



Watersheds and You

Ridge top to Stream and all the land in between

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Western Shasta RCD Receives a Plaque Recognition for the Support of the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Pedestrian Footbridge Project

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District's Clear Creek Watershed Coordinator Brenda Blinn received a plaque on April 21, 2007 on behalf of WSRCD. The plaque was given to WSRCD at the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Footbridge Dedication for its support during the planning and construction of the bridge. The bridge is handicap accessible and located 7.4 mi. west of Highway 273 on Clear Creek Road in Redding.



To learn more about this interesting project, please contact Brenda Blinn, Western Shasta RCD at 530.365.7332 x-209 or email Brenda@westernshastarc.org

From L to R: Pamela Mills (J & B Programs, Inc), Anastasia Lytle (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), Brenda Blinn (WSRCD), Don Neptune (Architect)

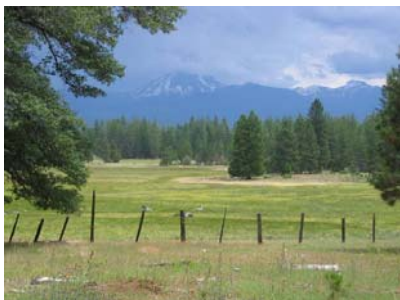
Bear Creek Watershed Informative Presentation on Groundwater Supply

Cooperative agreement between Department of Conservation and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. (WSRCD 33-12)

One of the DOC Watershed Coordinator's many duties is to provide educational information to landowners within the Cow/Bear Creek Watersheds. Locals near Shingletown are now more knowledgeable about their groundwater supply, thanks to the Bear Creek Watershed Group and a wonderful line-up of guest speakers at the Groundwater presentation held on June 7, 2007 at Van Stellman Training Center in Shingletown. The speakers for the event were: Stephen Baker-Founder of Ground

Water Watch, Glen Pearson-District Chief for Department of Water Resources Northern District and Dan McManus-Senior Engineering Geologist for Department of Water Resources Northern District. Topics discussed at the meeting included: how groundwater is stored in these watersheds; what a fractured rock groundwater system is; how to ensure a sustainable supply of groundwater; and a brief overview of the eastern Shasta County Groundwater study of 1984. If you would like to get involved and learn more about the Bear Creek Watershed you can visit the Informational Dis-

See ***Groundwater Supply*** , page 7



Bear Creek Watershed

Stillwater-Churn-Clover Creek Watershed

Grant funded by the Regional Water Quality Board to the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD 34-02). Stillwater Arundo Control Project funded by the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (WSRCD 34-03)

Development of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is in full swing. The Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan is completed and the scoping meetings for the TAC and the public were held May 3 and May 21, 2007 respectfully. The depth and completeness of the Watershed Assessment was verified as no new major issues were identified for inclusion in the WMP. A draft outline and objectives for the WMP are being developed for

consideration at the next TAC meeting.

The Stillwater-Churn-Clover Creek Watershed Alliance (SCCWA) met in May and June 2007 and had presentations on the local Planning Commissions and from the Sierra Access Coalition. Both presentations were very informative. The SCCWA also sponsored another Churn Creek Road clean up on June 23, 2007. 140 pounds of garbage was collected.

The WSRCD is lead for the Shasta County Weed Management Area on another grant and has been busy preparing the CEQA documents for the Stillwater Arundo Control Project. The documents have been sent to the

California State Clearing house for a 30 day review period by agencies. The WSRCD sponsored a public meeting June 5, 2007 to discuss the project. The review and comment period for the project will end in late July 2007. Plans are to begin spraying the Arundo along Stillwater Creek in mid-late August 2007.

For more information, contact Lee Delaney, Watershed Coordinator, Western Shasta RCD 530-365-7332 x-203 or email Lee@westernshastarc.org



Churn Creek

Bassett Fish Screen- Cow Creek Watershed

Grant funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, a multiproject grant from CALFED (WSRCD 35-23C)

The Integrated Ecosystem Improvements grant included fish screens to be constructed in the Cow Creek Watershed on existing irrigation diversion locations. A fish screen is a barrier designed to prevent fish from swimming or being drawn into an aqueduct, dam, or other diversion on a river, lake, or other waterway where water is taken for human use. Fish screens are typically installed to protect endangered species of fish that would otherwise be harmed when passing through hydroelectric generators, entering water municipal water supplies or irrigation diversions. Fish screens are necessary to prevent the loss of fishery resources at water diversion sites. Several once-abundant fish populations are Watersheds and You July 2007

now listed as either threatened or endangered under either the Federal Endangered Species Act, or the California Endangered Species Act.

There are two basic types of fish screens. The first is the "positive barrier" fish screen, which physically prevents fish from passing through the barrier. The second group of screens is the "behavioral barrier" fish screens. These attempt to keep fish out of the water diversion by causing the fish to swim away from the site. The Bassett Fish screen is a "positive barrier" type fish screen. Key to the success of these screens is a mesh size that can physically exclude the fish, and an approach velocity that is low enough to allow the fish to avoid being stuck to the screen.

The first fish screen called the Woodman Fish Screen was started

August of 2005 and completed August of 2006. The second fish screen called the Bassett Fish Screen was started November 2006 and completed March of 2007. It is exciting to note that the fish screens will protect the fry from being carried off to irrigation ditches and will increase their chances for viability.

To learn more , please contact Kelly Miller Western Shasta RCD at 530.365.7332 x-205 or email Kelly@westernshastarc.org



Bassett Fish screen before and after construction



Anderson, CA.- Happy Valley, Defensible Space Created by Hiring RCD Work Crew

Three neighbors living on China Gulch Road near Happy Valley have taken decisive steps toward reducing the threat of wildfire around their homes this spring. The explosive fuels in their backyards, which include a steep canyon, have been reduced to low lying on-the-ground branches, twigs, and leaves.

These forward thinking homeowners used their own funds and hired an RCD crew to come into their backyards and create their defensible space. State law says defensible space should be at least

100 feet from buildings, or the property line. Because of the steep terrain, the cleared area is closer to 200 feet. And by combining their projects, they all have larger defensible space.

Grant funding for fuel reduction is getting harder and harder to get each year. If residents are going to reduce the threat of wildfire, and create their defensible space, they are going to have to budget for it. After the fuel has been reduced initially, it is going to be even more important for homeowners to perform the mainte-

nance to prevent the brush from re-occupying the site.

If you are in need of getting the area around your home into compliance, and haven't the means to create your own defensible space, call the Shasta Conservation Fund at 365-7332 to learn the crew rates and schedule an RCD crew to help you get into compliance.

To learn more about this wonderful project, please contact Jack Bramhall, Western Shasta RCD at 530.365.7332 x-213 or email Jack@westernshastarc.org



Anderson, CA, Happy Valley- China Gulch (Before)



Anderson, CA, Happy Valley- China Gulch (After)

WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible Space is that area within 100 feet of your home where vegetation is reduced to help your home survive if a wildfire occurs.

Defensible Space includes your driveway to make it safe for firefighters to get through in an emergency to protect your home.

The three "R's" of **Defensible Space** are: **Remove** dead and dying grass, shrubs, and trees; **Reduce** the density of vegetation that acts as fuel for a wildfire; **Replace** hazardous vegetation with less flammable plants.

Minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire on your property!

Shasta Conservation Fund's Watershed Education Lending Library

What is the WELL?

The Watershed Education Lending Library (WELL) is a resource for schools and not-for-profit organizations involved in watershed research and education. The WELL acts as a lending library for watershed education equipment and curriculum. Agencies, organizations and groups use the WELL as a virtual library database to identify what materials are available to share. See what the WELL has to offer at: www.shastaconservationfund.org.

Library Policies

Checking Materials Out

Borrowers can sign out materials for no charge and utilize these items for research, service learning projects and field trips. Borrowers must contact the identified lender to inquire of availability of material(s) and to arrange for pick up. Typically, the material(s), if available, can be picked up at the lender's location.

Loan Period

Borrowers contact the lender for information regarding how long material(s) can be checked out. Some items are made available for a day or two while others may be available for the length of a school year.

Returning Materials to the Lender

Borrowers need to contact individual lenders for specific requirements, but please keep in mind the WELL's basic return policy.

- ◆ It is the borrower's responsibility to return the loaned material(s) to the lender. Borrowers may mail them back, at their expense, or return them directly to the lender.
- ◆ Borrowers are personally responsible for borrowed items until they are returned to the lender. Therefore, we suggest borrowers obtain a mailing receipt to verify mailing date and method in case articles are lost in transit. If loss or damage of loaned material(s) occurs, borrowers must replace them or reimburse the lender for the replacement costs.

If you have an item to donate to the library, or would like to add your item to the list of materials available to groups, but wish to keep the item in-house please contact the Shasta Conservation Fund's WELL Coordinator at 365-7332 or scf@westernshastarc.org.



Invasive Weed Puller



Kick Net



Visual Field Tools



Books & Videos



Sweep Nets



Watershed Model

The Shasta Conservation Fund

A Non-Profit 501(c)3 Corporation

WSRCD TEAM

Mary Mitchell – District Manager

Shiloe Braxton – Projects Manager

Jack Bramhall -Assistant Projects Manager

John Ribinsky – Project Implementation Manager

Grace Seibert – Assistant Projects Coordinator

Leslie Bryan -Carbon Sequestration Project Coordinator

Dave DeMar – Assistant Project Coordinator

Candy Jefferies – Fiscal Officer

Jessica Durand – Accounting Assistant

Susan Weaver – Administrative Assistant

Priscilla Benson – Administrative Assistant

Mike O’Leary – GIS Analyst

Lee Delaney– Watershed Coordinator for Stillwater, Churn, and Clover Creek Watersheds

Brenda Blinn - Watershed Coordinator for Clear Creek Watershed

Kelly Miller – Watershed Coordinator for Cow and Bear Creek Watersheds

Mike Grifantini- Mitigation Project Manager

James Moller- Mitigation Project Coordinator

Gretchen Garwood – Field Supervisor

Jim Chichester – Lead Conservation Tech I

Joe Andrus – Conservation Tech II

Randy Hodson – Conservation Tech

Please welcome our newest additions

Jim Chichester

It has been an interesting journey in and out of California. I first arrived in Sacramento, California in 1989 where I spent my time working mostly in landscaping and attempting to go to junior college part time. After four years, I decided to move to Redding to attend Simpson University where I spent the next four years and graduated. The years at Simpson University greatly shaped who I am today. I had the opportunity to travel to South America and Europe working with orphans and the very poor. After finishing the University, I had the opportunity to learn the “farming” trade and also a chance to go back to Europe, specifically the Ukraine to work with orphans. The experience with the orphans gave me the courage and heart to work for the following four years with troubled teens. My first three years working with the teens were spent on a working ranch in the south eastern corner of the state of Washington. The ranch hosted an average of 40-50 boys from all over the nation. The kids not only received an educa-



tion, but they learned the privilege of hard work through assigned tasks such as fencing, landscaping, wood-working, steel work and feeding the great variety of farm animals. In 2001, I moved to Sterling Colorado located in the north east side of the state. I was involved in a program geared to help teens in their recovery from different addictions. A year later a move back to Sacramento where for the next four years, I poured concrete, installed drainage systems, irrigation systems and for the most part climbed trees (as an arborist/logger). Finally a year ago I moved back to Redding and became a part of WSRCD on April 19, 2007. I’ve enjoyed getting to know the WSRCD family so far and hope to get to know many more on this part of my journey.

Field Trips to Lower Clear Creek

Phase 3B

Construction work for Phase 3B of the Lower Clear Creek Floodway Rehabilitation Project (LCCFRP) has officially started! Members of the Lower Clear Creek Restoration Team, including the WSRCD, as well as area stakeholders recently visited the site of the newest phase of the LCCFRP. The contract for construction work, which will occur until October of this year, was awarded to Meyers Construction, a locally-based company. Prior phases (1, 2A, 2B and 3A) were completed between 1998 and 2002. Phase 3B will restore 342 acres of a portion of the watershed that was severely degraded by gold and aggregate mining, and blockage of bedload as a result of Whiskeytown Dam. This \$3.4 million project is a cooperative effort by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Western Shasta Re-

source Conservation District, Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Water Resources, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and PRBO Conservation Science. The objectives of Phase 3B include restoring 2300 ft of natural instream channel and floodplain processes, re-establish bar morphology, including riffles, exposed gravel bars and deep pools, design the channel to allow transport of coarse sediments at 3,000 cfs, and revegetate channels with native riparian species. The project will also include geomorphic, avian and vegetation monitoring for a period of three years. Funding is provided by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program in a contract managed by CA. Department of Fish and Game.

Redding Rancheria

The WSRCD in collaboration with the Redding Rancheria recently organized a field trip to the Lower Clear Creek watershed to discuss potential restoration projects on sections of Clear Creek behind the Rancheria. Chinook salmon have always played an importance role in the culture, identity and historical subsistence of the Wintu, Pit River and Yana Tribes that make up the Redding Rancheria. Those who attended the field trip included representatives of the Lower Clear Creek Restoration Team made up of multiple federal, state and local agencies, and including the RCD

and area stakeholders, James Hayward and Tori Maxwell from the Redding Rancheria Clear Creek Restoration Committee, California Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Richard Harris from UC-Berkeley. During site visits to the Rancheria property and the A.C.I.D canal, it was discussed how future restoration projects could be a collaborative effort between the RCD, Rancheria, and LCC Restoration Team with the common goal of enhancing salmon populations in Lower Clear Creek.

For more information on past, current and potential projects in



Brenda Blinn (far R) with other field trip attendees

the Lower Clear Creek watershed, contact Brenda Blinn, Watershed Coordinator at the WSRCD at 530-365-7332 ext. 209 or Brenda@westernshastarc.org

Lower Clear Creek Parkway Contract Signed!

The RCD recently received and signed the contract for the Lower Clear Creek Parkway Project with the California Resources Agency, funded by California Parkways. The RCD is preparing a bid packet for project engineering and design. This \$1,114,000 project is part of a larger vision for a major regional trail system extending nearly 200 miles as part of the Shasta-Trinity Trail Plan (2000) which aims to connect the Sacramento River, Clear Creek, and Shasta, Trinity and Whiskeytown lakes. The RCD continues to work in close partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in providing recreational and educational opportunities as part of the BLM Greenway Project on Lower Clear Creek.

The Parkway Project will construct three trail segments (Honeybee Overlook, Saeltzer Gorge, and Cloverdale) along footworn paths along Lower Clear Creek on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, City of Redding, and Department of Fish & Game. The recreational opportunities of this project include 10.3 miles of compatible low impact recreation, hiking/

biking/horseback riding trails along Lower Clear Creek. This will expand use of the 27-acre Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve where two of the three trail segments connect, which offers hikes, explorations and interpretive walks and talks. These trails will eventually connect with the 70+ miles of trail created in the southeast corner of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

The recreation goals of the LCC Parkway are to accommodate low impact recreation users (equestrians, hikers, bicycling, bird watching, etc.) on a shared trail, provide picnic and rest areas, and creek access for kayaking and canoeing, and nature viewing. This project will also replace exotic and/or invasive plants with native plants, and construct interpretive overlooks into the most scenic canyons, and set up informational displays and signage educating users about the multi-million dollar Lower Clear Creek Floodway Restoration Project. Specific trails will be designated for education about local wildlife, neotropical migratory birds, threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead, mining his-



tory, the history of the Wintu Tribe (a landowner in the watershed). Included in this project will also be a fitness trail to promote daily exercise and good health, as well as a 20-station parcours fitness along one of the Cloverdale trails for family members of all ages. The trail is expected to have a very positive impact on the local community through increased tourism.

For more information on the Lower Clear Creek Parkway, feel free to contact Brenda Blinn, Clear Creek Watershed Coordinator at the WSRCD at 530-365-7332 ext. 209 or Brenda@westernshastarc.org

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play Box at the Shingletown Post Office for updates, meetings and upcoming events. The Bear Creek Watershed Assessment is now available at the Shingletown Library.

For more information, please contact Kelly Miller, Western Shasta RCD at 530.365.7332 x-205 or email Kelly@westernshastarc.org



WSRCD History

Since 1957 the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD) has worked to collaborate with willing landowners, government agencies, and other organizations to facilitate the conservation or restoration of Western Shasta County's natural resources.

WSRCD is a subdivision of the State of California, and is responsible for conservation throughout the 1,700,000 acre district. The primary goal is to protect soil and water throughout the district by implementing conservation projects such as, erosion control, fuel management, watershed restoration, watershed group formation, fisheries restoration, and natural resource education.

WSRCD contracts with other agencies, to carry out these projects. The District is funded entirely by grants, donations and contracts, and receives no general tax revenues. The District's Board of Directors are local landowners who volunteer their time to represent land users in the district and ensure a local voice in natural resource issues. The WSRCD board has 7 directors and 3 associates directors.

WSRCD supports Shasta Conservation Fund by providing accounting, contract management, project management, and implementation services. The WSRCD is a proven performer with a strong organization and highly trained in conservation work.



GIS Courses and GIS Certificate Requirements (13 units total)

Classes offered - Fall 2007

- GIS 1: Survey of Digital Mapping - 1 unit
- GIS 10: Introduction to GIS - 3 units
- GIS 20: Spatial Databases - 1 unit
- GIS 21: GIS-CAD Integration - 1 unit

Classes offered - Spring 2008

- GEOG 11: Map Principles - 1 unit
- GIS 22: Mobile GIS with GPS - 1 unit
- GIS 23: Raster GIS - 1 unit
- GIS 24: Customizing GIS - 1 unit
- GIS 25: GIS Projects - 1 unit

GIS 94: Worksite Learning - 2 units



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