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The Sierra Wildlife Coalition:
Sand Painting Trees to Create a Cleaner Lake Tahoe

California, and specifically the Lake Tahoe basin, has seen multiple paradigm shifts in land usage and environmental conditions effecting wildlife and watersheds over the last 150-200 years. Throughout those years, wildlife has time and again been pushed out or eradicated from the natural environments they've inhabited for hundreds of thousands of years. As in many expanding communities that have urban/wildland interfaces with wildlife populations people are having to come to terms with the fact that living in coexistence with wildlife requires humans to take a more proactive approach to the issue. And it goes without saying that coexisting with wildlife will create a healthier ecosystem!

The Sierra Wildlife Coalition is a small but extremely effective group that finds ways to connect with homeowners, HOAs, and local/state/federal agencies and work with those groups on how to mitigate issues beavers, primarily but not exclusively, may cause. Not only do we educate them on low cost methods, we often pay for the materials and provide the labor for the projects. One of our most successful tools is sand painting trees, a simple but extremely effective deterrent to Aspen loving beavers.

It is our goal through this presentation to give an overview of the history and goals of the Sierra Wildlife Coalition, and describe the methods we use to solve some of the easily fixed challenges facing humans. We also hope to show how through our outreach efforts we're trying to create a community attitude of living in coexistence with beavers and other wildlife that will benefit the entire ecosystem.