

# BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S Environmental NEWS

Summer/Fall 2004

Volume 10 Number 1

## Burn Dump Heats Up

### Water Board Attempts to Skirt Environmental Laws

The Humboldt Road Burn Dump (HRBD) has toxic soil moving, Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) monitoring, and everyone holding their breath that dust and litigation don't fly. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) must be pleased that all their posturing and bellicose behavior made something finally happen at the HRBD.

Last year, with their competence in question and their authority challenged, the RWQCB issued a

Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) and threatened fines. This year, they rushed through environmental review and neglected to obtain federal permits just so they could attempt to reclaim their flagging reputation and one landowner could move contaminated soil this summer.

You would think that there must be a serious, imminent threat to human or environmental health for the RWQCB to act that way. We would expect so, yet this urgency, as written in their CAO, is caused by salts like calcium and sulfate, the only suggested impairment in the south fork of Dead Horse Slough, a seasonal stream. Contrary to the RWQCB's assertion, the salts in the slough do not impair beneficial uses since they are well below even the standards for drinking water and the slough is not a drinking water source (EPA). So what is the deal here? A well read local resident would suggest that they thought that lead was the problem at the HRBD. That is true. There are some very high readings of lead in the

No other jurisdiction that we have found has knowingly put housing on an old burn dump or even a "cleaned" burn dump.

soil, but heavy metals are fairly stable if left alone (see page four for agency concurrence). You might wonder next, what really is the motivation for the RWQCB to so aggressively issue orders and threaten fines? In addition to their agency's fear of failure on this high profile project, there was pressure from another source that is used to manipulate local policy: developers.

Two local developers, Tom Fogarty and Drake Homes, acquired the cheap burn dump and adjacent land years ago.

They have, in concert with the City of Chico, planned to put housing on it, and they are tired of waiting. What a thought! Can you imagine encouraging your friends or relatives to come to beautiful Chico and buy a house on the old burn dump site? No other jurisdiction that we have found has knowingly put housing on an old burn dump or even a "cleaned" burn dump! When the developers' distress at delayed profits was coupled with the RWQCB's weariness with the public's insistence for an improved cleanup plan (see positive results, page four), the RWQCB created a false sense of urgency with the CAO.

Why is it dangerous to move contaminated soil and build housing on land formerly contaminated when there is no hazard from the burn dump as it existed for more than 70 years? The history associated with the answer to this question is important. There was great community concern about the existing hazard of the HRBD when the City initiated the possibility of a cleanup by entertain-



Equipment consolidating waste at the Humboldt Road Burn Dump. Toxics are hidden beneath the soil. Photo by Tempra Board

ing housing proposals. In 1998, after hue and cry from Chico's residents about disturbing all the waste to place housing on or near it, a state agency, the Department of Toxics and Substance Control, required more testing and analysis of the properties. After the results were published, the additional testing indicated more acres were contaminated, but the site was basically safe unless a trespasser breached the fence and started digging.

What also became clear, thanks to the work of BCAQMD and the HRBD Public Advisory Committee, is that *moving* the toxic stew is what

*Continued on Page 4*



Although these barrels have mostly been removed, toxics remain at the site. Photo c/o Chico News & Review.

## Office Depot Recycling Program: Now until September 6

Now until September 6 the Chico Office Depot store will be accepting old computer equipment and other electronic gear for recycling at no charge. The program is part of a nationwide recycling test program by Office Depot and Hewlett Packard, with more than 850 stores participating.

You can drop off old computers, monitors, printers, televisions (27" or smaller), cell phones and other equipment at Office Depot, 2071 Whitman Avenue, free of charge. Only one item per customer per day can be accepted (for computers, both the CPU and monitor together are considered one item).

Call Office Depot at 345-1623 for more information. BEC would like to send a big thank you to Office Depot for encouraging recycling and helping to keep hazardous used electronic equipment out of our landfill!

# NEWS FROM THE BEC BOARD

*Environmental News*, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental Calendar, e-mail Sharon Fritsch at [slaf@pacbell.net](mailto:slaf@pacbell.net). All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to [slaf@pacbell.net](mailto:slaf@pacbell.net). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC. Photos and art work will be returned if requested (include a SASE).

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## Environmental News Team

Tempira Board and Barbara Vlamis

## About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a non-profit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC is devoted to environmental education and information, referral services, and advocacy.

BEC  
116 W. Second St, #3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424  
[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

## BEC Hours

Monday through Thursday,  
9:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (open to public)

## How to Join BEC

To join BEC, just fill out the membership form on the back page of this paper. Yearly memberships are:

\$20 Low income \$100 Wetlands Watch  
\$35 Individual \$150 Energy Elite  
\$50 Household \$500 Cougar Cadre

## BEC Board of Directors

Kathryn Hood, *Chair*  
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Sally Miller  
Tim Strohane  
Derek Vail

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Kylene Hees, *Bookkeeper*  
Kristy Edmonds, *Administrative Assistant*

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## By Kathryn Hood, BEC Board Chair

A small group of four people have served on the Board for the last year, assisting with the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Endangered Species Faire, the production of a Development Plan, and the successful recruitment of two new Board Members. Departing from the Board is Rene Hamlin who was joining us by telephone for board meetings from Sacramento. She is now on the Earth Share Board where she will effectively represent the north valley's member organizations.

Thank you Rene for your contribution to BEC! Also leaving is Sierra Grossman. Sierra has been a VERY active (chair the 2004 Endangered Species Faire

committee) member of the board for two years and needs to move on to fulfill her commitment to finish her degree in nursing. Good luck to you, Sierra, and thank you, too!

We have exciting news on the board membership front as we welcome Derek Vail and Tim Strohane. Derek is a member of BEC and works for a local company that installs alternative energy systems. He spent his childhood exploring Butte County's beautiful rivers and creeks, then moved to Colorado to experience the Rockies. He has recently returned to the area and is excited to become more involved in protecting our hometown environment. Tim is a planner for the City of Berkeley and has an intense interest in water as well as urban design. He is a skilled writer and publishes *Spillway*, a newsletter whose mission is to interpret California's current and future growth and development; investigate alternatives to the agricultural and urban dystopia California currently builds for itself; and provide a forum for downstream and upstream voices of economic and ecological watershed sanity. ([www.spillwaynews.net](http://www.spillwaynews.net)).

Sally Miller and myself, Kathryn Hood, are into our third year and continue to "Help Row the

BEC Boat." We encourage more BEC members to become involved chairing committees, organizing and working at fundraisers and events, writing thank you notes to BEC Angels and members and helping out with grant writing. If you have the commitment to BEC to devote at least four hours a month to also help "Row the BEC Boat," then call the BEC office. You will be invited to sit in on a board meeting to get a feel of what we do

before you grab an oar. If becoming an active board member is not your calling, perhaps you would serve on one of our committees. These include the Events Committee, the Member-

ship Committee, the Development Committee, the Personnel Committee, or the Public Relations committee.

The lifeblood of this organization comes from our generous members and Angels (monthly and quarterly donors) who believe in having a local voice for the environment. Last year our total expenses were under \$100,00 and our 850 members donated half of it! If you are not a member or Angel, please look at the back page of the Environmental News and

consider how you can contribute to your local environment. There are *lots* of opportunities! If you are already a member, look back in your records to see when you last donated and if it has been over a year ago, please renew your support...perhaps even *more* than you did last year!

As a Member or an Angel you will enjoy attending such events as the BEC Birthday Dinner usually held at the beautiful Sierra Nevada Brewery in November or the Angel Holiday party in December or the Endangered Species Faire in April or the Bidwell Ranch tour sponsored in the spring. You could contribute to the health of our parks and creeks by volunteering to help with the Park and Creeks Cleanup scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> this year, or volunteer to help at the Endangered Species Faire next May.

There are advantages to maintaining an active membership in BEC, but to me, the most fulfilling advantage is being an active contributor to the well being of our local environment. This contribution will insure a quality of life that we all can be proud of and enjoy in good health.

If you breath the air, drink the water, or enjoy the fruits and sights of our lands then you need to help Butte Environmental Council.

I hope to see you at some of our events....or as a new board member.



California Conservation Corps volunteers at BEC's spring Bidwell Park & Creeks of Chico Cleanup. Don't miss the fall cleanup on September 18. See page 10 for details. Photo by Kylene Hees.



## Local Water Quality Watchdog Receives Grant

Every two years, more or less, the State of California evaluates the health of its streams, rivers and lakes as required by the federal Clean Water Act. This year the Butte Environmental Council (BEC) submitted comments to consider the pollution problems in Mud, Little Chico, Butte, and Dry Creeks. There are mercury and pesticide problems in these tributaries that have not been noted before by the State. BEC suggested that ideally they would be added to the Impaired Waters List that requires planning to clean them or at a minimum require more monitoring of the problems.

This region of California has

significant water pollution issues, but it has been under-funded for monitoring, leaving a gap in the data necessary to trace the source of the pollution.

To assist with monitoring and education, BEC and a team of local organizations twice submitted a grant to test Chico streams water quality and to educate businesses and the public about the existing pollution and how we can clean our waterways. The grant was approved this year with the project starting early in 2005. BEC's involvement will be education. Look for more information on the topic on our web site: [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org).

## Help Stop the Water Raid



*The Sacramento River*

Butte County has formed numerous committees and held countless meetings to prepare the area for water transfer sales outside the County. Integrated Water Resource Plan Butte County has formed numerous committees and held countless meetings to prepare the area for water transfer sales outside the County. The Integrated Water Resource Plan was one of the most recent committees tackling the problem of competing interests for water currently in or traveling through Butte County. The B.C. Integrated Water Resources Plan is the result.

Only one environmental activist was on the committee, BEC's Executive Director, Barbara Vlamis. "While there are many positive components in the Plan, the desire of water sellers and buyers to have a mechanism to artificially recharge the aquifer is a threat to our local environment and economy," she says.

We need to have a presence at these meetings! Please consider becoming involved by attending an upcoming meeting. Contact BEC for more information and stay tuned for upcoming dates.

## Remembering Coleen

On May 21, our community was faced with the death of a dear friend and passionate advocate. What words do you select for Coleen Jarvis? Champion, spitfire, mentor, leader, friend, dove, hero, Artemis. Determined, committed, loyal, consistent, friendly, brave, generous, studious, knowledgeable, kind, ferocious, genuine... and BIG.

Big like people who touch so many lives so deeply,

People who don't do it for money or fame,

People who believe in people, the air, the water, the earth, the best of all possibilities and not the profits for the few,

Big people who give from the heart across the spectrum of their lives.

Coleen will be missed by thousands. Those numbers represent the depth and breadth of her embrace to the people and causes she gave herself to. Each one of us, privileged to have been close to her in myriad ways, will never forget the personal connection that we shared with her.

Look around you. Most of the people who have expressed grief and compassion are true Coleen fans. There is love in this place, so



*Coleen Jarvis (Photo used with permission from the Chico News & Review)*

share it again with Coleen, her family, her friends, and everyone else that make up her community clan: pay it forward. Coleen would love knowing that all this love, talent, and energy in the community went out and made a difference, because she was part of the seed planted in all of us.

## Support BEC Through Earth Share California

Earth Share of California coordinates workplace fundraising campaigns across the State of California (just as United Way does). Last year it raised nearly \$2 million to help restore habitat, preserve wilderness areas and open space, protect our drinking water, and educate children about the magic of their environment.

Butte Environmental Council is one of 87 organizations in Earth Share California, and you can select our organization specifically or Earth Share as a whole through your workplace giving campaign. A \$5 donation to BEC each pay period, for example, will cover the cost of the truck needed to set up the educational village at the Endangered Species Faire, the oldest environmental education fair in

northern California that reaches and teaches over 6,000 children and adults annually.

If you are a State of California employee, you can support BEC by entering the state code 12831 for a payroll deduction. Federal employees can enter number 4010 on their workplace giving forms or anyone can go to BEC's web site that has a direct button to Earth Share for a credit card donation ([www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)).

For more information about Earth Share look at its web site at [www.earthshareca.org/about/index.htm](http://www.earthshareca.org/about/index.htm) and for a list of Earth Share groups that could use your support the link is [www.earthshareca.org/about/who/index.htm](http://www.earthshareca.org/about/who/index.htm).

# BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE



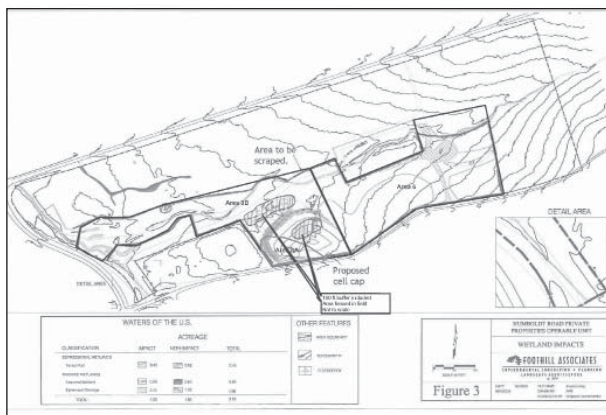
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page one*

constituted the greatest threat to human health and the environment. Blood lead levels were predicted to rise with the Monster Plan (consolidating and capping almost 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil). The next hazard is putting residents on land that was part of the burn dump because of potential exposure to toxins that were missed. After all, how easy is it to make sure 157 acres are completely devoid of lead, dioxin, and arsenic? And again, would you want your child or sibling to play on this land or grow a vegetable garden that the RWQCB will promise is clean? Scary thought!

If the relationships behind the scenes are added to the mistrust of the RWQCB's and the City of Chico's motives for the Monster Plan, the result becomes more comprehensible. BEC and community members witnessed the representatives of these agencies traveling with developers to public meetings, socializing both during and after work hours, and passing notes and discussing recreational

plans during public meetings. There should exist, at a minimum, a professional divide between regulators and applicants, yet this was sadly lacking until the City representative "retired" in 2003 and the RWQCB rep was finally reassigned after issuing the CAO. These changes, late in the adulterated process, left the RWQCB to implement what had been crafted or to eat humble pie. Can you guess which choice was selected? Enhancing their image is more important than safety and accuracy.

Though the process has been seriously mishandled by the RWQCB as the administering agency, the reader needs to know that the efforts of some wonderful community members and one agency made a significant difference in what is currently happening at the HRBD and that there are still opportunities to make future activities better in the next year.



Soil moving is proposed in rare vernal pool habitat

or county, to BEC's knowledge, has knowingly allowed housing on a former burn dump. The public will have the chance to comment in writing and before the Chico Planning Commission and City Council in the months ahead.

• The City, to date, intends to move all its waste west of Bruce Road to the City's property east of Bruce creating greater opportunity for dust emissions and accidents. The City Council race could affect

the choices the City makes next year when they start work on their land.

• A safer, viable cleanup alternative that also happens to be less expensive was never vetted because developers insist on pursuing housing on their property. Since the City does not wish to do that with their land, it may be possible to implement a cap in

place cleanup, but again, this hinges on the City Council race this fall.

• The City of Chico bought some private land to assist particular landowners with their cleanup responsibility, thereby inheriting the liability of their waste. There may not be a chance to alter this outcome

except by the method of cleanup.

• The residents of Stilson Canyon do not have an alternative route to and from their homes if needed. The simplest way is through Lazy S Lane to Picholine. Pressure on Chico's staff and Council could alter this situation.

## Reference

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) sets a secondary standard of 500 mg/l TDS [salts] in drinking water ([www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html)). Secondary standards are unenforceable, but recommended, guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water. High TDS concentrations can produce laxative effects and can give an unpleasant mineral taste to water.

## Public Involvement Led to Positive Results

• City Councilors Dan Nguyen-Tan and the late Coleen Jarvis led the City away from the Monster Plan, a destructive cleanup that would have left Chico and its citizens with the liability for an additional 95,000 cubic yards of waste from private landowners. Once the City withdrew from such a precarious position, Drake Homes followed suit, stating concern for long-term liability if they mixed their waste with that of others.

• All agencies involved in issuing permits for the HRBD have promised that movement of hazardous wastes will not occur when Hank Marsh Junior High is in session.

The BCAQMD has always been the most protective agency of the public's health throughout the seven years of concentrated activity to clean the HRBD. While the RWQCB scoffed at the community's concerns of hazardous dust emissions, even when the Health Risk Assessment demonstrated that the Monster Cleanup would cause blood lead levels to rise (16), the BCAQMD conducted research and quietly implemented significant controls in their permits to curtail dust emissions.

## Remaining Areas of Concern

• Developers Fogarty and Drake want to place housing on some of their remediated land. No other city

"The site as it exists today, in an undisturbed state, does not pose concerns from an air quality perspective. However, District staff would be concerned if the site is disturbed through any grading, excavation or land clearing type activities."

- BCAQMD March 20, 2003

## Lead Levels Low in Chico

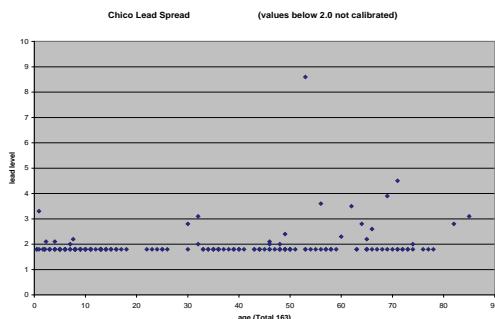
One hundred and sixty three residents of the Southeast area of Chico have had their blood tested for lead within the last three weeks. The results are excellent. One hundred and thirty of these residents have no measurable level of lead in their blood. Their blood lead levels are below 2.0. These results hold across age levels. Also the average blood lead level of those tested is far lower than predicted by the State Agencies Lead Spread Model.

What this means is that the environmental laws which have removed lead from paint and from gasoline have kept lead from damaging the children in our community. Lead is a very serious toxin and the community needs to be vigilant to continue to keep lead levels low.

After the clean-up of the Humboldt Road Burn Dump these same

residents will have their blood retested. Because the Chico environment is so clean, any increase in their lead levels will be traceable to the movement of lead dirt during the clean-up. There is no other source of lead toxins in our environment. If there was, the results of the first testing would be very different.

The graph above shows the distribution of lead levels by age. The points below 2.0 show those whose blood lead level was too low to measure.





## SOG Committee Gives Butte County Voters a Voice in Skyway Development

By Mike McLaughlin  
Save Our Gateway Committee

During the past several months residents have witnessed the Town of Paradise process an application to build a 315,000 square foot mall at the entrance to our community. This application, submitted by Mr. Fred Katz of FHK

Development, describes the project as having a 184,000 square foot "anchor" building, fifteen shops made up in large part of franchise restaurants, a 100-room motel that would rise above the canyon rim, office buildings, a gas station and parking spaces for 1,625 cars. To give some perspective to this, the Chico Wal-Mart is 120,000 square feet, and the Paradise Safeway shopping center holds only 275 vehicles.

The Save Our Gateway Committee (SOG) has been formed to oppose this huge venture. Our arguments are summarized as follows:

1. We feel that a gateway, our town entrance, is an entirely inappropriate place to house a development of this sort. Gateways are meant to reflect the character and ambience of a community. This proposed mega-mall with a Wal-mart type business as its anchor does not fit this description.

2. If the developer is successful in building the mall, it will open the door to uncontrolled commercial growth down Skyway to the foot of the hill. This is called sprawl, and it will irreversibly damage what is now one of the most beautiful scenic drives in Northern California.

3. The economy in Paradise, as in most small communities, is fragile. A major discount center with the accompanying franchises will most certainly upset the balance of our existing business base. Across the nation experience has shown that many small "mom and pop" stores close their doors in the face of the overwhelming competition brought about by these malls.

4. There is a serious water problem with such a development. Those of us who have lived in Paradise for a number of years have experienced the

tentative nature of our water supply. PID, responding to this reality, has so far refused to annex the property into the water district. If the developer relies entirely on wells to service his renters, he will eventually face critical shortages.

Commercial developments reconfigure landscape features...into a formless sea of asphalt, punctuated with garish, blinking lights, a cacophony of noise, all under an umbrella of carbon monoxide created by a seemingly endless line of cars.

day and one sees a prescription for automotive gridlock.

6. Wastewater is a major problem, as the project would be built on lava cap. There is a clear danger that sewage could seep out of the Butte Canyon walls endangering domestic water supplies of those canyon residents dependent on springs.

In terms of the natural beauty and character of our town, we must always remember why so many residents came to Paradise. They gave up an urban-based financial security in part to escape the commercial sprawl that blankets the approaches to our cities. Commercial developments reconfigure landscape features that bonded us to an area into a formless sea of asphalt, punctuated with garish, blinking lights, a cacophony of noise. This is all under an umbrella of carbon monoxide created by a seemingly endless line of cars. If the proposed mall is put in place on the ridge, we may expect the same result extending west along our Skyway as commercial enterprises spread along the scenic corridor.

### Update

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Paradise Town Council voted 4 to 1 to accept in total the developer's application that includes land use and zoning revisions of the General Plan allowing commercial development in place of open space, and requesting that LAFco agree to annexation of the 59 acres into the Town of Paradise.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> Save Our Gateway committee announced a petition drive, beginning immediately, to overturn the resolution forcing the issue to a referendum.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the committee submitted 3,900 signatures to the Town Clerk. As we needed 1,681 certified signatures that goal was easily met. The Council, on July 15<sup>th</sup>, certified them, placing the measure on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot.

Meanwhile, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, SOG filed suit in Superior court against the town of Paradise and FHK Development. The litigation alleges non compliance with several requirements of CEQA. Although there are 13 "Causes of Action," two core issues should be mentioned.

One relates to the Town's inadequate treatment of blight resulting from empty buildings due to retailers being unable to compete with a Wal-Mart type super store; the other is its unwillingness to explore alternate sites due to the dramatic size reduction of the shopping

center brought on by wastewater restrictions. The entire project is slated for an area of lava cap with negligible top soil. If the referendum is successful, the suit will end.

### The Future

Our work is ongoing. In a few weeks we will begin another fund raising drive to prepare for the referendum campaign. Our opponents, the council and staff of the town, and the developer will go to considerable ex-

pense to defeat the vote in November. Two months ago, SOG commissioned a poll with J. Moore Associates, one of the top political pollsters in the state. The results affirmed our position. Over 61% of the respondents declared opposition to the project. We feel we are ahead, but only vigilance, smarts and money will keep it that way. *The Paradise Post* has repeatedly editorialized against us. The *Chico Enterprise-Record* is falling in line with the Post. It seems we have only the residents of Paradise on our side. We must fight to keep it that way.

In addition to the referendum, three seats on the Town Council will be open. We are searching for viable candidates. It's one thing to win a referendum; it's quite another to sustain that victory for the years to come. We have a chance to change the mindset of the Town Council. We will work toward that goal.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By Tom Okerlund,  
Faire Coordinator

## A Chico Legacy 25th Annual Endangered Species Faire

As you probably know, the theme this year was "Every Creature Counts." The May 1st sun shone, the temperature was perfect, and the powers that be smiled. Between six and eight thousand people came and saw more than fifty local schools, government agencies, non-profit groups, and vendors offer activities and displays to teach, entertain and inform adults and children. There was also entertainment by local bands, live animal presentations, The One Heart Ceremony, and Bungee Jumpin' Cows. One lucky person won a beautiful new bicycle from Pullins Cyclery. And the 'early birds' got some free plants, too.

I want to thank everyone in the BEC community for helping to make our 25th Annual Endangered Species Faire a great success, especially all the sponsors and 'Friends of the Faire.' Your generosity was overwhelming. We could not have been

able to set-up, host, and dismantle the Faire itself without the help of the numerous volunteers that so generously gave of their time. The whole Faire is set-up by volunteers on Friday. All the panels are moved to the Faire site from Durham (many thanks to the Barris Family for storing them all year). They are all assembled into the booths that surround the meadow. Each booth gets a table and two chairs. On Faire day, all the BEC activity and sales booths and the support functions (greeting, parking, stage support, etc.) are staffed by volunteers. Then, Saturday afternoon, after the Faire is over, the whole process is reversed; volunteers clean up Cedar Grove, disassemble all the booths, load the panels onto trucks and move them back down to Durham (many thanks to the Barris Family for storing them again this year). Also the work organizing the Faire in the months



*The One Heart Ceremony at the 2004 Endangered Species Faire. Photo by Barbara Vlamis.*

preceding is all done with the help of many volunteers. I wish I could list all them all individually, but I don't know where to start. You know who you are and a giant thank you to all of you for the help and support you gave

before, during, and after the Faire.

It's the people in this community who make the Faire happen and it is beautiful to see them come together and show their support for the environment and education.



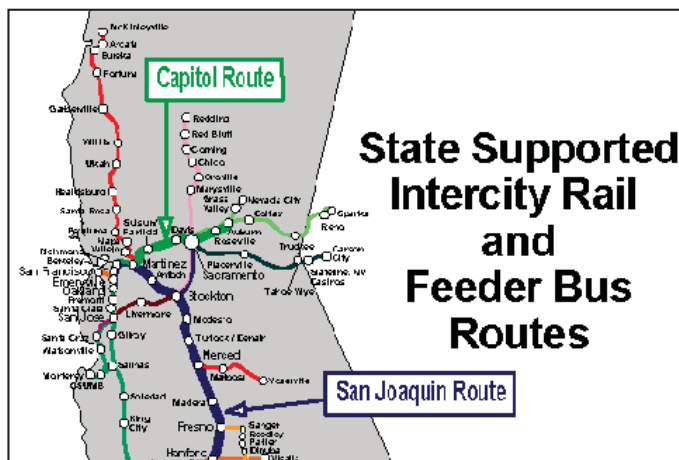
## Leave the Car Behind!

Did you know that you can travel from the Valley to the Bay Area and back by train and you don't have to leave in the middle of the night? It became clear recently that many in our community are not aware of the opportunities to travel by train.

Amtrak serves many communities with clean bus shuttles that then take you to the nearest train station to complete your trip. In the north valley for example, three buses

travel to Sacramento daily from Redding, Red Bluff, Corning, Chico, Oroville and Marysville for connections with the Capitol Corridor train to the Bay Area or the San Joaquin route. The ride is efficient and relaxing, allowing you time for reading, work, or a refreshing nap.

For further information call Amtrak at 1 (800) USA Rail (1-800-872-7245) or find information on their web site at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).





## Poll Finds Environment a Top Priority for Californians

Associated Press - 7/21/04  
By Terence Chea

SAN FRANCISCO Worried about air pollution and related health problems, most Californians want lawmakers to make protecting the environment a top priority, even if it hinders economic growth, according to a poll released Thursday.

The poll by the Public Policy Institute of California found wide support across racial, ethnic, regional and political lines for environmental protection programs to reduce air pollution, reduce auto emissions and develop alternative energy sources.

"As our state becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, concerns about environmental issues are being seen across a broad spectrum of the population," Mark Baldassare, the San Francisco-based institute's survey director, said in an interview.

The poll, which surveyed 2,505 residents in five languages, found that 54 percent of likely voters believe the environment should be a top policy priority, even at the expense of the economy. Fifty-five percent want funding for environmental protection programs to remain at current levels.

Among environmental issues, Californians ranked air pollution as their No. 1 concern, with 35 percent saying it was a big problem in their region and 59 percent saying it posed "at least a somewhat serious threat to themselves or their families," according to the poll.

Blacks and Latinos were most likely to see air pollution as a serious threat. Concern about it was highest among residents of the Central Valley and the Los Angeles County, where smog remains a major complaint.

Air quality worries may be linked to growing public support for laws and programs to reduce pollution. The poll found that 81 percent of residents support requiring automakers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in new cars by 2009. About 66 percent back a \$6 increase in vehicle license fees to pay for cleaner engines on older diesel vehicles.

The poll also found that 63 percent of residents would seriously consider buying or leasing a hybrid vehicle, which runs on both gas and electricity, because of rising fuel prices. About two-thirds favor allowing hybrid cars in car pool lanes when driven alone.

Californians support Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposals to encourage development of alternative energy sources such as hydrogen fuel cells. But despite interest in his programs, only 37 percent of residents approved of the governor's handling of environmental issues, even though he

enjoys a 64 percent approval rating among likely voters.

"They just don't see him as showing leadership on environmental issues at this point, even though they like some of his proposals and ideas," Baldassare said.

The survey found Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry holding a sizable advantage over President Bush on environmental issues. About 56 percent of likely voters said they trusted Kerry on the environment, while only 32 percent said they approved of Bush's handling of environmental issues.

More than 80 percent of likely voters said a candidate's environmental positions were at least somewhat important to them in deciding for whom to vote, and 37 percent said it was very important.

Some environmentalists said the poll's findings should remind state politicians about how strongly Californians feel about the environment.

"The one big takeaway for lawmakers right now, especially during budget negotiations, is that voters and Californians really care about environmental protection," said Craig Noble, a spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "They want them to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink and the environment in general."

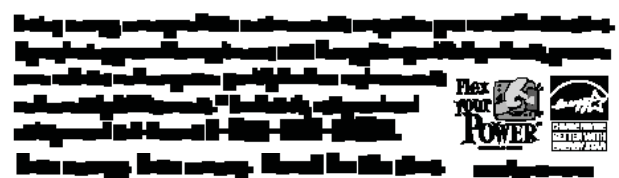
- On the Net: Public Policy Institute of California: [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)

## "Reach for the Stars" Helping Utility Customers Save Energy & Money

Butte Environmental Council (BEC) was recently selected to participate in a statewide outreach campaign to promote energy efficiency programs and products. The "Reach for the Stars" campaign includes radio and print advertising as well as community outreach. The campaign is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. The goal of the campaign is to educate rural communities about the importance of energy efficiency programs and products that help save energy and money.

BEC had a "Reach for the Stars" display at this year's Endangered Species Faire, and will have displays at other upcoming events this summer and fall. The goal is to educate community members about how they can not only save energy this summer and throughout the year, but how they can save money as well. By replacing older appliances with Energy Star products, people may earn rebates and qualified households may even qualify for free replacements and monthly bill discounts.

We urge you to learn more about "Reach for the Stars" and energy saving programs by calling the toll free phone line 1-877-228-STAR." See also the "Reach for the Stars" ad, this page. For further information about BEC's local activities or to schedule a presentation about the campaign, contact Tempra Board at 891-6424.



# NORTH VALLEY & FOOTHILLS WATER

## Caucus Forms to Protect and Restore Sacramento River Watershed

In a fast growing state where it seldom rains during the summer and the entire south is classified as a desert, water is precious to everyone. The more valuable water supplies become, the more the Sacramento Valley's relatively abundant resources will become targets for acquisition and export.

It is just this type of threat that stimulated the development of the Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus (SVEWC). In 2003, leaders from numerous environmental, recreational and political organizations joined together to create a structure through which coalitions, priority campaigns, common goals and principles can be thought through and collaboratively developed.

By the fall 2003 Plenary meeting of the SVEWC, it became clear that the most important threat that all should organize against was the so-called "Napa Agreement" now known as the "Delta Improvement Program." At stake is one million acre feet or more of additional export of water primarily from the rivers, streams, farm fields and groundwater supplies of the Sacramento Valley for export to the agricultural operations and cities south of the Delta.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Westlands Water District, Kern County Water Agency and other export dependent areas are using the power of their larger populations, their greater wealth, and their strong connections to the state Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to advance an ambitious plan to build the infrastructure and authorize full use of the export pumps so that everything is in place for more water from the north to flow south.

Many of the key components will be undergoing public review with approval and authorization anticipated as early as the end of 2004. For example, the USBR is seeking public comment on their proposal to renew CVP contracts with Sacramento Valley water districts for 25 years. In the contract language are provisions that make it easy for the districts to turn around and sell their water to the south.

One of the SVEWC's strategy to stop this "raid" of the Valley's water supplies is to educate the public and help organize local government, farmers, businesses and other interests to

resist the plans for massive expansion of export infrastructure, at least until the policies and scientific knowledge is in place to sustainably protect the north's supplies.

For example, much of the increased export to the south is expected to come from farmers and water districts selling their surface water supplies and pumping groundwater to make up for these

It became clear that the most important threat that all should organize against was the so-called "Napa Agreement" now known as the "Delta Improvement Program."

losses. Presently the knowledge is not there to protect residents dependent on well water and to ensure the

survival of oaks and other habitats dependent on higher groundwater levels. Leaders throughout the Valley should be up in arms against any expectation or plans to tap more groundwater supplies until

the science, monitoring and modeling provides a great deal more confi-

dence in what will occur in prolonged droughts and other times when the South really wants the Valley's water.

The SVEWC website ([www.svewc.org](http://www.svewc.org)) provides the goals and principles that guide the organization as well as background information on the campaign against the "water raid." Organizations are being recruited to be affiliates with the SVEWC and to sign a resolution against the efforts to massively tap Valley water for export to the south. For more information about the SVEWC contact Barbara Vlamis at BEC, (891-6424) or John Merz at the Sacramento River Preservation Trust (345-1865).

## River Plantings Benefit Endangered Species



*Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*

A recent study of the federally threatened species, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (commonly referred to as "elderberry beetle"), supports that "scientifically planned riparian forests provide habitat for species nearly driven to extinction when 95% of the original riverside forests were converted to agriculture," according to John Carlon, President of River Partners, a Chico-based non-profit which is planting the new forests on river lands in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

The survey was conducted last fall through funding from the Recovery Branch of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office to search for evidence of the elderberry beetle in restoration units. "The study sought to answer the question of whether it has been successfully colonizing recently planted riparian forests in the Northern Sacramento Valley," said Helen Swagerty, Restoration Biologist

with River Partners. "It is an elusive insect. For most of its life, it remains within stems of an elderberry shrub for 1 1/2 - 2 years feeding on the interior. In the spring, as the elderberry shrubs bloom, adults emerge from the stems through exit holes, small distinctive oval openings that they created and the only evidence that they are present."

To date, 76,000 elderberry plants have been planted on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge since 1989. Although the survivorship of planted elderberry on restoration sites exceeds 80 percent, no formal surveys have ever been carried out to document elderberry beetle use of these elderberry shrubs. In this study, River Partners examined approximately 10 percent (7,600) of the planted elderberry shrubs at several Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge units for the presence or absence of elderberry beetle exit holes.

Refuge units surveyed lay along 66 miles of the Sacramento River (between Red Bluff and Princeton), encompassing Tehama, Butte and Glenn counties. Elderberry beetle

exit holes were observed in most fields containing elderberry shrubs, with some shrubs containing multiple exit holes. A total of 449 exit holes in 299 planted elderberry shrubs were observed in the selected refuge units.

"Good science should be the basis for continued public support of river restoration activities."

This study shows the effectiveness of restoring elderberry habitat and the subsequent successful elderberry beetle colonization of these

recently restored lands. "Studies such as these are critical", said John Merz, President of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. Merz added, "Good science should be the basis for continued public support of river restoration activities. Without the science we are walking in the dark. Studies like these are a good first step in keeping the public informed."



*Elderberry beetle exit hole*



## Good News for Vernal Pools: Dept. of Interior in Settlement Talks with BEC

The Butte Environmental Council, the California Native Plant Society, and Defenders of Wildlife filed a complaint in January 2004 against the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) over its decision to eliminate more than one million acres in habitat for 15 endangered and threatened vernal pool plants and animals found in California and Oregon. On August 6, 2003, a final Interior rule (rule) designated only 740,000 acres of critical habitat for the species, one million acres short of what was proposed in the draft rule. The plaintiffs claimed that shoddy economic analysis was used to exclude all proposed habitat in six counties, including the entire habitat of Butte County meadowfoam.

The Interior based last minute exclusions in the rule on what it deemed were economic costs to five counties. These "costs" have proven illusory as documented in the May 2004 issue of the *Endangered Species and Wetlands Report*. After obtaining documents in the case, reporter Steve Davies found that Julie McDonald, aide to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assistant Secretary Craig Manson, made two fatal computational errors. She added costs that are two separate actions together: simply listing a species as threatened or endangered years ago to the costs of establishing critical habitat in the present. Invariably, this severely skewed the results. The second flaw was exposed while using taxable sales as an indicator of economic activity in each county. For example, McDonald underestimated Butte County's taxable sales by 1,000 times. "She assumed such sales totaled just \$2 million per year. But Butte County has more sales than that in a single day," the article concluded.

In light of McDonald's errors, and Manson's use of them, the plaintiff's case supporting the inclusion of the million acres is stronger than ever. "We are confident that the courts will restore the substantial acreage that was removed by the Interior Department in Washington," stated Barbara Vlamis, Executive Director of Butte Environmental Council. "The Bush administration's attempts to undermine the laws of the land through smoke and mirror obfuscation is rejected from coast to coast," she continued.

The Interior recently approached the plaintiffs to discuss a potential settlement to the case. Discussions are taking place, but the case will most likely head to court later this year.

### Vernal Pool Critical Habitat Background

The counties omitted from the critical habitat designation are: Butte,

Madera, Merced, Riverside, Sacramento, and Solano. The counties with acreage in the critical habitat designation are: Alameda, Amador, Calaveras,



*Ephemeral vernal pools host abundant life in spring.*

Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Placer,

Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba, and Jackson County, Oregon.

Designating critical habitat is the precursor to recovery for federally-listed species. Habitat necessary for recovery must be mapped in order to inform statewide and local conservation planning efforts. Otherwise recovery is hindered by piecemeal decisions that lack a big picture perspective. Congress and the courts have demonstrated time and again the intent and significance of the critical habitat requirement of the Endangered Species Act, such as Senator Garn of Utah's comment in 1978 when he stated, "designation of critical habitat is more important than the designation of endangered species itself"

(Wiygul and Weiner 1999; Congressional Research Service 1982).

If recovery is to occur, the remaining range of the 15 vernal pool species must not only be protected, it must expand. Vernal pools are unique depressional wetlands that fill and dry every year. Eight endangered and seven threatened species are listed due to the severity of vernal pool destruction in California and Oregon. As the Proposed Rule indicates, Holland estimates that close to 75% of the Central Valley's vernal pool habitat was lost by 1997. More recent estimates place the habitat losses at more than 90% throughout their historic range (Wright 2002).

"Appropriate designation of critical habitat for these vernal pool species will help to ensure their recovery and it will allow future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy this unique ecosystem" stated Carol Witham of the California Native Plant Society.

## Report Shows Little Chico Creek Degraded in Urban Areas

By Elicia Whittlesey, BEC Intern

Little Chico Creek originates in the mountains above Paradise, flows down the canyon south of Highway 32, goes through Chico for 4.7 miles, and continues southwest through farmlands toward the Sacramento River. The Little Chico Creek Watershed Group formed in 1998 to show community interest in the creek, and in 2002 produced an Existing Conditions Report (ECR), beginning a process of understanding and restoring the watershed. The ECR examines plants, wildlife and fish, water quality, and land use.

Little Chico Creek is important to the ecology of the area. About 50 special status wildlife species live in the watershed, as well as 350 native terrestrial vertebrates. The report divides the Little Chico Creek Watershed into four regions: mountain, canyon, urban, and agricultural, each with distinct vegetation and wildlife, and specific problems affecting the creek.

As expected, the urban area is most significantly degraded. Homeless people sometimes camp along the creek, stressing the riparian environment, and trash lines sections of the creek. Storm drains in Chico flow into various waterways, and 28% of this water goes into Little Chico Creek. Materials from storm drains degrade the quality of the creek, especially after the first storm each fall which washes away accumulated debris and pollutants. The report calls it a "major problem."

Non-native plant species are prolific within the city of Chico, and an "urban forest," including native and introduced

plants, dominates. Of the plant species in this area, 48% are non-native, and two invasive ones, the giant reed and the tree of heaven, are particularly prominent. Perhaps due to the lack of native plant species, and free-ranging domestic cats, fewer types of birds were found in the urban area than in any of the other zones. Low oxygen and high temperatures in pools that last through the summer make it difficult for fish to live in the urban area year round. The bullfrog, an introduced amphibian, dominates other native frogs in the urban zone.

Although water quality tests for the ECR did not indicate that water quality is a significant problem, studies of aquatic macroinvertebrates (snails, worms, and others) indicated a more stressful environment in the urban zone than in the others. The abundance of coliform bacteria makes swimming inadvisable, especially for children in late spring. In addition, the Humboldt Road Burn Dump could contribute metals such as lead, antimony, and arsenic.

In the agricultural zone, non-native plants are also prominent, accounting for 33% of the vegetation. Particularly invasive species are the tree of heaven and the giant reed, as in the urban zone, as well as the Himalayan blackberry. Few fish inhabit this seasonal area of the creek. A greater number of bird species inhabit the agricultural zone than in the urban area, though three of them (the red-winged blackbird, yellow-billed magpie, and tree swallow) are far more abundant than the others.

The canyon and mountain zones, though the plant and animal communities differ, are similar in that they are both much less disturbed than the other zones. These fairly undisturbed areas are good for wildlife, providing "large tracts of relatively high quality habitat for larger mammals such as black bear and mountain lion," according to the report, in the mountain region. Small rainbow trout are found in the mountain zone, larger trout in the canyon area, and other fish including, occasionally, spring-run salmon. Native frogs were found in both zones, and Western pond turtles in the canyon area. Macroinvertebrates in the canyon region were free of stress, indicating a healthy creek.

In its conclusions, the report emphasizes a need for more extensive studies and restoration in the urban and agricultural areas, where non-native plants have taken over and trash abounds. It finds that invasive, non-native plants are a "serious problem in all but the mountain zone," and calls for more complete water quality monitoring. BEC is part of a coalition, the Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) to test the water quality of Chico's streams, reduce pollution, and to educate the community about the current conditions of the creeks and how they can be improved. The coalition also includes the City of Chico, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. Chico USA has just received a grant to fund these activities, and the project will begin in 2005 (see page three).

# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**Saturday, August 14 – Sacramento River Preservation Trust Members & Friends Picnic.** Celebrate the Trust's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Tehama County River Park at Woodson Bridge, River View site. Call John Merz at 345-1865 for more information.

**Saturday, August 14 – Sierra Club Sacramento River Loop Bike Ride.** A flat, leisurely 15 mile round trip past cool, shady orchards along Sacramento Avenue to the river and return to Chico on River Road. Bring lunch and water. Helmet required. Meet behind "Windy's Chinese Restaurant", 1000 W. Sacramento Avenue at 10AM. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Sunday, August 15: Volunteer trash pickup and weeding** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Tuesday, August 17, 7PM – Sierra Club Tuesday Power Walks.** Meet at Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 7PM for a 1 1/2 hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water. Leader:

Jeanne, 899-9980, Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258.

**Tuesday, August 17 – Helen Caldicott's "The New Nuclear Danger."** At 7 pm the Chico Peace & Justice Center will feature Dr. Caldicott's film presentation, "The New Nuclear Danger." "In this address, Caldicott talks about her latest book, *The New Nuclear Danger: George Bush's Military Industrial Complex*." ([www.turningtide.com/caldicott.htm](http://www.turningtide.com/caldicott.htm)).

**Thursday, August 19 – Yoga for Inner Peace.** Join Chico Peace & Justice Center volunteer, Noe' Levan, who will host "Yoga For Inner Peace" at 7 pm every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 526 Broadway. Noe' will explain how yoga is considered one of the oldest practices of obtaining inner peace and show simple steps for participants to provide practical stress relief on a daily basis. Suggested donation: \$3-5.

**Friday, August 20 – Concert in the Park with the Sierra Club.** California Celtic music with Beltain (7:00-8:30PM). Meet at 6:30PM at Chico Paper Company, corner of 4th & Broadway. Bring finger food snacks to share. Lawn chairs recommended. Possible

trip to yogurt or ice cream afterwards. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Saturday & Sunday, August 20 - 21 – 9th Annual SolFest** in Hopland, CA. The Solar Living Center (Real Goods) with host its 9th Annual Sol Fest. Be sure to join the proactive fun with this positive 2-day festival featuring sustainability workshops, great food, music, and guest speakers, including Bruce Cockburn, the Charlie Hunter Trio, Amy Goodman, and Vandana Shiva. For more information: [www.solarliving.org/solfest2004.cfm](http://www.solarliving.org/solfest2004.cfm) or 707-744-2017.

**Saturday, August 21- Sierra Club Curtain Falls Gorge Scramble.** Hike down the Bald Rock Dome Trail to the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Feather River, then wade, swim and scramble 1/2 mile upstream to Curtain Falls. Wear boots and bring watershoes, sun protection, swim suit, lunch and snacks (in zip lock bags), water and carpool \$. Limited to 15 participants. Call leaders for meeting time and place. Leaders: Doug, 345-0296 and Dave, 342-4118.

**Saturday-Sunday, August 21-22: Friends of the River Fundraising BBQ.** Good food, good folks and great fun! Come join us in support of the rivers! Benefits Friends of the River. Location: Camp Lotus, Lotus, CA. Go to [www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org) for more information.

**Saturday, August 21: Creek Walk** starting at the Nature Center, 11 AM to noon. Limited to 30 participants. Please pre-register by calling the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671.

**Sunday, August 22: Volunteer trash pickup and weeding** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Monday-Saturday, Aug. 23-28 – Sierra Club "Ansel Adams Wilderness Backpack"** A moderately strenuous extended in and out backpack starting from Silver Lake on the Rush Creek trail in the Eastern Sierras north of Mammoth. We then head to the scenic Marie Lakes and go over a cross country pass into the beautiful Twin Island/Lake Basin area where we'll base camp. Limited space. Individual commissary. Call leader to reserve spot and get more info. Leader: Alan, 530-891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net). Asst. Leader: Karl, 530-274-9477.

**Tuesday, August 24, 7PM – Sierra Club Tuesday Power Walks.** (See August 17 listing for information)

**Wednesday, August 25: Bidwell Park**

**2005 Centennial planning meeting,** 5:30 PM at the rear conference room of the Chico Chamber of Commerce. The public is encouraged to participate. For more information, call 891-5559, ext 307.

**Wednesday, August 25 – Sustainability Workshop: Food Preservation.** At 7 pm at 526 Broadway in Chico, Organic Farmer David Paysnick will join the Chico Peace & Justice Center to teach a workshop on food preservation as part of its sustainability series. Learn how to utilize summer fruits and vegetables to the maximum by drying your own produce for use throughout the winter, and making jams and preserves.

**Thursday, Aug. 26, 2004 – Planning Commission Meeting** regarding proposed M&T Ranch Mine. 9:00 a.m. Board of Supervisors Chamber 25 County Center Drive, Oroville

**Saturday, August 28 – Sierra Club Turner Mountain Hike.** A pretty climb of 5-6 miles and about 2000' in the Lassen National Forest south of Mineral to the top of 6900' Turner Mountain. Bring lunch, water, hiking boots, sunscreen, a hat and carpool \$. Round-trip drive of about 140 miles. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:00AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Sunday, August 29 – Sierra Club Chico Mural Walk & Lunch.** Stroll around downtown Chico to view the innovative murals followed by a group lunch. Cost: lunch only. Meet on the steps of Chico City Hall (Main St. and 4th St.) at 10AM. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Sunday, August 29: Volunteer trash pickup and weeding** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Tuesday, August 31 - The Atomic Cafe Film.** Chico Peace & Justice Center's "Nuclear Awareness" program ends with the humorous and chilling film, "The Atomic Café," on Tuesday, August 31st. Starting at 7 pm at 526 Broadway

**Tuesday, August 31, 7PM – Sierra Club Tuesday Power Walks.** (See August 17 listing for information)

**Wednesday, September 1: Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Committee meeting.** Chico Municipal Building Conference Room, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Agenda at City of Chico website at [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us)

**Saturday, September 4: Volunteer Trail Maintenance** -- meet at Parking

## Saturday, September 18: Bidwell Park & Creeks of Chico Cleanup



Help out at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual fall cleanup. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Foster's Freeze for the creeks cleanup and at Horseshoe Lake for the Bidwell Park cleanup. Please join us with friends and family to clean the wild treasures we all enjoy so much in our urban environment. For more information, call Butte Environmental Council, at (530) 891-6424. *Photo by Kylene Hees*



## Saturday, Sept. 25: Oroville Salmon Festival

Celebrate the salmon with a day of learning and fun at the Feather River Fish Hatchery. Enjoy music, games, free salmon tasting, tours of the hatchery, Native American demonstrations and more. Admission is free. Parking is limited, so take a free shuttle from the Municipal Auditorium at Myers and Montgomery Streets. Shuttles leave every 20 minutes. Craft Fair Vendor Applications are available. Begins at 10:00 a.m., admission is free. Contact Anna Kastner, (530) 538-2222, for more information.

Area E, 8 AM - noon. Call Steve Hogue (895-4758), park volunteer coordinator, for more information.

**Sunday, September 5: Volunteer trash pickup and weeding** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Monday, September 6 - Sierra Club Dog and Dog Lovers Hike & Swim** in Upper Bidwell Park. Bring leash, water, treats, and proof of rabies vaccination for dog; water, snacks, swimwear and towel for you. Meet at Horseshoe Lake parking lot in Upper Bidwell at 8AM. Space limited to 6 obedient, people-friendly and dog-friendly dogs. If hiking with a dog, call leader for reservations. Leader: Peggy, 343-9843.

**Tuesday, September 7, 14 & 21, 6:30PM - Weekly Power Walk** (see beginning of schedule for details).

**Sunday, September 12: Volunteer trash pickup and weeding** in Annie's Glen, 9 AM to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Monday, September 13: Park Trail/Safety Committee meeting.** Chico Municipal Building Conf. Room, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Agenda at City of Chico website at [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us)

**Wednesday, September 15 - Conditioning Walk in Paradise** (approximately 7 miles.) Meet at 6PM at the corner of Skyway and Neal Road (southeast corner) in Paradise. For more info, call Leader: Lynn, 877-1671; Asst. Leader: Jan, 877-9471.

**Saturday, September 18: Bidwell Park & Creeks of Chico Cleanup.** Help out at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual fall cleanup.

For more information, see ad previous page & call BEC, at (530) 891-6424.

**September 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays) Permaculture/Sustainability Workshop.** 7:00 p.m. at the Chico Peace & Justice Center, 526 Broadway. Contact 893-9078 or [chico-peace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chico-peace@sbcglobal.net) for workshop details.

**Saturday, September 25, 2004: Oroville Salmon Festival.** (See ad this page.)

**Saturday, September 25 - Sierra Club Caribou Wilderness Hike** (grade 2, class A). Pass by over 10 lakes and several meadows in 7-8 miles of hiking through the relatively flat, forested terrain of the beautiful Caribou Wilderness east of Lassen Park. Bring hiking boots, water, lunch and \$ for drivers. About a 165 mile round-trip drive. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net); Asst. Leader: Julian, 893-1994.

**Saturday, October 2: Volunteer Trail Maintenance** -- meet at Parking Area E, 8AM - noon. Call Steve Hogue (895-4758), park volunteer coordinator, for more information.

**Saturday, October 2: Scour and Devoir** Volunteer invasive plant removal and trash pickup in Bidwell Park, 9 AM to noon, in several locations. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Wednesday, October 6: Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Committee meeting.** Chico Municipal Building Conference Room, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM -- Agenda at City of Chico website at [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us)

**Monday, October 11: Park Preservation/Stream Committee meeting.** Chico Municipal Building Conference Room, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM -- Agenda at City of Chico website at [www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us)

**Saturday, October 23: Make a Difference Day** Volunteer restoration in Annie's Glen, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**October 27 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays) Permaculture/Sustainability Workshop.** 7:00 p.m. at the Chico Peace & Justice Center, 526 Broadway. Contact 893-9078 or [chico-peace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chico-peace@sbcglobal.net) for details.

**Many more Sierra Club Outings!** Visit the Yahi Group website at: <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi> for more Sept. & Oct. outings.

## Volunteer for a Longer, Happier Life

By Nancy Weaver Teichert

*Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee, July 7, 2004, edited for length*

Baby boomers who will start to retire this decade can add healthy years to their lives by spending more time volunteering for civic and charitable work, according to a national health group.

The Harvard School of Public Health cites studies showing that volunteers not only do good for others, but they also help themselves live longer and healthier lives.

Older people now filling thousands of volunteer positions in the Sacramento region say they didn't need experts to tell them about the benefits.

Richard Wharton, 73, spends every morning pricing goods at the Salvation Army warehouse before heading to a hospital cancer ward, convalescent homes or United Cerebral Palsy's adult day care.

Unable to walk for the past six years because of muscular dystrophy, Wharton wheeled his chair into an ocean of wheelchairs filled by younger people with severe disabilities due to cerebral palsy.

"Hi, Diane. Hi, Mike. Hi, Ricky," calls out Wharton, a retired aircraft maintenance worker at McClellan Air Force Base, to the friends he has visited once a week for 10 years.

"Dick, I love you," said Andy Chau, 29, who waits for Wharton to feed him his lunch. Andy's hands are tightened into unmanageable fists, but he manages a laugh with Wharton. "Here's my good buddy," Wharton said.

When asked what he'd be doing if not volunteering, he didn't hesitate. "I'd have been dead a long time ago."

"There is a true public health benefit (to volunteering) - better physical and mental health," said Susan Moses, co-director of the Harvard School of Public Health's Initiative on Retirement and Civic Engagement. Harvard launched a nationwide campaign last week to encourage volunteering.

There will be a big pool of potential volunteers. More than 77 million baby boomers will retire over 18 years, starting in 2011. After the closets are clean and the photo albums filled, Moses said, many will start to wonder, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?"

Marc Freedman, author of "Prime Time: How Baby Boomers Will Revolutionize Retirement and Transform America," said that former President Carter is the "patron saint" of this new era of life. Carter, who turns 80

this year, has continued to make headlines with his humanitarian work after his presidency.

A study earlier this year by the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions found that older adults who mentored students in troubled urban schools showed improvements in physical and cognitive activities.

Dr. Linda Fried, director of John Hopkins' Center on Aging and Health, concluded that volunteering slows the aging process in ways that lead to a higher quality of life in older people.

Wanda Harling of Sacramento was a senior account executive with a mortgage loan and real estate investment firm when she retired at 65. After her ailing mother died, she found herself gardening, cleaning her house and growing lonely.

"I just feel happier and more fulfilled when I have a purpose," said Harling, who delivers meals to the frail elderly one day a week and serves as a volunteer marriage commissioner for Sacramento County.

"People are sometimes amazed I'm willing to give my time and energy for something I'm not getting paid for," said Harling. "I tell them I get much more out of it than I give."

Wharton and Harling found their volunteer assignments through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Sacramento County.

Director Carolyn Kneedler said the RSVP program has more than 600 volunteers age 50 and older who work with 170 community agencies as part of the National Senior Service Corp.

When Jane Arakaki of Sacramento worked for a big chemical company, she lived in Hawaii and traveled a lot. In retirement, she didn't want to go to the airport anymore, but she didn't want to stay home, either.

"I've seen family members that went downhill real quickly after retirement. I didn't want that to happen to me," said Arakaki, 60. "You re-evaluate your life."

Now, she volunteers at the sheriff's service center, the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force and the Red Cross, and leads hikes for a senior center. She said she keeps her mind sharp and helps people at the same time.

"I hope we, as the older generation, can help these people (baby boomers) realize how important it is to give back to the community," said Arakaki.

# BUTTE COUNTY RECYCLING

See businesses below by number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>CRV</b>	\$	\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	\$		◆	\$			◆	\$	\$	◆	\$	\$		\$
<b>Glass</b>		\$	◆	\$		\$	◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
<b>Glass</b>																				
Bi-metal cans		\$	◆		◆	◆				◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Tin cans		\$				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆			◆			
Aluminum foil/ pie pans			◆				\$			◆										
Scrap metals		\$		\$		\$					\$									
<b>Plastics</b>														◆						
#1 Plastic		\$	◆	◆	◆		\$		◆	◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		\$	◆		◆		\$			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		\$	◆				◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆			
<b>Paper</b>																				
Newspaper			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Phone books			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Cardboard			◆			◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>																				
Alkaline batteries			◆						◆					◆						
Car batteries		\$				\$	◆	◆			\$	◆		◆						
Paint								◆						◆						
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							\$	◆						\$						
Used motor oil							F	◆						◆			\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆						
<b>Miscellaneous</b>																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F														
Appliances (with freon)														F						
Cars														F						

- ◆ Accepts recyclables listed
- \$ Cash paid for recyclables listed
- F Fee charged to accept recyclables listed

- 1) 20/20 Recycling Centers  
California Department of Conservation  
Albertson's, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville  
Albertson's, 146 W. East Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 1596 Hwy 99, Gridley  
Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 690 Mangrove Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 1366 East Ave., Chico  
Safeway, 6020 Clark Rd., Paradise  
T-F 11-5, Sa 8:30-5, closed 1:30-2
- 2) Aldred Scrap Metals/Steel Mill Recyclers  
786 Oroville-Chico Highway, Durham, 342-4930  
M-F 8-5
- 3) AS Chico Recycling Donation Center  
Corner of W. 4th St & Cherry St., Chico, 898-5033  
Sa 10-2:30  
[www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle](http://www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle)
- 4) Berry Creek Rental & Recycle  
10 Menzie Lane, Berry Creek  
589-4828  
Tu-Su 9-6

- 5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)  
Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise,  
Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu  
877-0937  
M-F 8-4
- 6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap Metal South & Nor-Cal Recyclers  
Auto bodies (call first)  
878 E. 20th St., Chico, 343-7166  
M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12  
766 Oroville-Chico Hwy., Durham, 345-6241  
M-F 8-4  
1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville, 532-0262  
M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12
- 7) Chico Transfer & Recycling  
2569 Scott Ave., Chico  
893-0333  
Tu-Sa 10-4:30  
[www.northvalleydisposal.com](http://www.northvalleydisposal.com)
- 8) City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste  
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services  
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport)  
895-4829 or 343-5488  
Fri-Sat. 9-1  
Free to City of Chico residents, others should call for information about fees.
- 9) Country Roads Disposal  
Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather Falls & Palermo  
589-3680  
M-F 8-5

- 10) Fair St. Recycling-Work Training Center  
2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641  
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30  
[www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm](http://www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm)
- 11) Joe Verni Recycling  
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402  
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1
- 12) Neal Road Landfill  
345-4917  
Daily 7-4  
[www.northvalleydisposal.com](http://www.northvalleydisposal.com)
- 13) NorCal Waste Systems Curbside Recycling in Chico  
342-4444
- 14) NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site  
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville  
533-5868  
Recycling Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30  
Hazardous Waste F 1-6  
Free to City of Oroville residents
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling  
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley  
846-0810  
Transfer Station Sa-Su 9-4  
Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of month, Gridley residents only 9-4

- 16) Paradise Elementary School  
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise  
Drop boxes open 24 hours/day
- 17) Recycle Paradise  
951 American Way, Paradise  
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia (CRV, newspapers only)  
Stratton's Mkt. 5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers only)  
877-2777  
M-Sat 10-4
- 18) TOMRA Pacific  
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville  
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville (916) 381-6861  
Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
- 19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal  
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs, Durham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)  
[www.northvalleydisposal.com](http://www.northvalleydisposal.com)
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products  
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico  
892-2262  
M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4



## Views From the Sky Clearcutting in our Watersheds

By Jim Brobeck

During the past few winters I have noticed large patches of snow covered fields shining out on the otherwise forested ridges of the mountains east of the Sacramento Valley. Road trips above Forest Ranch on Highway 32 revealed occasional openings visible through the roadside screen of trees. Last spring I joined environmentalists in a small airplane to fly above the forest for an unscreened overview of what is happening on our upper watersheds. I was, frankly, appalled at what I saw: a pattern of scab-like clearings slashed by log skidding trails, uniformly dense plantations on previously clear-cut 20 acre stands, and ribbons of experimental Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZ) thinnings weaving across the landscape.

"Even-aged" forest management is a term that refers to clear-cut forestry. The use of clear-cutting on Califor-

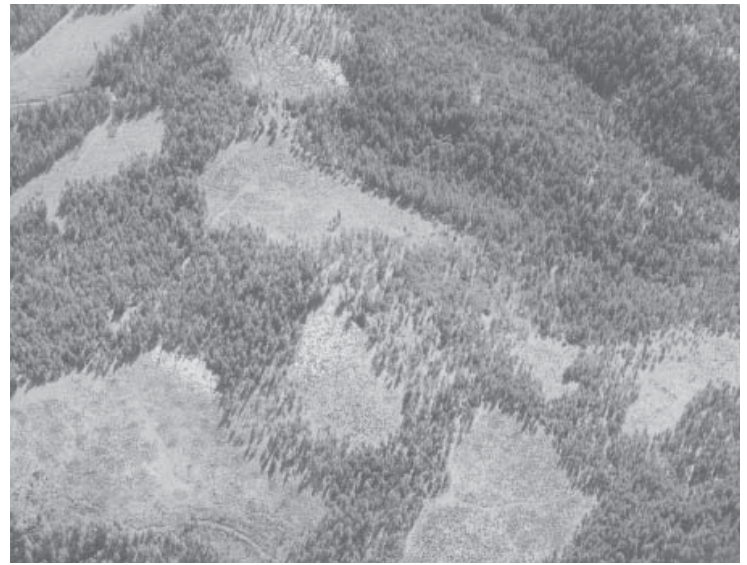
upper watersheds. There are several timber harvest alternatives that result in even-aged forestry: clear-cutting (taking all the trees in a 20-30 acre stand), visual-retention clearcut (leaving a few trees scattered throughout the stand to create a more benign appearance for the public), shelterwood & shelterwood removal (removing all but the largest seed trees to be harvested after the ground below is "naturally" regenerated). All these techniques result in a stand that is even-aged, uniformly structured, and economically harvested like a vegetable garden some decades in the future.

Even-aged plantation forestry converts thousands of acres of mixed forest into plantations every year. The timber managers' goal is to grow commercial species of trees as rapidly as possible. The use of industrial strength herbicides to reduce non-commercial competing vegetation is

required to maximize production. SPI has reserved the right to apply pesticides with helicopters, a practice not permitted on nearby Forest Service lands. The potential impacts from repeated herbicide applications to habitat on these plantations and to wildlife species in the forest and in watersheds in the Sierra has not been assessed by regulatory agencies. If competing vegetation is eliminated, species that rely on such vegetation for food, shelter and nesting, as well as species such as the spotted owl and fish-

er that prey upon such species, will be adversely affected.

Triclopyr, glyphosate, atrazine and hexazinone are commonly used on these plantations. Atrazine is used because of its long lasting effectiveness. In 2003 the European Union withdrew approval for the herbicide atrazine. The 45 year-old herbicide has been implicated by authorities in



*Clearcutting stripped the top of this hill in our area's upper watershed.*

incidents of ground water contamination, prompting recent bans on its use in several European countries, including France. Exposure to excessive amounts of atrazine can potentially cause heart, lung and kidney trouble as well as cancer, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. Atrazine is an endocrine disrupting chemical with the potential to adversely affect amphibians by converting testosterone to estrogen in developing frogs, resulting in partial male frog feminization, at exposures as low as 0.1 parts per billion, and by reducing the development of respiratory tract muscles at exposures of 1 part per billion. Hexazinone is closely related to atrazine with a similar mechanism of toxicity, and both these chemicals are relatively persistent in the environment, with a tendency to contaminate surface water when applied according to label instructions.

Contamination of aquatic sites adjacent to treated areas could be of great ecological significance and may be exacerbated by the persistence and mobility of hexazinone. SPI has already been sued by local law enforcement in Trinity County for contaminating streams with hexazinone. Triclopyr and glyphosate can also have adverse impacts on fish and wildlife, and may contaminate aquatic environments and non-target flora and wildlife species that rely on such flora for forage and habitat.

Plantations are notoriously vulnerable to destruction by wildfire. Even-aged plantations require a pre-commercial thinning. This is done by handcrews using chainsaws to thin out the dense stands that grow in the full sunlight. While the danger of

catastrophic fire is high in the thick plantations before the thinning, it is often even higher afterwards because the cut trees are simply lopped into short sections and scattered around the residual conifers. The Sierra-Cascade forests of California evolved under a regime of periodic wildfire which cleared patches of understory vegetation creating a diverse patchwork of small mosaic structure. The fires served to recycle nutrients and create habitat for fire adapted species. The vulnerable nature of even-aged plantations require long-term, publicly subsidized fire suppression in corporate-managed forests.

Humans must recognize that the water we need, the air we breathe, the stable climate that brings us comfort, all require careful interaction with the ecosystems that produce and maintain these necessities. Conservation of resources by reducing consumption and using the best available science to assess environmental impacts are required. Participation in environmental analysis can not be left up to employees of the companies that reap the profit from resource extraction. Environmentalists need to be involved in the environmental analysis offered under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). BEC needs more financial resources to hire policy analysts to counter the profit-oriented momentum that exists in regulatory decisions. Environmentalists need to elect officials that advocate for the public trust. Forest management on private and public lands in our area will be a deciding factor in the quality of life that we and our descendants enjoy.



*An example of dense regrowth after clearcutting, which results in extremely fire-prone areas.*

nia's forested watersheds is increasing at an alarming rate. This type of forestry allows the use of large harvesting machines called feller-bunchers that can replace the work of many forest workers with single machine operators. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a leader in this form of cost-cutting forest management and is the largest private landowner of Butte County's

# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

## **A.S. Recycling Program**

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95928  
Mailing address: BMU 005, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0763  
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-6782  
www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle  
asrecycle@csuchico.edu  
Barbara Kopicki

## **A.S. Environmental Affairs Council**

BMU 212, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0750  
530/898-5701 fax: 530/898-6014  
www.csuchico.edu/eac  
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

## **Altacal Audubon Society**

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927  
530/342-5144  
www.altacal.org  
Skip Augur wba@acm.org  
Judy White, Chapter President

## **American Lung Association**

10 Landing Circle, Suite #1  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/345-5864 fax: 530/345-6035  
www.lungusa.org/superiorbranch/index.html  
patty@alacsb.org  
Kelli Sarti

## **Arboretum Management Club, CSUC**

Big Chico Creek Restoration  
530/345-4542  
www.csuchico.edu/amc  
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu  
Mike Lennox, President

## **Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation**

PO Box 841, Durham, CA 95938  
530/345-1700  
www.kirshner.org  
admin@kirshner.org  
Bidwell Park Endowment Fund  
PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223  
530/345-7265  
Tom Barrett

## **Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927  
530/343-9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)  
marilyn\_gamette@fws.gov  
Marilyn Gamette

## **Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927  
530/893-5399  
www.buttecreekwatershed.org  
creek@inreach.com  
William Johnson, Coordinator

## **Butte Environmental Council, Inc.**

116 W. Second St. #3, Chico, CA 95928  
530/891-6424 fax: 530/891-6426  
www.becnet.org, staff@becnet.org

## **Butte Humane Society**

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/343-7917 fax: 530/343-3734  
www.buttehumane.org  
shelter@buttehumane.org  
California Conservation Corps  
2345 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/895-4336 pager: 916/592-6500  
www.ccc.ca.gov  
Bill Reeves

## **California Native Plant Society**

1722 J St., Suite 17  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/447-2677  
www.cnps.org

## **California Native Plant Society, Mount Lassen Chapter**

Herbarium, #129 M&W, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
530/384-1774  
Samantha Hillaire  
President

## **California Sportfishing Protection Alliance**

users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html  
cspa@psln.com  
510/526-4049  
Jim Crenshaw

## **California Wilderness Coalition**

1212 Broadway, Suite 1700  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510/451-1450 fax: 510/451-1445  
www.calwild.org  
info@calwild.org  
Mary L. Wells, Executive Director

## **Cherokee Preservation Society**

PO Box 1641, Oroville, CA 95965  
530/534-5227 fax: 530/894-7829  
www.cherokee.f2s.com  
diamakies@aol.com  
Ellen Simon & Lee Edwards

## **Chico Creek Nature Center**

*In Bidwell Park*  
1968 E. 8th Street  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 891-4671  
naturecenter@chico.com

## **Environmental Action & Resource Center**

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95929  
Mailing address: BMU 203, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0750  
530/898-5676  
www.csuchico.edu/earc  
earc@csuchico.edu  
Chari Neal-Haren, Director  
Environmental Advocates

## **Community Legal Information Center, CSUC**

Chico, CA 95926  
530/898-4354 x16 fax: 530/898-4911  
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea  
cllc@csuchico.edu  
Jeff Furgison

## **Farm Sanctuary**

PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963  
530/865-4617 fax: 530/865-4622  
www.farmsanctuary.org  
west@farmsanctuary.org  
Diane Miller

## **Friends of Bidwell Park**

Herbarium, #129 M&W, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
530/384-1774  
Samantha Hillaire

## **Friends of Plumas Wilderness**

PO Box 1749, Quincy, CA 95971-0207  
530/283-1230  
Ruth Jackson

## **Friends of the River**

915 20th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.friendsoftheriver.org  
info@friendsoftheriver.org  
916/442-3155 fax: 916/442-3396  
Russ Sewell, Executive Director

## **Habitat for Humanity**

3880 Benetar Way #1, Chico, CA 95928  
Mailing address: PO Box 3073  
Chico CA 95927  
530/895-1271 fax: 530/895-0432  
www.habitat.org  
Pam Easterly, Director

## **Humanity Rising**

PO Box 528, Chico, CA 95927  
530/899-7719  
jomaha@sunset.net  
John Omaha

## **Lassen Forest Preservation Group**

6802 Rexdale Ln.  
Paradise, CA 95969-2922  
530/876-1391  
sayhart@infostations.com  
Stephen Sayre

## **Little Chico Creek Watershed Group**

Dept. of Biological Sciences, CSUC  
Chico, CA 95929-0515  
530/898-6311 fax: 530/345-4525  
Jean Hubbell

## **Middle Mountain Foundation**

Sutter Buttes Naturalists  
PO Box 483, Live Oak, CA 95953  
530/634-6387  
www.middlemountain.org  
middlemountain@yahoo.com  
Janice Schmide

## **Mill Creek Conservancy**

PO Box 188, Los Molinos, CA 96055  
530/595-4470 fax: 530/595-4470  
milcrk1@aol.com  
Kerry Burke

## **Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility**

PO Box 4512, Chico, CA 95927-4512  
530/345-6125  
www.shocking.com/~creeks

## **Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave., Chico, CA 95926  
530/894-7738 fax: 530/894-7738  
ncrlt@shocking.com  
Stacey Jolliffe, Regional Director  
James P. Saake, President



## Plumas Forest Project

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103  
530/836-0461  
John Preschutti

## Protect Our Watershed

PO Box 1223, Paradise, CA 95967  
530/873-6383  
cont103@aol.com  
Jean Crist

## River Partners

539 Flume St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/894-5401 ext 22,  
fax: 530/894-2970  
www.riverpartners.org  
info@riverpartners.org  
John Carlon, President

## Sacramento River Preservation Trust

PO Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927  
530/345-1865 fax: 530/899-5105  
www.sacriverttrust.org  
jmerz@sacriverttrust.org  
John Merz, Chair

## Sacramento River Watershed Program Resource Center

Butte Hall, Room 612, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0425  
530/898-4083 or (888) 815-3330  
www.sacrivert.org

## Sierra Club, Yahi Group

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927  
530/345-2696  
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/  
Linda Stuckey

## Sierra Earth First!

228 Commercial St., Suite 174  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
530/470-0918  
scott\_s@oro.net  
Scott Schroder

## Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/442-3155 x206 fax: 916/442-3396  
Sierra\_Campaign@friendsoftheriver.org  
Scott Hoffman

## South Bidwell Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2057, Chico CA 95927  
530/879-5339  
www.sbpnassoc.com  
JSmith3234@aol.com

## Stop Bidwell Ranch

49 Forest Creek Cir.  
Chico, CA 95928-4173  
530/345-7205  
Betty Volker

## Streaminders

Chapter of Izaak Walton League  
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530/895-0866  
rwole@jps.net  
Roger Cole

## The Nature Conservancy, Chico

Sacramento River Project  
500 Main St., Suite B, Chico, CA  
95928  
530/897-6370 fax: 530/342-0257  
www.nature.org  
Dewit Zeleke

## The Nature Conservancy, Red Bluff

Lassen Foothill Project  
958 Washington St., Red Bluff, CA  
96080  
530/527-0424 fax: 530-527-0384  
www.nature.org  
Cori Leong

## Trout Unlimited

848 Morninghome Ct., Chico, CA.  
95926  
530/893-3116  
ep10@mail.csuchico.edu  
or agroninja@yahoo.com  
Eric Pooler

## Valley Water Protection

7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965  
530/343-0916 fax: 530/894-7829  
cofarm@shocking.com  
Linda Cole

## Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association

2096 Vallombrosa Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926

## Young Life Woodleaf

PO Box 397  
Center Country School, Challenge, CA  
95925  
530/675-2252 fax: 530/675-0458  
www.woodleaf.yl.org  
Woodleaf@Woodleaf.YoungLife.Org  
Shelly Miller

## Kids on the Environment

**What do you think is the biggest environmental problem? [Do you think Chico has this problem?]**



Breona

Smoke [Yes]— Breona Age 15  
That people throw trash on the ground.[Yes. Everywhere.]  
— Sierra Age 9

The pollution [Yes, because of smog and smoke.] — Brenda Age 15

Toxic waste and people who don't recycle. [Yes] — Georgia Age 16

People littering. [Yeah because I see a lot of people just toss stuff on the ground.] — Cheyenne Age 10

President Bush because he takes oil and energy from other countries.  
— Ivory Age 7

Pollution — because it is everywhere not just in Chico. — Ocean Age 11



Cheyenne



Sierra

**What do you and your family do to help the environment?**

We save cans — Breona Age 15

Recycle stuff, pick trash up from the ground. — Sierra Age 9

We clean up trash with Butte Environmental Council. — Karl Age 7

Sometimes we recycle our cans and bottles. — Cheyenne Age 10

We recycle — Cosmo Age 6

If we see trash then we pick it up and we tell other people to do that too.  
— Ivory Age 7

We try to ride our bikes and walk a lot instead of driving our car everywhere.  
— Ocean Age 11

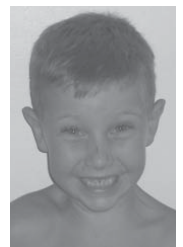
We give [Mother Earth] a drink of water and try to make sure she doesn't get hurt. — Meadow Age 4



Karl



Ivory



Cosmo



Ocean



Meadow

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(530) 893-3817

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lornabart@pacbell.net

## Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

- Sponsors the Endangered Species Faire
- Works with Ecolife staff in classroom presentations
- Participates in public hearings on proposed developments
- Sponsors cleanups of Chico creeks
- Helps thousands of residents with recycling and toxics questions
- Monitors wetland losses

What BEC membership brings you:

- A subscription to the periodic *Membergrams*.
- The right to serve on and vote for BEC's Board of Directors.
- Invitations to special BEC events and the Environmental Banquet.
- Most importantly, the opportunity to join more than 800 local environmental activists who help support the movement to preserve and enhance our natural world.

Sign me up for a BEC membership!

- |                                |  |                               |            |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Cougar Cadre (Receives 4 tickets to the Environmental Banquet) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | Energy Elite   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 | Low income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Wetlands Watch   |                               |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | Household  |                               |            |

Become a BEC Angel!

I would like to become a "BEC Angel" by pledging \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ☐ month or ☐ quarter to BEC. Enclosed is my first payment.

### Method of payment

- ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer now available. Call BEC at 891-6424 for details.
- ☐ Check, made payable to BEC.
- ☐ Credit card (circle one) Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please don't share my name with other groups.
- ☐ I prefer not to be thanked in the *Membergram* for my donation.

Make checks payable to Butte Environmental Council. Mail this form to BEC, 116 W. Second Street., #3, Chico, CA 95928. Contributions to BEC are tax-deductible (less the cost of any premiums).



**Return this coupon for a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb! No membership necessary. Sponsored by California Public Utilities Commission.**

## Help Row the BEC Boat!

The local environment needs your contribution!

You can make a difference. With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the various Creek Cleanups, our small staff and Board of Directors has its hands full. Any assistance is always very much appreciated. If you can volunteer your time (no matter how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you've volunteered in the past, but aren't sure whether we have your name and current phone number on file, you can also submit an updated form. We'll keep your information on file and give you a call when our needs coincide with your offer. Thank you!

Mail this form to: BEC, 116 W. Second St., #3 Chico, CA 95928

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

- ☐ Weekday mornings ☐ Weekday afternoons
- ☐ Weekday evenings ☐ Weekends

I am interested in helping with the following activities (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- ☐ Various Creek Cleanups
- ☐ 23rd Annual Endangered Species Fair (Spring 2002)
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations
- ☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)
- ☐ Clean-Up
- ☐ *Environmental News*, BEC's quarterly newspaper
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work
- ☐ Mailings ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)
- ☐ Phones ☐ Research
- ☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)
- ☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies

### Contribute to BEC through the United Way

If your employer participates in payroll deductions for the United Way, you can make a donation to BEC in every payroll period. There's one minor glitch: BEC isn't listed on any United Way contribution forms, so you have to ask your employer to notify United Way that your contribution is for BEC. After that, the United Way will forward your contribution to BEC.