

The Bly Tunnel pipe is only one of many problems exposed to the public recently. Since we began writing for Localnews1.net in 2003 we have exposed quite a few other problems that have happened at and to Eagle Lake and the Eagle Lake Basin. Since then, we have gained many more viewers who may feel a little lost in the translation if they have only been with us a short time. Since Localnews1 is taking a break, we decided that the public has the right to know what is going on at their lake. The entirety of our findings over the years is too long or should I say there are too many findings to simply tell the long drawn out story of the last several years so it will be continued in parts. As things progress and get cleaned up, we will be happy to post that news as well.

This series reflects and are perfect examples of “the people” letting the “agencies” go out of control of the people they serve. It is unbelievable that these are the people that “We, the people” are supposed to trust. We pay them to protect and properly manage OUR land and resources, not to use as their personal water source, dumping grounds or sandbox. I will begin chronologically but when referring to a past event, may jump around a little. By the end, it will fit together perfectly. I will briefly describe the photos and/or slide shows singularly or in total.

PART 1: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

EAGLE LAKE NOT A PRISTINE AS YOU THINK

DATE: December 2005 ([PHOTO](#) 12/05, [PHOTO](#) 3/12/06.)

FOUND: Hundreds, if not thousands of old creosote barriers that were removed from Merrill Campground during its reconstruction in the summer of 2005. Lassen National Forest gave orders to the contractor (Hat Creek Construction) to take the old barriers to this LNF dump location which is about 100 yards east (lake side of the road) at the intersection of Eagle Lake Road (County Road A-1) and USFS Road 21. This area has long been used as a land fill by Lassen National Forest (which included other local entities and agencies according to the property tags on some of the old office and electrical equipment) in the past...and that is only the tip of the iceberg. The history of this landfill goes back over 50 years and is close but well hidden from the public. **The creosote barriers were “supposed to sit there for a couple years to leach the creosote out into the environment and watershed before Lassen National Forest was planning to burn them along with stumps”.**

HISTORY OF LNF’S TOXIC DUMP: ([PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#)) In 1998 which coincided with LNF moving into the newly constructed Eagle Lake Ranger District office on A-1 near highway 36, massive trenching and dumping of potentially toxic (PCP’s, lead paint, computers, monitors etc) was going on right under our eyes. Old light ballasts containing PCB’s, computers, electrical and office equipment, office desks (lead paint) as well as many other heavy metals and construction/maintenance debris were found in a trench a few hundred feet long that could only have been dug by heavy covered trench was still visible in 2006 as water filled the depression...([PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#)). Some of those “supervisors” responsible have been honorably “retired” and continue to receive taxpayer paid benefits. I’ll let you decide after the fact if indeed these people deserve your tax money for life.

The winter of 2005/2006 was a wet one with lots of rain. When going back to the area in April and May of 2006 we found Lassen National Forest’s plan on letting the creosote barriers leach out into the environment and watershed was put into action and working out well ([PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#)) creosote leaching plan of LNF working out well). The surface water through the dump site flows directly to Little Merrill Creek and is also very close to private wells. LNF knows that as there are several culvert pipes under the paved road that direct the flow right through the dump site. On this day, I needed my hip boots to walk in and did so through 18 inches of water to get there. I was very disappointed in what I saw as well as dismayed that the USFS ordered this pollution and had every inclination of allowing it to happen for years so MORE creosote could leach out into the watershed and ultimately the lake and possibly the private wells that are not far away. ([PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#), [PHOTO](#))

LNF knew exactly what they were doing, but they didn't plan on getting caught and thought the "network" was safe because no one could squeal without taking some responsibility for the action (remember the property tags remain on the buried equipment and light ballasts). All along LNF knowingly and willingly dumped toxic creosote with intentions of getting away with it, on top of knowing how many PCB's could be leaching from past dumping over 50 years aided by flowing water through a known watershed and into a seasonal tributary to Eagle Lake ... wouldn't you think it would concern someone and possibly get cleaned up? ([PHOTO](#) This is the extent of the clean up).

Now, do you believe that the people responsible for ordering this pollution in the name of the public deserve a retirement benefit from the taxpayers for a job well done? Well, the government gave them a nice retirement with full benefits.

RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS: After personally exposing this to Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (several times), Lassen National Forest was ordered to remove the toxic creosote barriers and dispose of them properly. No other action was taken against the polluters. The barriers were removed after the water dried up in the watershed, no water tests or soil tests were done to determine the extent of the leaching creosote and to this day, the stench of the creosote can still be smelled on a warm spring or summer day. Mysteriously, some of the creosote barriers ended up being found accidentally by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board during a "surprise" inspection of the sewer ponds that serve Eagle Lake Recreation Area and ponds that serve the Eagle Lake Ranger District in 2007, but the location where the bulk of the creosote laden barriers remained a mystery until April 13, 2009 when Jack Walton, long time LNF supervisor and engineer admitted in a meeting with Kathleen Morse LNF Head Supervisor in Susanville, Randy and myself that the creosote barriers had been taken out to Wendell CA in Honey Lake Valley. End of story. Surely those folks out there wanted them to contaminate their water and or air. Knowledge of what we speak came up several different occasions and this admission of knowledge and meeting will come up again during this series of reminders of why we HAVE to do what we do; alone or together with you. We can no longer trust the individuals within the agencies to do the right thing anymore, if we do, we won't have a pristine unpolluted place left in the state. Over the next several weeks you will see how your tax dollars have been spent in just this little area of what used to be Heaven, you will also see just what you got for your money. NOTE: the law is that not even the USFS is allowed to dump within the national forest boundaries.

Part II, among other things and contaminations, we will take you back to Merrill Campground and the "unimproved springs" at Merrill Creek and where they actually came from, why the ammonia and phosphate levels were spiked and why they are reduced to a "seasonal" dribble now to the point where the plank crossing the creek for the foot path is no longer needed to keep your feet dry in summer. The reason is very clear. The reason for denial is very clear too.

What do you think, Pollution or not pollution? Just wait until you see the next article and the condition of the sewage ponds that serve the Eagle Lake Recreation Area. Number one discharger of sewage is Lassen College Foundation only because Lassen National Forest has given them faulty sewage disposal service and site.

Part III will take you to the sewage ponds that LNF neglected for decades before we exposed their problems publicly...we did go straight to LNF first, but we found that going directly to the responsible party never got any action. Therefore, we finally went over their heads; then found that the state EPA appeared to be just as corrupt. Nevertheless, we continue our efforts to expose the pollution that has gone on for decades at Eagle Lake. We take a lot of heat for what we do, and understood that we would be excluded from some members of the "community whose very survival depends on the lake. Funny thing was just how many little people there are who think we should stop uncovering major pollution of such a wonderful place. We knew that would happen and we really didn't care because all we want to do is everything we can to save Eagle Lake from those who abuse her and take everything she gives with reckless abandon and never give one thing back. Proudly, we don't have that identity crises.

However, if we did absolutely nothing about these issues regarding the lake we would just as responsible for the serious problems as those who originally caused them. The problems we discover and investigate have incredible potential to destroy the lake in the future (and that we still have to look forward to the PCB's and other pollutants that exist in the

photos and in the ground to show up). We do our best and have learned that the only way to get the job done is to do it in an unconventional manor when being conventional doesn't get answers. We are not the most liked people in Lassen County, but we really don't care because in the end only Lassen County will benefit rather than just a handful of people and county supervisors who believe the land, lake and taxpayers owe them. As long as the bad guys (polluters) keep hating us it means we are doing a good job.

Just always keep in mind that generally those who "hate us" and tell their customers to hate us too are more than likely part of the problem and not part of the solution...generally these people have something to gain one way or another by allowing and supporting continued pollution. They may also benefit from LNF's resourceful neglect and misinformation. However, what we do benefits all, including the lake. If we don't have a lake for visitors to visit and we lose all the pristine views and what once was clean water there will be no income for those who depend on the lake for their very survival. Hate me if you like; I really don't care about anything other than Eagle Lake and her natural habitat.

Val