hunting and other related issues.

➡ Administer funding for fish and wildlife projects

WHAT WE DO....

Our commission cooperates with Game Wardens and the District Attorney's Office to ensure successful prosecutions of Fish and Game code violations and collection of resultant fines.

Revenues accrued to the county from Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties budgeted for FY 25/26 totals \$8,500.

Based on FY 24/25 actuals the Commission is requesting an additional \$13,420 to support funding Youth Fishing Derbies and fish & wildlife projects (note the total amount in the approved budget for FY 25/26 is \$21,920).

Court Fines	Fiscal
Collected	Year
\$5,059.26	21 / 22
\$6,315.11	22 / 23
\$2,489.46	23 / 24
\$10,113.91	24 / 25

2025/2026 YEAR IN REVIEW....

July 2025 – presentation by the Monarch Fellowship regarding the decline of the Monarch Butterfly population and the need for appropriate habitat

August 2025 – presentation regarding the Urban Beaver Coexistence Project in El Dorado Hills by Connected Ecology in conjunction with California Department of Fish & Wildlife

October 2025 – received information regarding the continuing lack of bear boxes in campgrounds in the Tahoe portion of El Dorado County (Tahoe Valley Campground, Campground by the Lake)

2025/2026 YEAR IN REVIEW....

February 2026 – reviewed information regarding the Trout Creek Restoration Project by the California Tahoe Conservancy

March 2026 – presentation by the Highway 50 Wildlife Connection Grant Project

April 2026 – continued discussion regarding human-black bear coexistence education efforts, successes and challenges

May 2026 – meeting cancelled due to snow in Tahoe



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HIGHLIGHTS...

Commission visited Taylor Creek in the Lake Tahoe Basin to learn about US Forest Service's education efforts, wildlife and habitat protection, high visitor numbers, and infrastructure challenges.





The Friends Aiding Wildlife in Nature (FAWN) organization presented information regarding their efforts to remove obsolete man-made fencing that can injure or trap wildlife.

**Received a presentation
from the American River
Conservancy regarding
their efforts in watershed
conservation, land
stewardship, and
Environmental education.**



AMERICAN RIVER
CONSERVANCY

Saving America's Lion



Restoring Our Earth

The Mountain Lion Foundation presented information about their organization and its efforts to support coexistence and reduce human/Puma conflict.

Support fishing derbies for youth throughout El Dorado County



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QUESTIONS...

