

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS
BodieFoundation.org

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NUMBER 2

Executive Director's Report

Funds Needed To Save Bodie Church

By Jessica Schneider
Executive Director
Bodie Foundation

Structures need your help!

As the busy season in Bodie comes to a close, we are happy to announce that we will be moving forward on fully supporting two very necessary building stabilization projects in the town of Bodie. You'll be able to see exactly what we are doing as you walk down Green Street from the parking lot.

The Methodist Church has started to lean significantly to the right, and backward as well. Perhaps one of the most prominent buildings in Bodie, the church needs to be righted.

The next emergency stabilization project remains the Fouke Residence. If you walk down Green Street and take a right on Wood Street, two houses down is the Fouke. It has a great front porch (what's left of it) and the wall facing the rest of town has begun to bulge. HistoriCorps attempted emergency stabilization on this building last year. However, due to the original construction of this building and its subsequent additions, and the fact that it's missing a roof, it needs substantial work, and quickly, before we lose the entire building.

You can see more photos on our website, bodiefoundation.org/current-projects.

State Parks staff has asked that we fund both projects in their entirety, as they have very few dollars to spend from the "Cultural Resources" pot.

The first step is contracting an architect to come to Bodie, inspect and give us measured drawings for



Photo by Alexandra Neeb, State Parks

Bodie's church is a priority for future stabilization.

necessary work on both buildings. The architect would likely come out in early spring 2023. We are asking you to help us raise \$50,000 for this initial planning work.

The next step is to put the project out to bid. Assuming we find a contractor for each project, and we raise the necessary funds needed in time, work can begin as soon as weather allows in 2024.

Please help us save these two structures by donating at bodiefoundation.org/current-projects.

NHL application

Bodie has been a National Historic Landmark since 1961, known as "Bodie Historic District" by the National Park Service, which is in charge of Landmark designations. A lot has changed since 1961, including how we look at Bodie as

a historical resource to the nation. In the original designation, only the townsite was documented, which leaves out all of the mining activity, as well as the Bodie Railway, and other cultural influences on the area. A new application was started in the 1980s to update the NHL, but it was never completed.

This September, Christopher Johnson, Historian for the National Park Service Preservation Partnerships Program, visited Bodie for a week to gather information to complete the resource inventory and physical description section of the National Historic Landmark nomination. It was a welcomed visit, as it gave State Parks staff, Bodie Foundation staff and board members a designated time to walk through town and the outlying bluff together

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Winter In August!

See Pages 8-10



Photo by Pat Patterson

Debbie Cheatwood's Love Of Bodie

By Shari Stump
Bodie Foundation Member

Editor's Note: Debbie Cheatwood, a Lifetime Member of the Bodie Foundation, passed away in July 2022. Her sister, Shari Stump, has written about Debbie's love for Bodie.

My sister's love affair with Bodie began when she was 13 years old. While attending YMCA Base Camp near Mammoth Lakes, a field trip brought her to Bodie, and she never forgot that first experience.

She continued to come up from Los Angeles with the Y as a camper, then counselor, then finally as camp director, and she never failed to introduce the campers to her beloved Bodie.

Hearing how much fun her sister and brother-in-law, Shari and Norm Stump, were having at the annual Friends of Bodie Day, she asked if she and her husband, Tim, could tag along; well, of course they could. They roamed the town all day long, Debbie introducing Tim to every nook and cranny of Bodie. For Christmas that year, Tim bought Debbie a Lifetime Membership in the Friends of Bodie non-profit organization, now known as the Bodie Foundation.

From then on, it was an annual trip for them to Friends of Bodie Day where Debbie volunteered at the registration table with her sister Shari and friend Mary Jane James.



Debbie Cheatwood

In 2021, Debbie wasn't feeling well enough to come up for the FOB festivities but enjoyed looking at the Facebook page and Shari's pictures.

Unfortunately, Debbie passed away on July 2, 2022, at the age of 68. She leaves behind husband Tim, three daughters, a son, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and seven energetic grandsons, in addition to her sisters, Shari and Pam, and brothers-in-law Norm and Bob. Friends and Family are encouraged to contribute to the Bodie Foundation in Debbie's memory.

Donations in honor of Debbie Cheatwood:

Pam Hodges
Dave and Mary Jane James
Frank and Patricia Reyes
Adeline Bergeron
Lundy and Jessica Schneider
Margaret Sheeran
Norm and Shari Stump
John and Claudia Schauerman

Busy Summer At Mono Lake

By Catherine Jones
State Park Interpreter I
Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve

Fee increase at Old Marina

Day use fees increased from \$3 per car to \$5 per car. State Parks vehicle day use passes are accepted. If you visit Bodie first, you can visit the Old Marina for free in the same day with your receipt.

BioBlitz

Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve celebrated the 4th Annual California Biodiversity Day, and did a Mono Lake Regional BioBlitz. We had 510 observations of 217 species and came in third for the State Parks BioBlitzes. You can check out the project site, inaturalist.org/projects/ca to see the results.

Bird Chautauqua

Despite high winds that cancelled some events, birders and field trip leaders still counted 149 bird species in three days during the June event, and a few groups got to see Bighorn Sheep, Kangaroo Rats, and other mammals. California State Parks and the Bodie

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— ED Report


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and really assess the overwhelming amount of stabilization that we need to tackle. We were able to brainstorm ideas for large-scale stabilization efforts because we can't keep up with the degradation doing what we are currently doing. It's great to have board members on the ground as much as possible to see the status of buildings and discuss with State Parks staff priorities for the coming years.

Thank you especially to Paul Friesen, Bodie Foundation board treasurer, for volunteering four full days of structure photography and drone work to assist Chris in the nomination process. Dydia DeLyser, Bodie Foundation board secretary, also spent four days in Bodie with Chris, answering questions about structure stabilization techniques, timelines, and historical context. Paul and Dydia's presence in Bodie further enriched Chris's NHL application for Bodie.




Bodie fuels reduction a success

Bodie Foundation and State Parks staff hosted a Berkeley Fire crew this June for an extremely successful partnership that combined the fuels reduction needs of Bodie State Historic Park with the wildland fire training needs of Berkeley Fire. The members of Berkeley Fire participating in this training cleared five feet of brush around every structure in town and the Stamp Mill area in two days. In the past, State Parks funds have been used to pay California Conservation Corps crews to do the same work, so it was a cost savings to the state, and provided a needed certification to the firefighters at the same time. We love seeing and supporting positive win-win solutions like this in our parks. A huge thank-you to Berkeley Fire



Calling all photographers!

See your photo of Bodie State Historic Park in the 2024 edition of the Bodie Foundation calendar.
Entry deadline: February 19, 2023

The Bodie Foundation sponsors this competition and invites photographers to submit their favorite photos of Bodie State Historic Park. Complete information and requirements are available at bodiecaldendarcontest.com.

All images must be submitted in JPG format. As in prior years, each photographer is limited to one winning entry, and entries must be photographs of, and pertain to Bodie State Historic Park. All photos must be horizontal. There is a limit of five entries per photographer. Winners will receive \$100 and five calendars. The entrant whose photo is chosen for the calendar cover receives \$300 and five calendars.

The Bodie Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and public enjoyment of Bodie State Historic Park, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve, and Grover Hot Springs State Park. Learn more about us at bodiefoundation.org.

Interested in photo workshops at Bodie? Check our website for information: bodiefoundation.org/photo-workshops.

firefighters, Danny Green, chief of Berkeley's Wildland Urban Interface Division, and Dydia DeLyser, Bodie Foundation board secretary, for the great idea and collaboration that went into making this pilot program a success. We look forward to working with everyone again in the future!

"A Winter in August"

Friends of Bodie Day, the Bodie Foundation's annual in-park event to thank all of our members, was a huge success! It felt good to see the return of vendors, a parade on Main Street, folks in costume, and our members dinner and evening tour through town. Check out pages 8-10 in this newsletter for pictures from

this year's event. See you next year on Saturday, August 12 for our next FOB Day!

Staff changes in Bodie

We bid farewell to Josh Heitzmann, Supervising State Parks Peace Officer for the Alpine-Mono Sector of the Sierra District. Beginning in 2013, Josh was the supervisor of the park staff, and the liaison between the Foundation and State Parks. The Foundation staff and board were ever grateful for his ability to balance the needs of Bodie, Mono, and Grover resources. He and his family have moved to Mount Tamalpais State Park.

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Phalarope Research Continues At Mono

Ryan Carle
Science Director
Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
Santa Cruz, California

Perhaps you've stood on the shores of Mono Lake as thousands of the tiny swimming shorebirds known as phalaropes takes to the air, swirling and making lightning quick hairpin turns in unison. Maybe you've heard the "whoosh" of their wings as hundreds fly low over your kayak. If so, you'll know these diminutive charmers can capture your heart, and that they embody the unique spirit of Mono Lake.

If you have not yet met these little shorebirds, I suggest getting to know them, either in person or virtually, they are fragile and strong, elegant, and silly, ocean-going and desert-going, and altogether inspiring.

Here's one phalarope factoid: at Mono Lake, Wilson's Phalaropes gorge on brine flies and double their body weight, from the mass of one AA battery, to the mass of two AA batteries! Then they take off on a non-stop, over 5,000 mile trip to South America. When they arrive in Ecuador, they will have burned up all that fat they put on at Mono Lake.

Phalaropes have won many hearts but have received little conservation attention. Shorebirds are severely declining worldwide, and other species with urgent conservation needs have understandably been prioritized. However, we have scant data on phalaropes, and what we do have suggests they too are declining. Data from saline lakes such as Mono Lake can help us better understand the status of phalaropes, because much of their population concentrates at these sites during migration. From 2019-2022 Oikonos and California State Parks have surveyed



Photo by David Carle

Phalaropes take flight over Mono. Collecting data this past summer on the status of these tiny birds are Ryan Carle, Marcela Castellino, and Kiki Tarr.

phalaropes throughout the summer at Mono Lake, the first effort of this thoroughness in decades.

There is reason to be concerned for the future of phalaropes. Their fate is entwined with saline lakes, which worldwide are existentially threatened by water diversion and climate change. Phalaropes breed in northern latitudes, stop at saline lakes in the western U.S. to eat brine flies to fuel for their migration, and ultimately continue onto saline lakes in the Andes (Wilson's Phalarope), and the Pacific Ocean off South America (Red-necked Phalarope). The stories of water diversions threatening Owens and Mono lakes are being repeated globally, from Great Salt Lake to saline lagoons in the Andes.

This year marks our fourth year of phalarope research at Mono Lake, during which we survey bi-weekly from June through September, counting at a series of boat and shore stations. The surveys have provided valuable information on phalarope use of Mono Lake, such as annual populations, responses to fluctuating lake levels, and timing.



Peak numbers vary greatly year by year. Our peak Wilson's Phalarope numbers were around 11,000 birds in 2019, 3,000 in 2020, 45,000 in 2021, and 12,000 in 2022. Note, our survey is a sample of points counts that can be compared to itself year to year and is not a comprehensive count of every bird on the lake.

Phalaropes are mobile and can choose where they go – they might choose to visit Great Salt Lake, or Lake Abert, Oregon, the other two most important staging sites in western U.S. Accordingly, we coordinate our surveys with five other major phalarope stop-over sites in order to better see the big picture. At this scale, we can see that the 35,000 bird increase in Wilson's

See Phalaropes, Page 7

Campers Return To Grover Hot Springs

By Jennifer McCallan
State Parks Ranger

Thanks to the hard work of State Park employees and cooperating agencies, Grover Hot Springs State Park reopened for day use hiking in May and for camping in June. It was certainly a thrill to welcome those first park visitors and to say "Yes, you can come in!" after many months of turning around cars and pedestrians at the entrance.

Although the hot spring pools are still closed while repairs and upgrades continue, many folks were happy to return to the park for the first time since the Tamarack Fire last July. Visitation was lower than in previous years, but those who did visit commented on how interesting it was to see first-hand the natural areas recovering from fire and marveled at how close the fire burned all around the public areas of the park.

One major success this summer was repairing and replacing equipment in the water treatment plant which had been damaged by debris flows last October. Our partially occupied campground was a good test of the water system, and then the big test was the sold-out campground for a special event July 14-17. Grover Hot Springs had issued a special event permit to the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce months earlier for all 76 campsites for the chamber's biggest event of the year, "Death Ride" Tour of California Alps" cycling race. At the time we issued the permit we weren't certain if the park would be open to the public yet or whether the restrooms would be fully operational. This was a poignant moment because it marked the one-year anniversary of the Tamarack Fire, which caused the evacuation of the park and all of Markleeville



Photo by Jennifer McCallan

This photo shows the construction zone on the site of the former maintenance shop and housing area.

the night before the Death Ride last year. Fortunately, everything went according to plan, and Grover had a full, yet orderly campground with functional restrooms, and Alpine County had a successful Death Ride!

Unfortunately, a couple of weeks later Markleeville experienced another round of bad luck: torrential rainstorms August 3 washed out a culvert on Highway 89 just north of town, fully closing the highway for over two weeks. Visitation again slowed to a mere trickle while the highway was closed. Now that summer is over, the campground has shifted to the winter area, which is the picnic area, a lovely spot along the

creek. This campground is scheduled to be open through the winter, except in cases of deep snowfall.

Much of the activity in the park these days is at the site of the former shop and housing area. Work is underway to prepare the site for the future maintenance shop and housing for seasonal and permanent employees to replace those buildings that burned down. Plenty of heavy equipment is buzzing around the area plucking up stumps, filling in soil, surveying, and repairing and installing utilities. Having housing available for staff is key to having a fully open and functional park.

As a final note, I want to say thank you to the Bodie Foundation for purchasing three shiny, bear-proof recycling centers (at left) to replace a motley assortment of recycling bins for the campground and day use area. I have wished for these for a long time, and the Bodie Foundation came through.

In addition, I would like to say goodbye, and best wishes, as I am retiring from my Ranger career at the end of October. I look forward to returning to State Parks as a visitor!



Workshops And Tours Wrap Up For 2022

Bodie's 2022 photo workshop program finished up another successful season in mid-October. Twenty-five workshop leaders gave over 170 participants the opportunity to photograph Bodie either before or after park hours. If you are interested in leading or participating in a Bodie photo workshop in 2023, please visit our website:

bodiefoundation.org/photo-workshops or email us at photoworkshop@bodiefoundation.org for more information.

Bodie Foundation's Private Tours had 115 people attending 18 tours. Those tours included our two-hour town/stamp mill tours and our four-hour 4WD driving tour, Mines, Mills, Rails and Ruins, which explores the Bodie Mining District.

We welcomed two groups this summer brought to Bodie by the Globus Family of Brands bus company. We hope to see Globus return in 2023.

Season totals also include one



Photo by Betty McCunniff
Mike Mee, a morning workshop participant, photographs the sunrise reflected in the front windows of the J.S. Cain House.

group that explored Mono Lake in our "Living At The Lake" tour.

For information about our private tours for 2023, please see our web page for tour descriptions: bodiefoundation.org/bodie-tours.

We book private tours from May 15 to October 15 and ask tour reservations be made at least two weeks in advance. For more information, please contact chris@bodiefoundation.org.

Ranger Bids Farewell After A Summer In Bodie

By Carina Hammang
State Parks Supervising Ranger

"Welcome to Bodie!" And what a warm welcome it was! Pulling into Bodie State Historic Park for the first time I was greeted at the kiosk by the friendly smile of a Park Aide and handed a park brochure describing one of the most lawless and toughest mining towns in the West. Staring out at an array of old, weathered, monochromatic historical buildings, I began picturing men, women, and children in 1880s attire walking the streets of a bustling town amidst mule and horse-drawn wagons, gun-slinging badmen, and crowds gathered at rowdy saloons. I was embarking on a new adventure as an acting interim Supervisor in Bodie, and boy was I excited!

I started off my summer at Bodie meeting and getting to know the incredible seasonal and permanent staff that bring life to the mysterious town and who work relentlessly all year round to stabilize the buildings and maintain the "arrested decay" state that Bodie is so well known for.

Immediately, I began learning about the fascinating history of this gold and silver mining town. Not only did I get to work in this marvelous place, but I also got the unique opportunity to live here! For those inquiring ghost hunters out there, I am rather sad to report that I have yet to experience any supernatural phenomenon whilst living here at Bodie.

Shortly after my arrival, I had the great pleasure of being introduced to

most of the amazing staff and board members of the Bodie Foundation, an exemplary group of kind and generous people whose love and passion for preserving Bodie is as admirable as it is contagious. Working with this dedicated non-profit organization has truly been a highlight of my short yet rewarding Bodie chapter. I firmly believe that if it weren't for their tireless efforts in protecting this magical piece of California history, Bodie State Historic Park wouldn't be as well visited and structurally intact as it stands today.

During the past few months managing Bodie, I have experienced unpredictable weather, continuously high visitation, unusual law

—Phalaropes

Continued from Page 4

Phalaropes at Mono Lake in 2021 was not replicated at other sites. Indeed, Lake Abert went dry in 2021, and had fewer phalaropes present, which might have been why we saw more birds at Mono that year.

Adding up peak annual totals from all six sites, trends are less variable: numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes ranged from 200,000-300,000 birds total in 2020-2022. This compares with around 500,000 birds recorded in a similar effort in 1986 at the same sites. Does that mean there's been a decline of 200,000-300,000 birds since 1986? Maybe, but methods differ between the new and old surveys, and lake levels have changed greatly; more years of data will help with interpretation.

As we try to understand these trends, it is important to remember the big pictures: saline lake habitat is endangered, therefore, phalaropes probably are too. Water diversions and climate change are taking their toll on the most important saline lakes for phalaropes. Mono Lake is in a precarious situation as the climate dries but has legal protections and guaranteed water rights. Other lakes are not so lucky, as water diversions and droughts shrink Great Salt Lake, it is on the verge of becoming saltier than its invertebrates can handle. 95% of Wilson's Phalaropes we count are at Great Salt Lake – the fate of that lake and the Wilson's Phalarope are one in the same.

People are working hard to secure water for Lake Abert and Great Salt Lake (see Audubon's Saline Lakes program), but it is a complicated, political process involving a tangle of water rights. We are working to tell the story of phalaropes as a symbol for everything we would lose if we lost saline lakes. A hopeful piece of



Photo by Samuel Rapp

Phalaropes take to the air, swirling and making lightning quick hairpin turns in unison over Mono Lake.

this story is that the largest phalarope site in South America, Laguna Mar Chiquita, Argentina, has just been protected as an Argentinian National Park. Half the world population of Wilson's Phalaropes can be present there at one time. The journeys of the phalaropes have led us to develop a network of people working on phalaropes throughout the western hemisphere, and we have formed wonderful connections across saline lake communities.

We plan to continue our surveys at Mono and elsewhere and to begin tracking the movements of birds next summer. If you are interested in supporting this project financially or as a volunteer at Mono Lake, please contact me at ryan@oikonos.org or donate at [Oikonos.org/donate](https://www.oikonos.org/donate). And please spend a quiet moment cherishing a saline lake. They are still very much with us, and with effort, will continue to be.

— Mono

Continued from Page 2

Foundation are among the many sponsors of this popular event. Please check birdchautauqua.org for 2023 dates.

National Public Lands Day

The Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center was the site for many activities for National Public Lands Day in September. Those attending enjoyed "tufa experiments," talks about bears, and the history of the Visitor Center. Also offered were Ethnobotany walks with a local Kutzadika Paiute.

Birding With Kids

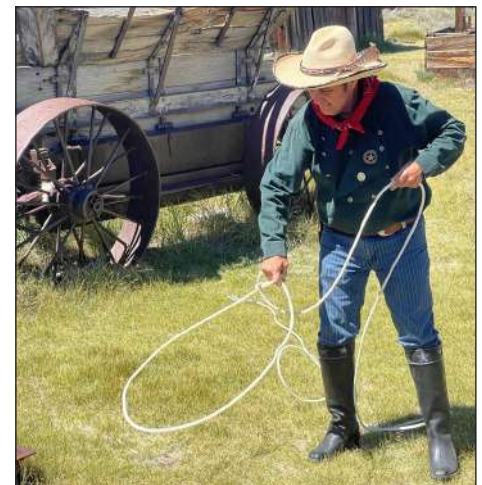
As part of a larger collaboration with the State Library and the Parks Pass Program, Beth Long of the Lee Vining Library and State Parks Interpreter Catherine Jones worked together on a birding event for kids and families.

Finally, thank you to Barbara Wanner, the seasonal Park Aide at Mono Lake this year. She has lived in the Mono Basin for 15 years. Barbara enjoyed talking to visitors from all over the world, becoming a better birder, leading South Tufa tours, picking up litter, and doing maintenance projects such as replacing regulatory signs to protect nesting Osprey, and raking off-road tracks and putting in barricades when people disregard the signs.

A Friends Of Bodie Day With Holiday Flair



Photos courtesy of Kurt Dotson, Maria Garcia, Betty McCuniff and Pat Patterson.



Bodie's "Winter In August" featured glimpses of holiday decorations in the Main Street parade as well as Santa Claus riding in style. A big thank you to all our friends who brought their animals, buggies and wagons for the day. Special thanks to the color guard from Pickel Meadows Marine Mountain Training Center, which led off the parade. Children enjoyed holiday crafts and games as well as geology and archeology tables. Vendors offered a variety of wares and visitors enjoyed dressing up for the day and listening to music by the Idle Hands String Band and Wild Mountain Tyme. One interesting event was a temporary Special Events Amateur Radio station, set up by Bodie Foundation member John Pinckney to commemorate ham radio operators who kept Bodie connected with the outside world in the 1920s and 1930s.



Members Enjoy Winter Tales During FOB

The evening walk for members featured a look at ladies preparing for a Christmas Ball, a saloon keeper telling members about special holiday libations and food specials of the past, men decrying the thieves at work in Bodie

stealing firewood during the winter, two ladies discussing life in Bodie, an unexpected family reunion on Christmas Day, and Santa Claus reassuring children that Santa always comes to Bodie, not just the big cities.



Photos courtesy of Betty McCunniff and Hillary Colyer.



— Executive Director's Report *Continued from Page 3*

Meanwhile, Carina Hammang took over as temporary Alpine-Mono Sector Supervising Ranger and quickly took on the challenges of the job. It was a particularly difficult year for the entire Bodie staff, as both of Bodie's peace officers, Stephen Holle and Dustin LeBrun, also moved to different posts.

Stabilization

HistoriCorps installed many of the Railroad Office windows in 2021, but the upstairs windows, and several first-floor windows still needed to be completed and installed. Tim White, Restoration Specialist for California State Parks, worked to restore as many of the windows as he could using existing window materials from the Railroad Office, and did an exceptional job restoring the rest with like materials. The restored windows will be installed in Spring 2023.

The maintenance staff in Bodie had a really productive year, so if you see someone walking on a roof or emptying trashcans while you're there, give them a "thank-you!" because that small staff is doing as much as humanly possible to keep Bodie's arrested decay... arrested. This year they did internal stabilization on the Murphy House, the Dr. Street house, and the outhouse behind the IOOF. They completed one pitch on the D.V. Cain barn (which, you'll remember, was stabilized by HistoriCorps last year, but still needs a new roof, to be installed by State Parks staff). The Brown and Burkham houses, as well as the Sawmill, got new roofs. Pretty solid work, considering the season for roofing and stabilization is quite short in Bodie. The Bodie Foundation bought \$4,700 worth of lumber at the end of the season to keep their work moving along. Glad we could help in a small way with all of the big work they are doing.



Photo by Paul Friesen

Berkeley Firefighters spent two days clearing brush away from Bodie buildings.

— Summer In Bodie

Continued from Page 6

enforcement contacts, exciting and entertaining park special events and film shoots, and the great privilege of speaking with and taking photographs with people from all over the world. With incredibly educational Standard Mill Tours, short, but highly informative history talks, and a memorable museum with unique artifacts and Bodie merchandise, I believe Bodie has something for everyone to enjoy. The smiles, positive attitudes, compliments, and stellar feedback from most park patrons I have interacted with this summer is what makes my job so rewarding.

So as my time at Bodie comes to an end, I fondly reflect on the events of the last few months and can't help but feel great love and respect for the town of Bodie, its history, and its past and present inhabitants. From the picture-perfect sunsets to the peaceful calm that floods the town when the last visitor's vehicle exits the park, to the wild cries of the coyotes at night and to the great fortune of catching a glimpse of the slow yet elegant waddle of the elusive Sage Grouse, Bodie's beauty



Carina Hammang

and intrigue knows no bounds.

I take comfort in knowing that Bodie State Historic Park is in the good hands of passionate and caring volunteers, seasonal and permanent state park staff, and devoted Bodie Foundation board members, staff, and donors.

As I begin a new journey and chapter in life, I take with me the utmost pride and honor of knowing that I have now walked the same dirt streets as the teamsters, miners, businesspeople and gun-slinging badmen of Bodie's distant past.



Bodie Foundation

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Photo by Scott Morgan