

# 1975 - 2005

## BEC Celebrates 30 Years of Success!



BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S

# Environmental NEWS

Winter 2005/2006

Volume 11 Number 4

## Lower Tuscan Aquifer *Slated for Exploitation*

By Jim Brobeck

In spite of the collapse of the ecosystem in the Sacramento River Delta, plans to increase pumping out of the Sacramento River to supply water to new development south of the Capitol are being devised.

The scheme includes integrating Butte County groundwater into the state water system. The aquifer targeted for exploitation is the Lower Tuscan Formation. The Lower Tuscan is located under Butte, Tehama and Glenn County. Chico's municipal water system draws from the Lower Tuscan. Our local creeks are directly connected to the same aquifer.

Butte County is thought to contain most of the "recharge zones" for the Lower Tuscan. This presents the County with a critical role in preserving the quantity and quality of water that recharges this important resource.

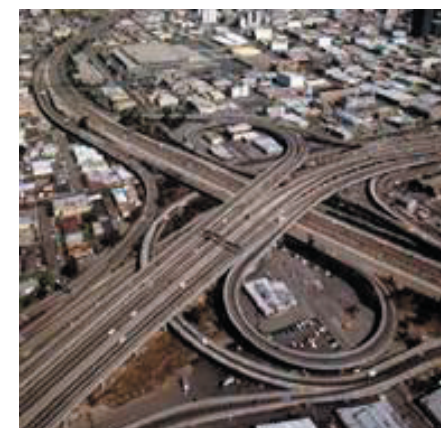
Because of the down-gradient configuration of the Tuscan, the County is also vulnerable to unique impacts associated with overdrafting of the aquifer.

Even entrepreneurs who propose conjunctive use of the aquifer in facilitating export of surface water entitlements recognize that well strandings, creek dewaterings and vegetation mortality are distinct hazards that may occur on the east side of the Sacramento valley. Their strategy to determine the extent of these risks as outlined in the GCID grant proposal is to begin the extraction and observe the impacts. *The Regional Integration of the Lower Tuscan Groundwater Formation into the Sacramento Valley Surface Water System Through Conjunctive Water Management* study as presented by the consulting firm NHI considers such

Continued on Page 6

## L.A. Freeway Nears Cow Pasture

The Highway 149 expansion project epitomizes an exhausting and unhealthy lifestyle of urban sprawl, traffic jams, and air pollution. It is expected to start in 2006, even though it never analyzed the obvious growth inducing impacts from such massive infrastructure and failed to create a major mitigation requirement: a Habitat and Conservation Plan. The HCP is not even started let alone in draft form as it was required to be by May of 2004. The project as planned will turn a 4.6 mile highway between highway/freeway 70 and highway/freeway 99 into a four-lane freeway with two clover-leaf intersections. All this is occurring in the middle of grazing land that is mostly zoned Unclassified or Grazing and Open Land in the County's old General



Plan. Oroville, the county seat and nearby city is four miles south of the highway. Current operating capacity is Level of Service "C" (average like a report card). The main traffic pattern on Hwy 149 is from Oroville to Chico and vice versa (DEIR/S May 2002).

Continued on Page 16

## Citizens Secure a Safe & Sane *Burn Dump Cleanup*

The Humboldt Road Burn Dump (HRBD) cleanup, which was mostly completed this summer, was badly mishandled by our Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the administering state agency. Despite the RWQCB's efforts to ignore public concerns and rush the cleanup through for developers in 1998 (see page 13), our readers need to know that the efforts of some wonderful community leaders and members and one local agency made a significant difference in the approaching conclusion and lifetime monitoring of the HRBD.

At the present time, the City of Chico, New Urban Builders, and Fogarty Investments are either approved or headed for certification for their portion of the burn dump cleanup (more history is found at [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)). Developer Drake and landowner Simmons are still fighting with anyone possible over their responsibility with the heavily contaminated stock pond levee and the battery recycling facility and could face massive fines if there isn't any resolution by January 2006. Butte County still hasn't contributed to the cleanup yet even though the HRBD was not only Chico's

Continued on Page 13

## In This Issue...

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Enviros working with Ranchers.....     | Page 3  |
| River Partners Riparian Education..... | Page 4  |
| Become a Creek Monitor....             | Page 5  |
| Local Water Survey Results.....        | Page 7  |
| New Threats to Tuscan Aquifer.....     | Page 8  |
| The Wonder of Valley Waterfowl....     | Page 9  |
| On BEC's 30th Anniversary.....         | Page 10 |

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| BCAG - Why Should I Care?.....       | Page 12 |
| Lawsuit to Protect Vernal Pools..... | Page 12 |
| Local Opposition to Wal-Mart.....    | Page 13 |
| Environmental Calendar.....          | Page 14 |
| Snow Goose Festival.....             | Page 15 |
| Logging Threatens Concow Forest..    | Page 16 |
| Recycling Directory.....             | Page 17 |
| Environmental Directory....          | Page 18 |
| Join BEC.....                        | Page 20 |

## Environmental News

*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 Tempra Board at [tempragb@sunset.net](mailto:tempragb@sunset.net). All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to [tempragb@sunset.net](mailto:tempragb@sunset.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).

The *Environmental News* is a publication of the Butte Environmental Council, copyright 2004, all rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means--electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise--without the prior written permission of the publisher.

### About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a not-for-profit public benefit 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)

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday,  
9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### 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

Peter Hollingsworth, *Interim Chair*  
Patricia Puterbaugh, *Treasurer*  
Tempra Board, *Secretary*

### BEC Staff

Barbara Vlamis, *Executive Director*  
Kylene Hees, *Bookkeeper*

### BEC Technical Committee

Lynn Barris, *Water Policy*  
Tempra Board, *Grantwriting, Newsletter*  
James Brobeck, *Forestry*  
Peggy Gray, *Preservation Chair*  
Chuck Lundgren, *Computers, Website*  
Jennifer Oman, *Water Quality Education*  
Paul Persons, *Law*

# FROM THE BEC BOARD

## Cleaner Chico Creeks and Park

Thanks to the energetic and dedicated crowd of volunteers that spent Saturday, September 17th at Butte Environmental Council's Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2005, we removed more than 19,880 pounds of trash and recyclables from Bidwell Park and Comanche, Little Chico, Big Chico, Lindo, and Sycamore Creeks. We found refrigerators, mattresses, TVs, car batteries, tires, and lots of glass beer bottles in our beautiful park and waterways.

BEC deeply appreciates the numerous sponsors that made the event possible: Butte County Public Works Dept., California Coastal Commission, Chico Community Shelter Partnership, Chico News and Review, City of Chico, DWR Sutter Maintenance Yard, Ed's Printing, Food Systems Project, Foster's Old Fashioned Freeze, Friends of Bidwell Park, Grilla Bites, KZFR Radio, Mountain Sports, Sierra Nevada Brewery, and Upper Crust Bakery.

The volunteers toiled more than four hours to make our wildlands healthier places for the community to enjoy and our animal friends to dwell in. In par-



BEC volunteers bagging trash collected from Big Chico Creek near downtown.

ticular we'd like to thank Jim Brobeck, Nora Burnham, Mark Gailey, Raul Gonzalez, Karen Goodwin, Peter Hollingsworth, Susan Mason, Sally Miller, Jennifer Oman, and Barbara Vlamis.

We encourage you to strive to keep Bidwell Park and our all our waterways clean throughout the year, and since it continues to be necessary, to join your neighbors in the fall next year when we return to host the Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2006. Hope to see you there!

## Editor's Note

In the Summer/Fall 2005 issue of the *Environmental News*, we mistakenly attributed the article entitled "Sacramento River Faces Challenges" (page 4) to the Sacramento River Preservation Trust. The article was written by Rex Stromness. We regret the error.

**Greenfeet**  
Natural Home Store

**Greenfeet**  
1360 E. 1st Ave.  
Chico, CA

**Sustainable, ecological and recycled  
items to create healthy,  
non-toxic homes:**

**Bed & Bath, Kitchen, Yard & Garden,  
Gifts, Home Decor**

**Now when you shop at Greenfeet and  
mention BEC, BEC will receive 15%  
of your purchase!**

**You can shop in-store or online. In order for  
BEC to receive the generous 15% donation,  
you must mention BEC when you  
shop in-store.**

**If you shop online, you must access the  
Greenfeet website through the  
icon link on the BEC home page  
at [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org).**

**Thank Your Greenfeet!**

**[www.greenfeet.com](http://www.greenfeet.com)**



## The California Rangeland Resolution: Enviros Working with Ranchers

### "Boots and Birkenstocks"

*The California Endangered Species and Habitat Alliance was formed in January 2002 after BEC hosted a plenary meeting for activists in California. A work group formed that has met monthly and initiated conservation efforts collectively. One such effort was a white paper proposing that the Central Valley grasslands are arguably the most threatened habitat in the heartland of California, poised directly in the path of two high-speed juggernauts:*

*urban sprawl and agricultural conversions. The white paper was a hit with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which proceeded to circulate it with the California Cattleman's Association, the California Farm Bureau, and others. After broadening discussions between the conservation and agricultural groups, a bar-b-que was held on a ranch in Alameda County to look for common ground. Below is the result of this effort with plans for expanded collaboration and conservation.*

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;

- Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;

- Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;

- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes;

- Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

### SIGNED BY:

Alameda County RCD  
Bureau of Land Management  
Butte Environmental Council  
California Audubon Society  
California Cattlemen's Association  
California Dept of Fish and Game  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Native Grasslands Association  
California Native Plant Society  
California Oak Foundation  
California Rangeland Trust  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Environmental Defense  
Institute for Ecological Health  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center  
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
The Nature Conservancy  
Trust for Public Land  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
VernalPools.org  
Wildlife Conservation Board

Nov 9, 2005

## BEC Notes

### BEC 1st Annual Art Auction a Success

Butte Environmental Council would like to thank all of the people who so generously supported our (1st Annual) art exhibition and auction.

Thank you for the generous donations from the collections of Armeta Ferrini, Nora Todenhagen and the **James Snidle Gallery**, and for the original artwork donated by Titus Woods, Bill Hees, Melissa Sutton, John Klinger, Jasmine, Shannon Lavery, Kylee Hees, Faizal Nazaruddin, Jennifer Oman, Julie & Claire Nasr, the willow furniture artisan, Mick Hegarty, Kris Koenig, Gregg Payne, James Snidle, and our Endangered Species Faire 26's designer, Michelle Noe as well as all of the wonderful "Youth on the Environment" contributions from the talented youth at the Chico Country Day School. Special thanks to Margaret Braun at the Chico Country Day School who made sure that we had the wonderful contribution of some of the youth in our community represented! This year's auction had a small, but successful turn-out, and we hope to build on this year's success and bring this event back as an annual event.

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Butte Environmental Council! *-Kylee Hees*

### Honoring BEC Volunteers

Thank you to Renee Hamlin for suggesting that we sign up for the vehicle donation program, Ken Grossman & Sierra Nevada Brewery for hosting our 30th Anniversary dinner, Ralph Meuter, Jim Gregg and Tom DiGiovanni for hosting an Angels dinner, and Tom Alden for help with computers. Thanks also to BEC's amazing office volunteers and interns, Sylvan Hoover, Cindy McCartney, Gene Anna McMillan, O.J. McMillan, Nick Mitrovich, Nancy Prazler, Nora Todenhagen, and Matt Woods.

BEC welcomes new Board members Patricia Puterbaugh and Tempra Board, and returning member Peter Hollingsworth. BEC thanks outgoing Board members Karen Goodwin, Kathryn Hood, and Sally Miller. We are also looking for more members. Contact a Board member or Barbara Vlamis if you are interested in joining our crew.

### Thank You BEC Foundation Supporters

California Wildlands Grassroots Fund • Victor & Lorraine Honig Fund, c/o Common Counsel Foundation • Northern CA Environmental Grassroots Fund  
Thanks to Kelly Meagher for facilitating a poll for a Butte Co. planning process.

# EDUCATION

## Opening Young Eyes to the Unique World of Riparian Forests

By Christiana Conser and  
Jessica Gibbs, River Partners

Autumn is a time of change in the riparian forests on the Sacramento River. The mornings are crisp, the leaves are changing colors, and an amazing diversity of neotropical birds stop to forage and rest on their annual winter migration. At the Del Rio Wildland Preserve Learning Center in Glenn County, students from Chico Country Day School (CCDS) are seeing these changes firsthand and learning how habitat restoration of native riparian forests on the river provides essential habitat for over 225 species of wildlife. The 96-acre site, located on a flood-prone former almond orchard, was restored in 2004 with native riparian trees, shrubs and grasses to provide wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species such as blue grosbeaks, Swainson's hawks, valley elderberry longhorn beetles, giant garter snakes, and others. Historically

the Sacramento River was bordered by 500,000 acres of riparian forests but currently less than 5% remains. CCDS student Anthony observed, "It's good to restore [riparian forests] so animals can go back to the homes they had before." By participating in restoration activities and observing how restoration benefits wildlife, students can forge a real connection to the natural world that is different from visiting a zoo or watching a nature program.

The new science education program was created by River Partners and CCDS in 2005 with funding provided by the Nature Restoration Trust—a partnership between PG&E and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The program uses an interactive learning approach, students learn ecological and earth science principals by conducting independent scientific investigations to develop their observation skills. The program emphasizes learning about our local native ecosystems. Biologists at River Partners adapted existing curriculum to teach students about riparian ecosystems and habitat restoration on the Sacramento River. Each activity is adapted for the appropriate grade level and meets a *Science Content Standard for California Public Schools*. According to CCDS environmental science teacher Suzie Bower, "Students get a real sense of what the world is all about when they see their studies outdoors."

The program consists of fall and spring field trips for grades one through six. Fall trips focus on native plant and insect ecology. Activities include learning how native plants disperse their seed, observing the diverse ecosystems



Jessica Gibbs, California State University, Chico student and River Partners Education Intern, dissects an acorn for CCDS 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

of animals that live on fall-blooming native plants such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and learning about the insects that create galls on native trees such as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and willows (*Salix* sp.).

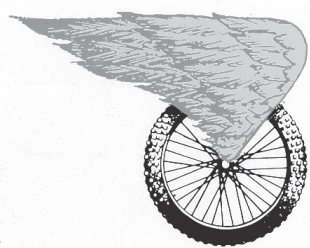
Two of the activities involved participating in the current habitat restoration on the site, including measuring the survival and growth of restored native plants. Spring activities will focus on native plant natural history, bird and butterfly populations, and soil ecology. After the two field trips, students will have a deeper understanding of the importance of preserving and restoring riparian forests for wildlife habitat.

River Partners biologists and CCDS teachers lead the program at Del Rio. CCDS teachers attended workshops to help develop the curriculum, which consists of 16 activities. There is one activity for each grade level and two habitat restoration activities per season (fall and spring). Each activity includes a biology lesson, pre-field trip classroom activities, library and internet

resources, and follow-up activities to make deeper explorations back in the classroom. The grant provided for field supplies such as microscopes, binoculars, hand lenses, field guides, soil testing equipment, and more. On the day of their field trip, students spend the day at Del Rio participating in the activities, games, exploration, and nature journaling. At the end of the day the class gathers to share their experiences and take a class photo.

Feedback from CCDS about the field trips this fall has been enthusiastic. Students enjoyed exploring the restoration site and participating in the activities. Suzie Bower comments, "They also just had fun and anytime a kid has fun at learning, it sticks!" Students also had the opportunity to observe wildlife at the restoration site: a giant garter snake, jackrabbits, Swainson's hawks, and migratory birds. Suzie Bower noted, "I do think kids think they can make an impact. They are learning that their choices today will affect the future." Nicole, a CCDS student adds, "It opened up a new thing that I might want to do when I get older, and I know the other kids thought it did too." By learning about their local environment perhaps young eyes will be opened to a whole new world.

### PULLINS CYCLERY



Steve & Katy O'Bryan

801 Main St.  
Chico, CA 95928  
Ph.: (530) 342-1055  
Fax: (530) 342-8224  
E-mail: pullinsusa@aol.com



## The Chico USA By Jennifer Oman Booth Makes its Debut

The Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) *Clean Creeks Project* outreach booth has made a couple of public appearances this fall! BEC and the City of Chico are getting the word out to the public on how to prevent urban runoff pollution (urp) as part of our water quality public education effort. Our “eye-catching,” bright blue booth was at the October 10<sup>th</sup> Salmon Festival at the Feather River Hatchery in Oroville and at the Sustainability conference at California State University, Chico, on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The public was receptive to the information that we had to share (especially since we had cool salmon stickers to give out to people who could tell us one thing that they could do to help keep our creeks cleaner!)

The Chico USA *Clean Creeks Project* is a collaborative effort of the City of Chico, the Butte Environmental Council, the Big Chico Creek Wa-

tershed Alliance, and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants. It is a project that includes a public awareness campaign on urban runoff pollution, citizen monitoring of our local creeks and streams, and a study of urban runoff pollution control structures for the City of Chico.

Chico USA formed with funding from a grant under the Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program. Funding support has been provided by the California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) which has as an objective to restore ecological health and improve water management by working with the community at a watershed level. The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the grant to the City of Chico.

The Chico USA booth includes information such as what you can do if you see someone dumping illegally into our creeks. For more information, see Creek Watch article, page 7.



## Our Creeks Need You Become a Citizen Monitor

Don't worry, you won't be monitoring citizens! Rather, you will be a citizen who monitors water. The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (BCCWA) has established the Big Chico Creek Citizen Monitoring Program, and has been providing watershed education and training to citizen volunteers interested in participating in monitoring activities.

Citizens commit one morning a month from May to October to sample water quality chemistry and measure flows in Big Chico Creek. Twice a year, they sample aquatic insects in the stream bottom. The monitoring sites range from the Highway 32 crossing down to the mouth of Big Chico Creek. The Alliance provides training in methods that are specifically intended for citizen volunteers. Current volunteers include high school classes, university classes, families and individuals.

The information that is gathered takes a snapshot of creek health from the mountains to the River on one day each month. Over time, this information will be used to observe changes resulting from natural trends and human activities, including both land use changes and restoration projects. Timmarie Hamill, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for BCCWA, says, “People enjoy not only getting out and enjoying the creek, but knowing that they are helping to track its condition and make sure that Big Chico Creek continues to stay healthy.”

### Message from Timmarie Hamill, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

2006 is going to be a great monitoring year. We have new equipment and have expanded our monitoring activities to include aquatic insect monitoring and have also added a few more monitoring sites. Your work is very important to the health of our creek, and your volunteer hours are greatly appreciated! Bring your family and friends!

Contact me if you are interested in becoming a Citizen Monitor in the new year!

Timmarie Hamill, BCCWA, Monitoring Coordinator  
thamill@bigchicocreek.org, 342-6620



BEC's Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) booth educates Butte County residents about urban runoff into our area's streams, and what we can do to improve local water quality.

## Tuscan Aquifer Exploitation

Continued from Page 1

a study risk-free as long as reservoir water is routed to existing well users who are likely to be impacted by the dropping water levels. According to the GCID, "Because they now would be on surface water, response of the aquifer system to program recovery stresses would not be problematic and in fact would be transparent to the water users."

This attitude is at the core of the special interests that intend to exploit County groundwater as a major new water supply for the state. If Butte County fails to initiate an investigation of the complex groundwater hydrology using the best available science, the fate of Butte County's way of life will likely be decided by water marketers. The County has already demonstrated its commitment to pursue adequate science to protect the aquifers by contracting with Dr. Lev Kavvas of UC Davis who summarized Innovative New Tools for an Informed Approach to Integrated Water Management in Butte Basin.

Dr. Kavvas's areas of specialization include mathematical modeling of the integrated hydrologic-atmospheric processes at global, continental, country and watershed scales for the simulation and prediction of hydrologic water balances toward quantifying phenomena such as floods and droughts; mathematical modeling of hydrologic processes at regional, watershed and hillslope scales; investigations on the mathematical modeling of contaminant transport by inland surface waters, unsaturated flow and groundwater flow, and physical hydraulic modeling of environmental

fluid flows. He is recognized around the world as a leader in understanding the best available science of groundwater modeling. The County must commit to complete Dr. Kavvas's analysis before ramping up the exploitation of the Tuscan aquifer to quench the thirsty developers to the South.

Ed Craddock was hired as the first Director of the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Department on August 23, 1999. Craddock worked for 25 years in the Resources Agency of the State of California. He worked for the California Department of Water Resources before his tenure in Butte County. Ed Craddock will soon be leaving his position as Director of Butte County's Water and Resource Conservation. Ed's jovial personality and professional skills opened some doors to public participation in what are extremely

**If Butte County fails to initiate an investigation of the complex groundwater hydrology using the best available science, the fate of Butte County's way of life will likely be decided by water marketers.**

complex technical decisions.

Ed Craddock's previous position with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) gave him a seasoned view of the way water moves from North to South in this state. Given the pivotal role the Oroville Reservoir has in the State water supply, perhaps his DWR expertise was appropriate.

Being an area of origin for natural resources, our region is ripe for exploitation. The process of relicensing the Oroville Reservoir and the failure of the Reservoir to bring promised prosperity to the region seems to have awakened the realization that Butte County needs to look out for local in-

terests when dealing with the California Department of Water Resources. Area of origin statutes generally represent a legislative response to the absence of an effective market for pricing water. The level of protection afforded to areas of origin statutes is uncertain. Area-of-origin protection is peculiarly associated with water. Other resources are not similarly treated, probably because they are priced in conventional markets. For coal, oil, copper, timber, and other natural resources, the area of origin receives its "protection" in the form of taxes and revenues from the "export" of the resource. In the absence of the pricing system for the export of water, area-of-origin interests have resorted to the political process to obtain "in kind" protection, that is, enactment of laws reserving water for the area's "ultimate requirements" or providing for recapture in the event of future need. As a consequence of this approach, safeguards for a water exporting area have usually been tied to future or potential water development in this area.



Llano Seco groundwater pump west of Chico.

California developers are focusing a thirsty gaze upon Northstate groundwater. Butte County must assume the leadership required to bolster the economic promise and environmental richness that can only be fulfilled with

a stable and healthy aquifer.

As the County administration moves toward choosing Mr. Craddock's successor BEC urges the decision makers to select a qualified person who has no affiliation with the California DWR. (As of press time, a new director was chosen. See page 8. -Editor) The DWR sees Northern California as an area of origin of water for the rest of the State. The DWR has impaired the stability and robust ecological complexity of Northern California to integrate surface water into the State-wide supply. The agency will certainly be willing to draw from our groundwater as much as we are willing to concede. Once such a precedent is established it will be impossible to recover control of our aquifer.

The next Director of Water and Resource Conservation will play a pivotal role in the future of regional groundwater and the related surface water and vegetation. The next Director must be loyal to the interests of Butte County and circumspect in negotiating with the DWR. An unhurried, methodical approach to expanding Butte County's contribution into the State water system is not probable if our next Director of Water and Resource Conservation is a DWR alumnus.



## Local Survey Finds Residents Unaware of Water Issues

By Jennifer Oman

The Chico USA public knowledge survey results are now available. The public knowledge survey is one of the first steps in the *Clean Creeks Project* public awareness multi-media outreach campaign. We surveyed a statistically significant sample of Chico residents to find out what they know about urban runoff pollution. The results of the survey are helping us to tailor the outreach campaign specifically to Chico's public knowledge needs. You can check out the full report and executive summary online at [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org) ...just click on the Chico USA logo.

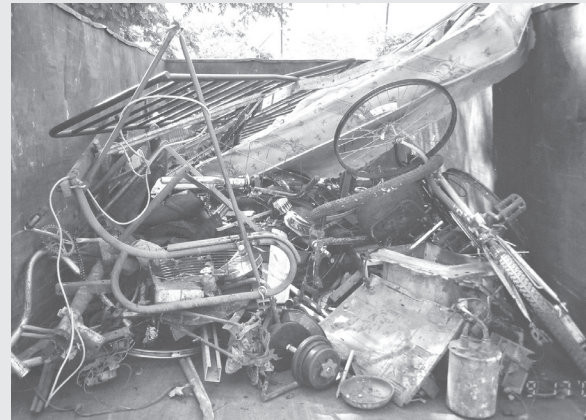
### Some Major Results:

- Only one-third of the survey respondents knew that stormwater runs into local creeks and streams without being treated by conventional treatment methods. Although 82% of the survey respondents knew that urban runoff pollution is carried to local creeks and streams, they did not know how it happens.
- Only half of the survey respondents are aware that cigarette butts on the ground contribute to pollution of local creeks and streams.
- An overwhelming majority of survey respondents who wash their cars at home, do so in their driveways or in the street. Only 5% wash their cars on the lawn.
- One-fourth of survey respondents apply pesticides to their lawns and gardens.
- While many respondents knew that home lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides are polluting creeks and streams, one-third of them did not associate pet waste with water contamination, and nearly half of the survey respondents are not aware that soil and green waste are harmful to local creeks and streams.

- Just over one-fourth of respondents stated that they are not knowledgeable about local water issues, and over half of the respondents stated that they are only somewhat knowledgeable. Just over one-tenth of survey respondents think that they are knowledgeable about local water issues, and only 5% think that they are very knowledgeable.
- Nearly three-fourths of survey respondents stated that they are willing to pay \$25 a year in a county tax to protect local water quality, and 40% are willing to pay \$50 a year.
- Over half of the respondents expressed the opinion that environmental advocacy organizations are very important, and another one-fourth stated that they are important.
- With an even higher emphasis on environmental education organizations, nearly 60% of respondents stated that such organizations are very important, and another one-fourth think that they are important.

You can help your community become aware of where stormwater and urban runoff goes!

Since we have found out through our survey that the majority of the Chico residents are not aware of that what's in their gutters is in their creeks, we will be organizing two city wide stormdrain marking events in the spring of 2006. You can help by getting your families and friends together and volunteering to mark the storm drains in your neighborhood! Just contact Jennifer Oman, Outreach Coordinator, Butte Environmental Council, at 891-6424 or email her at [jenniferoman@comcast.net](mailto:jenniferoman@comcast.net), or Rick Rodriguez, Engineering Technician II, City of Chico, at 530-879-6951 or email him at [rrodrigu@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:rrodrigu@ci.chico.ca.us)



*BEC volunteers removed metals objects and empty containers of potentially hazardous materials from Chico creeks this fall.*

## Creek Watch Take Control of Urban Runoff

If you have noticed a violation or threat to a creek or waterway in the area, please contact the following agencies to report what you have seen.

The City of Chico Storm Water Management Program is responsible for protecting the quality of runoff from construction site erosion, illegal dumping and dumping in areas that drain to storm drains (e.g. parking lots). Contact the Storm Water Program through Rich Burgi's office, at 879-6950, and after hours at the City of Chico Fire Department, at 897-4900.

Report significant hazardous material spills to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California State Warning Center at 1-800-852-7550. For more information visit the OES website at [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov)

Other agencies that you may report violations to include:

The California Department of Fish and Game is primarily responsible for activities within the State's waterways. Their toll-free CAL TIP hotline is 1-888-334-2258.

For water quality concerns contact the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board office in Redding at (530)224-4845.

For incidents within Butte County, the County's Environmental Health Department can also be contacted. Their number is 891-2727.

You may also call the Butte Environmental Office at 530-891-6424 during business hours for further information.

The Creek Watch information is available 24 hours a day on our Hotline (530) 891-6459 and online, on the BEC website, [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org) (just click on the Chico USA logo)

Other information that can be found at the Chico USA booth pertains to what each of us can do in our daily lives to make a difference for our waterways:

### 10 Things you can do to make a difference

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in your driveway
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

# WATER

## *Latest Threat to Tuscan Aquifer* **Department of Water & Resource Conservation Appoints Pro-Diversion DWR Employee as Director**

Butte County's Department of Water and Resource Conservation was formed on July 1, 1999 and hired its first Director from the ranks of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on August 23rd of 1999. For the past six years Director Ed Craddock has guided

County policy to fulfill the primary mission of DWR: *To manage the water resources of California, in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people...* Of course the vast majority of the people in California live south of the Sacramento River Delta

where the export pumps are located.

The Oroville Dam already had a tourniquet on the Feather River by the time Craddock grabbed the reigns of Butte County water policy. The eroding banks of the Oroville reservoir and the empty salmon spawning beds of the upper watershed are impossible to mitigate. A significant portion of the County's tax-base was depleted when thousands of acres flooded. The recreational treasure chest promised by DWR drifted south with the exported water sales. You would think that local

representatives would wise up to the DWR heist.

When Craddock announced his retirement many months ago the County had an opportunity to seek a Director of Water and Resource Conservation that would actually look out for the

environmental and economic interests of Butte County and to leverage to our benefit the Feather River's massive contribution to the state water supply.

To advocate for this region the next Director would have to hold a paradigm that recognizes

area of origin well being, which may not match the DWR paradigm. But Butte County government failed to assume the leadership role required to preserve our welfare. Instead of actively recruiting an advocate for area of origin rights, the Board of Supervisors this week turned the reigns over to another DWR employee, Toccoy Dudley. Toccoy Dudley is currently the administrative chief of the groundwater division for DWR. As Director of the Department of Butte County Water and Resource Conservation, he will oversee the inte-

gration of Butte County groundwater into the State water supply. Dudley will be assisted by Vickie Newlin who now runs the Northern California CalFed program.

CalFed faced difficulties from the start because its very mission was contradictory -- safeguarding the delta's environment while ensuring that San Joaquin Valley farmers and Southern California water agencies had the water they demanded. But while water deliveries have escalated the delta is dying. "The delta is in worse shape than when CalFed was created," said Bill Jennings, who until recently headed the Deltakeeper environmental group. "The problem with CalFed is it provides an illusion of a solution, while the death of the delta proceeds apace." Butte & Plumas Counties have been providing Feather River water at no charge to the rest of the state for decades. Now DWR has its sights set on our aquifers. Having Dudley and Newlin in charge of preserving our water resources is likely to provide an illusion of local oversight of while the dewatering of our creeks and wells accelerates.

Voters should be appalled by the County's inability to recruit someone who has a focus on preserving/restoring our regional water resources. The DWR/Cal-Fed paradigm of water export planning will apparently decide what is fair. The predicted outcome will be that groundwater banking will convert our aquifers into fluctuating reservoirs, overlying landowners will lose their right to operate well pumps, creek water flows will continue to decline during dry months, native trees will experience years of dehydration before dying out *mysteriously*, economic wealth will continue to be consolidated into the accounts of a water oligarchy through expanding entitlements and Butte County water will be used to promote urban sprawl south of the Delta.

## **Safer Children, Secure Wetland**

Chico has an opportunity to not only recover something lost, but to enhance a disrupted ecosystem while providing a safer environment for local school children. Nature has such capacity to recover, to flourish, if humans can just stop abusing it and recognize the global contribution of nature's bounty. Frequently, humans derive great benefit from accepting nature's contribution. We have such a possibility before us in southeast Chico.

What residents and visitors find in much of southeast Chico are vernal pools and swales: ephemeral wetlands. Humboldt Road long ago bisected some of these wetlands that were commonplace in California until agriculture and urban sprawl destroyed them (95% of the state's native wetlands are gone). In the twentieth century, recycled automobiles added toxic waste to some of the Humboldt Road land, but all the while the wetlands waited for the opportunity to explode with color and water necessary for flowers, bees, birds, and little fish (fresh water shrimp).

Since New Urban Builders acquired 20 acres north of Humboldt Road, there is now an opportunity to restore the wetlands that were degraded without federal wetland permits in the late 1980s and 90s. Not only may the 20-acre site be restored to its former grandeur, but there is also an opportunity to connect the wetlands that are currently separated by Humboldt Road west of Bruce Road. Removing part of the road would not only connect the wetland acreage, but it would create a safe haven for the school children by stopping through traffic that currently speeds by Hank Marsh Junior High. The proposed Meriam Park development would provide more routes for vehicular traffic while leaving the school as a solo destination.

BEC hopes that New Urban Builders, the City of Chico, and the Chico Unified School District recognize the value in trading some asphalt for an expanded and renewed safe haven for school children and local wildlife.

**Bartlett**  
**COMPUTER REPAIR**  
APPLE & MACINTOSH  
Hardware & Software  
Support & Installation  
Fast, Dependable Service  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**



**Lorna Bartlett**  
(530) 893-3817

500 East 12th Street, Chico, CA 95928  
lornabar@pacbell.net



# WETLANDS

## Winter Brings Wonder of Bird Migration to Area Refuges

By Rex Stromness

A favorite sound of mine is the distant honking chorus of geese flying through the night sky en route to their winter home. A favorite sight is the geese flying swiftly overhead, drafting one another in ever changing formations, heading undeterred toward their destination.

The destination for a large number Canadian Geese as well as a varied array of other water fowl is the Sacramento Valley – the most important wintering area on the Pacific Flyway. The Canadian Geese come to the Valley from as far away as Siberia, Wrangle Island, The Aleutian Islands and Northern Canada. The valley has been and still is an abundant source of the seeds, sprouts and bugs the birds depend on to sustain them through the winter.

During their instinct-driven journey, the geese are sometimes in the air for days at a time flying at speeds usually around 35 mph (they have been clocked at up to 60 mph), using landmarks and even stars to guide them, the older birds guiding the younger. They can lose up to one-third of their body weight from their great effort. Young birds born too late aren't big and strong enough to make the trip and older birds sometimes don't begin the trip at all or perish along the way.

While this ancient migratory ritual has remained unchanged for thousands of years – the supportive network of wetlands on both ends of the bird's journey has changed considerably. Since the arrival of Europeans in the mid 1800s over 95 percent of the original valley wetlands have vanished due to agriculture and the confinement of the Sacramento River and the valley's vast network of creeks and drainages by dams and levees. It is estimated that before Shasta Dam was built in 1938, up to five million acres could flood during winter rains. Along with a much larger waterfowl population – pronghorn, grizzlies and elk were once abundant in the valley.

On the other end of things, much of the "pot hole" wetland regions of Al-



*Snow geese in the Sacramento Valley. Photo by Steve Emmons*

berta, Saskatchewan and other breeding grounds in the north are experiencing the incursion of agriculture and development, decreasing the waterfowl habitat.

Fortunately for the birds, there is a well established system of preserves, (both State and Federal) in the North Valley, that provide them vital habitat needed to sustain their

populations. Two of the original preserves, established in the 1930's, are Graylodge State Preserve near Gridley and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (Federal) near Willows. Along with these and other preserves, a growing amount of "conservation easement" land along and near the Sacramento River is being purchased by government and private entities and returned to some semblance of their original state. The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge system itself (preserves and easements) contains 65,000 acres. Graylodge includes 9,500 acres.

### **After a shaky start – the waterfowl and farmers have learned to co-exist.**

After a shaky start – the waterfowl and farmers have learned to co-exist. Farmers early on discovered that the clay soil in the valley was not suitable for row crops – but perfect for rice. Problem was the Geese and ducks saw the rice fields as giant cafeterias. According to Gary

Kramer of the SWP, one solution was to grow rice in the preserves.

"At one time there were 10,000 acres of rice being grown in the preserve," say Kramer. "This was quite expensive and labor intensive for us...we needed to find a better way for the rice and birds to co-exist."

When rice was tall and not blown over by the wind, it camouflaged the fields, keeping the birds away. But too often, it did blow over and the ducks and geese came calling – and eating. Solutions to the problems were needed. One was the development of a new strain of rice, with short, stiff stems that didn't blow over thus protecting the fields.

Another was development of a faster growing variety that could be harvested in 90 days (instead of 120) before the birds returned in the fall.

In the early 90's, farmers began leaving portions of their crop in the field and, due to restrictions on the burning of fields, flooding the fields during winter, providing much more habitat, a partial substitute for the lost wetlands.

The task of creating wetlands in the preserves and easements has been a human attempt to recreate nature...a daunting task. Canals, dikes, dams and levees have been employed to create and control the environment. Water is delivered via canals or pumped from the ground (surface water is cheaper). Seasonal marshes are drained in late spring to encourage plant growth in moist, exposed soil. They are reflooded in autumn to make seeds and plants available to the wildlife. Cyclic, controlled burns of fields are used to emulate natural conditions.

According to Lori Dieter, wildlife biologist at Graylodge, hunters and fishermen are responsible for a 93 percent of the funding of Graylodge and other preserves.

"The Pittman/Robinson and Dingle/Johnson Acts of the 1930's mandated that money from hunting and fishing taxes, licenses and stamps be directed to preservation of wildlife," says Dieter. "Fortunately, in our ever changing political landscape, these laws have remained solid and through the years we've had the funds to do our work."

She adds that it is important for citizens to be aware of and supportive of wildlife preservation in their areas.

"With the incredibly accelerated rate of development all over California, people need to understand the importance of preserving the populations of wildlife left."

The geese, swans, ducks and shorebirds will keep coming as long as they have these welcoming places to which to come. The preserves are islands of the past amid the new.



## On the 30th Anniversary of Butte Environmental Council

### Open Letter to Our Community

In the course of a human life, thirty seems a good age. The rough edges are wearing smooth, the reflexive enthusiasms have matured into directed thinking, and we've settled into the task of productive, conscientious living. The idea extends naturally to organizations: we applaud a business or an institution's thirty-year anniversary as a banner of constancy and proof of value to the community. Butte Environmental Council is thirty years old this year and we believe it is the right time to celebrate our staying power. And if, after three decades, our harshest critics persist in characterizing BEC as a fringe organization, then it is the right time to remind both our detractors and our supporters that throughout the history of this country, it has been the mavericks who have alerted us to the need for change and steered us toward a better way. Here, BEC's vision is simple: we must, as individuals and as communities, adopt an attitude of stewardship toward the places where we live. Forever.

The environmentalism practiced today by BEC has sprung from a grand American tradition, the conservationist movement championed by the likes of Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir. Roosevelt and Muir, to be sure, viewed the natural world from different angles. Roosevelt saw in America's rugged, mountainous landscapes the opportunity to develop his physical strength and tough-mindedness; Muir understood nature as the source and nurturer of his spirituality. What they shared, unequivocally, was a commitment to preserving the land and waters against the assaults of 20th century industrialism and excessive development. Neither sought to separate the interests of the natural world from those of human beings, since both recognized that guarding the environment and protecting human life amounted to the same thing.

The nationwide growth of environmental groups that is their legacy—groups whose work ultimately serves the greatest good of the greatest number (to quote Thomas Jefferson by way of conservationist Gifford Pinchot)—is one of the most enduring expressions of American democracy. It is hardly a radical notion that ordinary men and women should organize around a shared vision of the world they want to live in; they are simply performing their duty as citizens. Environmentalists are no different. We insist upon having a say in whether our society will be shaped by short-term economic interests or by our collective desire to make and keep our promises to the next generation. Rather than lose ourselves in the frantic nows of our digital age, we must acknowledge that the future, too, has a claim upon us.

From BEC's earliest days as a student-driven recycling project (not, in retrospect, an especially "out there" enterprise), we have subscribed to this long view of environmental responsibility. We have always known that our work has to be read as a blip—an important one, but a blip nonetheless—on the screen. The object of our care and effort, which is the environment that sustains us, precedes and succeeds the lives of individuals and institutions. Our health, our very existence is inextricably bound to the integrity of our forests, the purity of our air and soil, and the cleanliness of our water. The devastation of New Orleans and the neighboring Gulf communities wrought by Hurricane Katrina, linked at least in part to the degradation of the coastal wetlands that naturally buffer high winds and floodwaters, has brought home our fragility before the natural world. It has also made profoundly clear our obligation to preserve it. People everywhere are coming to understand that it is more than arrogance to think otherwise; it is suicide.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass has written of the need for us—for children, especially—to be "imaginatively responsible" to the place we live in. We need, in other words, to be mindful of our place within the natural world, to understand the land, to know where our water goes and how to take care of it. Environmental literacy, he insists, is as vital to democratic citizenship as reading and writing. BEC took up this cause thirty years ago, first by establishing recycling as a community norm, then by organizing awareness-raising events that have reached out to people from all over Northern California. BEC's annual Endangered Species Faire, inaugurated in 1979, puts the problem of our disappearing habitat and wildlife in front of Butte County schoolchildren and challenges them to seek solutions. Our yearly Environmental Banquet celebrates the achievements of local environmental advocates by providing a forum for their work and thought. The Eco-Life Classroom Environmental Education Project reaches K-6th grade students, sharpening their understanding of the risks posed by hazardous waste and deteriorating wetlands and helping them see their own role in diminishing the threat.

In our thirty years of serving this region, we have learned that this kind of capacity-building runs parallel to community-building. BEC's twice-yearly Bidwell Park and Chico Creek Cleanups bring people together who might not call themselves environmentalists but nevertheless share the satisfactions of participating responsibly in nature. There is something transformative in this otherwise unpleasant job of collecting thousands of pounds of litter—it reminds us that in taking care of our place, we're taking care of each other. It cultivates in us a habit of thought that carries us beyond the "I" and the "now": we are, always have been, always will be, in this together.

Embracing environmentalism does not mean withdrawing from the modern world, from progress, from the possibility of enjoying material success. It means living in a fuller awareness of how we, ourselves, are woven into the fabric of life. It means, more simply, being a good neighbor. We welcome all citizens and businesses that share this vision. Join us!

**Butte Environmental Council**  
www.BECnet.org • (530) 891-6424





## Keeping an Eye on the Butte County Association of Governments

By Bill Pascale

### Why Should I Care? (second in a series)

A recent article appearing in the *Enterprise-Record* covering the Highway 149/70 project described another death at the intersection. This is disturbing, since all of a sudden people are calling BCAG telling them something should be done at the intersection in the interim. Where have these people been for ten years?

People never get involved with these projects or causes until it hits home and this is a prime example. You can't put a Band-Aid fix on a major problem intersection, when the majority of the driving public has no depth perception, which in my personal opinion is a major cause of accidents at the Highway 70/149 intersection.

I was unaware of how much weight BCAG holds in this county concerning our transportation and road needs until I started attending the meetings on a regular basis. This Association either makes or breaks a project in our County. The sad part is that people don't get involved until the project is at their front door. I get sick of hearing, "I don't have time to go to these meetings; they are during the workweek." Well, very true, (I even had a full time job in my lifetime, but managed to go to a lot of other public meetings during the day, and my job was still there) but these meetings are very short and to the point, with no wasted time whatsoever.

People in general always have time or money for whatever they want to do (new car or boat, socializing with family and friends, talking on the cell phone for hours on end). Many of our BEC members are retired, and if they could take 30 minutes one Thursday each month and attend these meetings, maybe, just maybe we won't have to wait 10 years

for a lot of these projects to bear fruit. You don't have to be a good public speaker or writer, just having your support at these meetings is enough, or like the almond growers commercial said: "Eat one can a week."

In a nutshell below states what BCAG does and is responsible for. It seems rather simple, but the clot and money involved boggles the mind.

The By-Laws from the August 25, 2005 Agenda packet stating the function of BCAG.

1. Carry out all responsibilities as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency
2. Carry out all responsibilities as the Metropolitan Planning Organization
3. Act as the Area-wide Planning Organization (A-95 Clearinghouse) as designated by the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development.
4. Serve as the leading-agency for determining existing and projected regional housing needs and each locality's share of those needs.
5. Serve as the lead-agency for determination of air quality conformity between transportation plans, programs, and projects and the applicable State Implementation Plan.
6. Provide a venue for discussion and study of countywide problems of mutual interest of member governments.
7. Serve as the Administrative and Policy making agency for Butte Regional Transit or B-Line.

## Conservation Groups Sue Interior Dept. Over Critical Habitat

Chico, CA – Butte Environmental Council, the California Native Plant Society, Defenders of Wildlife, the San Joaquin Raptor And Wildlife Rescue Center, Vernalpools.Org, And Sierra Foothills Audubon Society have filed a complaint against the U.S. Department of the Interior over its second, Final Vernal Pool Critical Habitat Rule for 15 endangered and threatened vernal pool plants and animals found in California and Oregon. On August 11, 2005, the Final Rule, based on a seriously distorted economic analysis, designated 858,846 acres of critical habitat for the species, eliminating almost 900,000 acres that were proposed in the 2002 Draft Rule. The 2005 rule is a result of litigation also filed by some the current plaintiffs over the elimination of more than one million acres of VPCH for the 15 endangered and threatened vernal pool plants and animals and five entire counties.

In the 2005 final critical habitat designation, Interior unlawfully relied upon an inadequate analysis of economic impacts that overestimated potential costs of designation, as well as underestimated and disregarded potential benefits of designation. Additionally, Interior unlawfully excluded many areas, including National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, and lands overlapping with habitat conservation plans, based on inadequate existing protections.

"While Interior added some VPCH to five excluded counties, others like Placer and Stanislaus were decimated based on a political agenda, not economics, which leaves them open to this legal challenges," stated Barbara Vlamis, Executive Director of Butte Environmental Council.

To illustrate the overstated conclusions in the Economic Analysis, it was estimated that the proposed VPCH would cost \$152 million over 20 years in Butte County. Even if one accepts

the economic methods used, which the plaintiffs do not, this translates into only \$13 million per year at the seven percent discount rate used in the EA, a microscopic 0.17% when compared with the annual economic output of the county, \$7.36 billion (IMPLAN 2001). "Excluding any of the proposed VPCH in Butte County is still not justified by the economic analysis that led to this Rule," contends Vlamis

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. "Removing such significant acreage from Fresno, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, and Tehama counties may very well prevent the recovery of the 15 species," Vlamis asserted, "And it further calls into question the validity of the Economic Analysis that failed to provide any benefits associated with the protection of vernal pool grasslands, such as providing educational and recreational opportunities, infrastructure support services, ranching, tourism, and economy of scale by covering 15 species in one rule."

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. The eight endangered and seven threatened species are currently listed due to the severity of vernal pool destruction in California and Oregon. As the Proposed Rule indicated, Holland estimates that close to 75% of the Central Valley's vernal pool habitat was lost by 1997; the central coast has lost at a minimum 90%; southern California's losses exceed 95%; and Oregon has had 60% destroyed with 18% of the extant habitat considered intact (2002). More recent estimates place the habitat losses at over 90% throughout the historic range of vernal pools (Wright 2002).



## Humboldt Road Burn Dump Conclusion

Continued from Page 1

dump for approximately 70 years, but the County's as well.

One last caveat is to remind our readers that all this effort, expense, and danger were the product of a partnership between developers and the City of Chico to urbanize the area.

### Chico City Council Champions

City Councilors Dan Nguyen-Tan and the late Coleen Jarvis led the City away from a destructive cleanup option 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. Additional City Council leadership for final approvals was provided by Scott Gruendl, Andy Holcomb, Maureen Kirk, and Ann Schwab.

### Local Group Watchdogs

Due to the relentless demands of Butte Environmental Council, the California Park Board, the Hank Marsh PTO, the South Bidwell Park Neighborhood Association, and numerous individuals (some named below), all agencies involved in issuing permits required movement of hazardous wastes only when Hank Marsh Junior High was not in session.

BEC was the leader in advocating for more than five years not to allow any housing on formerly contaminated land. While the City played cagey, suggesting only multi-family housing was planned, in the end we were thrilled to see that the City implemented BEC's position, protecting future residents far more than the developer or the State agency wanted.

### Agency Leadership

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) was

always the agency that was most protective of the public's health throughout the seven years of concentrated activity to clean the Humboldt Road Burn Dump. BEC and the community raised the alarm repeatedly stressing that adequate air quality protection was not established and while the Water Board scoffed at our concerns of hazardous dust emissions, even when the Health Risk Assessment demonstrated that the Monster Cleanup would cause blood lead levels to rise, the BCAQMD conducted research and quietly implemented significant controls in their permits to curtail dust emissions.

### Community Heroes

Community members who were instrumental in the effort include Jim Fletcher, Alan Gair, Marvin Gold, Susan Minasian, Jim Morgan, Julie Nasr, Dr. Phil Smith, Christy Strauch, Nora Todenhagen, and Mona Weil.

**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.*

## Unnecessary "Cleanup" Guided by Development Interests

You would have thought that there was a serious, imminent threat to human or environmental health for the state agencies to demand a cleanup of the HRBD. The community believed that there were threats, but they diverged from the RWQCB solution fearing that the cleanup could be a bigger threat than leaving the waste in situ. What became apparent after more extensive testing, which was demanded by community groups and members, was that the community was correct in their assessment.

The only *current* problem was caused by salts like calcium and sulfate in the south fork of Dead Horse Slough, a seasonal stream. Contrary to the RWQCB's claim about the salts, those found in the slough did 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 was the deal here? Were the very high readings of lead in

the soil dangerous? Not really since heavy metals are fairly stable if left alone. So what was the RWQCB's motivation to 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 manipulating 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 were 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? Fortunately, that will not happen now due to BEC's leadership and perseverance.

## Opposition to Wal-mart Organizes, Seeks New Supporters

By Heather Schlaff

**Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy** (CARE) was originally formed in response to Wal-Mart's plans for an expansion of their existing Forest Avenue store into a Super Center. These huge (over 200,000 square foot) buildings include 24 hour discount groceries, fast food restaurants, gas stations and other services that displace existing smaller businesses that cannot compete with Wal-Mart's discounted prices. In addition to potential urban decay from closed businesses, these super centers have tremendous impacts on traffic, air quality and other environmental issues.

Now, Wal-Mart has plans for **another** Super Center in north Chico at the site of Sunset Hills Golf Course (the intersection of Garner and Esplanade). This means there would be two Wal-Mart Super Centers within seven miles of each other!

Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) are currently in progress on both the Forest Avenue expansion and the proposed north Chico site. Traffic impacts are the major concerns at both sites. Completion of these reports is not anticipated until after the first of the year. Following the release of the Environmental Impact Reports there will be a public comment period and public hearings also will be held.

Potential environmental and economic impacts of these two Wal-Mart projects are enormous! CARE invites all those concerned about Wal-Mart's plans for Chico to go to the website **[www.chicocares.org](http://www.chicocares.org)** to learn more about its purpose, and to join other concerned citizens who want to be informed and involved in supporting responsible growth.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**All Year! - Friends of Bidwell Park Weekly Volunteer Opportunities:** Friends of Bidwell Park sponsors volunteer invasive plant removal and trash pickup sessions 3-4 mornings a week. To find out more, to schedule a special group session, or to sign up for weekly park activity email updates, call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org).

**Every Tuesday – Power Walk Along the Creek.** Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 7PM for a 1 ½ hour brisk walk. Wear tennies/walking shoes and water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

**Yahi Group Cross Country Ski List.** Join our more than 35 cross-country ski enthusiasts this winter as we explore the backcountry of Colby Meadows and Lassen Park and enjoy the groomed trails of Mt. Shasta, Royal Gorge and Tahoe-Donner. If you'd like to be added to (or updated on) our list, please contact Yahi Group Leaders: Jeanne, 899-9980 or Larry, 342-7998. All ability levels welcome.

**On-Going Tuesday Volleyball.** Join Yahi Group members and friends for friendly, co-ed volleyball every Tuesday night at 7PM at the Chapman Center (corner of E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street and B Street in Chico). Cost: \$4 per night. Free lessons included. For more information call Karen, 899-8305 or Betty, 345-7205.

**Saturday, Dec. 17 – Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge** (grade 1, class A) Enjoy an incredible drive through the heartland of the Sacramento Valley's wintering waterfowl, stopping to observe the thousands of birds who feed and rest in the freshwater marshes. We'll also do two easy walks at Llano Seco and the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. Bring binoculars, field guide, camera, lunch and water. Bring \$3 for entrance fee and \$5 for carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net); Asst. Leader: Jeannie, 894-5354.

**Sunday, Dec 18 - Yahi Trail Hike** (grade 1, class A). Leisurely hike the Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park. This 5-6 mile round-trip trail passes by Alligator Hole, Bear Hole and a Diversion Dam and affords great views of Big Chico Creek and the surrounding canyon. Bring boots, water and a snack. Rain cancels. Meet at 1PM at Rifle Range/Horseshoe Lake parking area in Upper Bidwell Park. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

**Wednesday –Thursday, Dec. 21-22 - Winter Solstice in Colby Meadows** (grade 1, class A). Spend one of the longest nights of the year in a yurt surrounded by wintering trees and the poetry of snow. We'll snowshoe or cross-country ski 2 miles to the yurt, stay the night and return the next afternoon. Cost: \$5 per person for yurt. Bring snowshoes/cross-country skis, warm clothing/dress for snow, sleeping bag, mat for stay in yurt and individual commissary for 2 days and one night. Call to sign up and get more details. Leader: Theresa, 899-7331/[TMARCIS@shastacollege.edu](mailto:TMARCIS@shastacollege.edu); Asst. Leader: John, 872-8258.

**Wednesday, December 28 – Cross Country Ski, Colby Meadows** (grade 1, class A). An easy social tour for all levels of skiers. Weather and snow conditions may change destination. Bring ski gear, gloves, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Meet at 9 AM at the Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Saturday, December 31 - Chico Bike Ride.** Ride beside the Western Pacific Train tracks and CSUC campus. We'll check out some neighborhoods and campus edges. Then lunch downtown, maybe Moxie's. Meet 11:00 AM at West Lindo Ave and RR tracks. Park on street. Helmets required and bring water. Rain cancels. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Saturday, December 31 – Yahi Trail walk** to Bear or Salmon Hole (about 5 miles). Celebrate the outgoing Bidwell Park Centennial and the incoming new year, with information about the Bidwells, Bidwell Park his-

tory, & the natural world. From 9 am to 2 pm. Meet at Upper Park parking area E. Bring appropriate clothing, water and lunch. Children welcome if they're capable. Steady rain cancels. For more information, call Dave Nopel at 342-4118. Friends of Bidwell Park

**Sunday, January 1 – Annual polar bear swim** across One Mile Pool starting at 1 p.m. Friends of Bidwell Park

**Sunday, January 1 - Annual New Year's Day Hike** (grade 2, class A). Some people like to participate in the Chico's Polar Bear Swim. We prefer the warmer way to bring in the New Year, with the Yahi Group's annual hike in Bidwell Park. Let's meet at the Five-Mile parking lot (south side of Chico Creek) and, depending on the weather and trail conditions, we'll hike to Upper Bidwell Park or walk the trail in lower Bidwell Park. Bring hiking boots and tennies and rain gear if it is raining lightly or threatening rain. Dress in layers, and bring water and snacks. Meet at 1 PM. Return time: Approx. 4PM. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980. Asst. leader: John, 872-8258.

**Monday, January 2– Cross Country Ski, Colby Mountain Lookout** (grade 2, class A). This is for intermediate skiers who own ski equipment. Weather and snow conditions may change destination. Bring ski gear, gloves, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Meet at 8 AM at the Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Friday, January 13 - Dinner at Greyatip Thai Restaurant.** Enjoy good company and a delicious meal. Please call by Thursday, so I can make the reservation. Leader: Michelle 865-9491 or [Michelle95963@yahoo.com](mailto:Michelle95963@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, January 14 & Sunday January 29 – Cross Country Ski Lessons.** This is for beginners and intermediates who want to improve their overall ski techniques and fitness. There is a fee of \$10 per lesson. Bring ski gear, gloves, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting time, place and more information. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Sunday, January 15 - Bidwell Park Day Hike** (grade 2, class A). Take a mostly flat 10 mile trek along the south side of Big Chico Creek. Meet at One Mile's Caper Acres parking lot at 10:00 AM. Our walk is on paved park road past Five Mile to the upper park (via a gravel pedestrian/bike path) and ends at the golf course. We'll return to Five Mile to eat lunch and return to parking lot by 2-3 PM. Bring water and lunch, (or buy at golf course). Rain cancels. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

**Saturday, January 21 – Lassen Park Snowshoe Hike** (grade 2, class A). Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery on a moderate snowshoe walk in Lassen Park. We'll snowshoe part of the park road and travel cross country to a nice view of Mt. Shasta and nearby peaks. Bring snowshoes, boots, layered clothing, lunch, water and \$ for carpooling. Storm cancels. Approx. 180 miles round trip drive. Meet at 8AM at the Chico Park & Ride or at 10 AM at the Manzanita Lake parking area. Please call to confirm trip. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net).

**Sunday, January 29 - Hike Along Feather River in Oroville** (grade 2, class A). We will see views of Table Mountain, Feather River Canyon and Oroville Dam. We will start the hike from the Nature Center in Oroville then we will leisurely walk up/along the Feather River for about a 5 – 6 mile round trip. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 12PM and at the trail head in Oroville at 12:40 PM. Please bring water, snack, carpool \$\$ and sturdy shoes. Return time: approx. 5 PM. Heavy rain cancels.(Maybe Chinese Dinner afterwards) Leader: Michelle, 865-9491 or [Michelle95963@yahoo.com](mailto:Michelle95963@yahoo.com); Asst. Leader: Jeannie, 894-5354.

**Friday, February 10 - Dinner at Greyatip Thai Restaurant.** Enjoy good company and a delicious meal. Please call by Thursday, so I can make the reservation. Leader: Michelle 865-9491 or [Michelle95963@yahoo.com](mailto:Michelle95963@yahoo.com)



**Saturday, February 11 - Cross Country Ski** (grade 2, class B). We'll go where the snow is good. This is for people who own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting place and time. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Sunday, February 12 - Almond Blossom Bike Ride** (grade 2, class A). A flat, 15 mile ride through orchards and pastures on quiet country roads to Durham Park for lunch and return on the Durham Bike Path. On return we may check out murals on bike path along the Midway. Meet at 10AM at the Glen Oaks Memorial Park Cemetery Office, Hegan Lane and the Midway. Helmets required. Bring water and lunch (or buy one at the Durham Market). Rain cancels. Leader: Gene, 873-1552. Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

**Tuesday, February 21 - Weekly Power Walk** (grade 2, class A). Restarting for the spring and summer. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 ½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

**Saturday, February 25 - Cross Country Ski** (grade 2, class B). We'll go where the snow is good. This is for people who own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting place and time. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

**Sunday, February 26 - Bidwell Park Hike** (grade 1, class A) Leisurely hike along the south side of Big Chico Creek. We'll meet at the Caper Acres playground parking lot (south side of 1 mile) at 1PM then walk up to five mile and back on the north side of Big Chico Creek. Heavy Rain Cancels. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

**Tuesday, February 28 - Weekly Power Walk** (grade 2, class A). Meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 ½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980.

## *The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Goose Festival* **Arrives in January**



*Birdwatchers at the annual Snow Goose Festival. Photo by Tom Barrett.*

Join the growing flock of migrating and resident wildlife-spectators as we ascend upon **Chico and Red Bluff on the weekend of January 27-29, 2006 to partake in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway.** This premier birding and nature festival draws attention to the multitudes of migrating waterfowl that can be found wintering among the unique habitats of the Sacramento Valley through a series of exhilarating tours and informative workshops.

Prices for workshops and field trips typically range from \$7 to \$15, with the exception of special tours of the Sutter Buttes. Many activities can accommodate both adults and children, with discounted rates for nature enthusiasts under the age of 18. Additionally, the headquarters of the Festival at the Chico Masonic Family Center always features several free

events, including live animal exhibits and children's activities.

To kick-off the weekend's festivities, a **Wine & Wildlife Art Show & Reception** will take place at the historic **Chico Art Center on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Participants will be treated to a splendid array of wildlife-friendly farmed foods, while feasting their eyes upon the beautiful wildlife and landscape images from a dozen local and regional artists. Entrance to the Reception is \$10, with hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a no-host bar.

The keynote presentation on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** during our popular **Gathering of Wings Banquet & Silent Auction at the Sierra Nevada Brewery** will be delivered by master naturalist Walt Anderson, author of *Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes*. You can preview some of Walt's spectacu-

lar wildlife photography and images from his world travels at <http://www.geolobo.com/index.html>.

For full Snow Goose Festival program descriptions and updates, visit [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org) or contact us at [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org) or 530-345-1865 to receive a copy of our program by mail.





# FORESTRY

## Logging Threatens Concow Forest

By Laurel Paulson-Pierce

There is a beautiful place in the watershed of the Concow Lake Basin. Situated in the foothills is a parcel of U.S. Forest Service Land which contains several unique treasures. The habitat here serves as a haven for many species of wildlife, some of whom have been displaced by increased encroachment by humans into their territory. There are bobcats, ring-tailed cats, owls, raptors, chickarees, flying squirrels, spotted skunks, bears and mountain lions in the vicinity. It has a stream that flows into the Concow Reservoir, which provides breeding habitat for yellow-legged frogs, which could be a Species of Special Concern (meaning that they are becoming quite rare, and if not actually endangered, they are threatened). The frogs are often an indicator species whose existence is symbolic of the absence of pollution.

The riparian area contains woodwardia ferns, a Concow Maidu acorn mortar site, salamanders and native trout. This area has several different soil and terrain types. From decomposed granite to serpentine to rocky outcroppings, the parcel is bi-sected by Concow road. On the upper edge of this parcel is a place where the sky is very visible and it makes a great astronomy observation spot where many locals have observed stars and planets.

Several concerned citizens are working to establish this as a Foothills Forest Preserve. Forestry and botanical experts have estimated that some of the trees in this mature stand could be from 300 to 500 years old. Some say one of the specimen Ponderosa pine is the largest one they have ever seen! Where were you that many years ago? We believe they deserve to be protected and we have produced several newsletters and a petition to raise awareness and gather support for this.

We are in the beginning stages of establishing a website where there will be information, petitions, and copies of our newsletter, the Ring Tailed Cat can

be found. The site is [www.fawnspot.net](http://www.fawnspot.net) (FAWN stands for Forest and Watershed News). We also are compiling signatures on a petition to be presented to the Forest Service which administers this parcel. There is a forest review process that is being initiated now regarding long range use of the public lands in the Flea Valley area of the Plumas National Forest, and we are in contact with the U.S.F.S. about these plans.

We would welcome you to join us in hiking this area, and would like to invite BEC folks to come on Feb. 5, weather permitting, to see the old growth trees and other treasures.

We can meet at the public parking area by Concow Lake at 10 a.m. If you have any questions or need directions,

For more info contact Laurel Paulson-Pierce, [veraloe@cncnet.com](mailto:veraloe@cncnet.com) or call 533-3666.



*Old growth in Concow Lake Basin.*

## LA Freeway Nears Cow Pasture

Continued from Page 1

The environmental review document projects that the service level will drop from level C to level E by 2020. We wonder what will happen if gas prices keep climbing – maybe better planning for alternatives?

Many alternatives obviously exist to handle the majority of this internally generated traffic covering the complete 20-mile stretch between Oroville and Chico. Below are some ideas for the expansion corridor that we have presented to all the jurisdictional agencies over the last four years, yet they are dismissed as quaint when the \$133.1

million boondoggle with 4 lanes and 2 cloverleaf interchanges is crowding the discussion.

- Signalize both intersections at a cost of approximately \$250,000 each or use a fly over ramp.

- Diminish traffic speed from Oroville to 55.

- Lengthen turn lanes on Hwys 99 and 70.

- Advocate for more funding for more CHP personnel in the area.

- Prioritize Butte County Transit by increasing buses during peak commute hours.

BEC encourages the public to become involved with the Butte County Association of Governments, the entity that makes most major transportation decisions for all of us (see page 12 for more insight). They meet the last Thursday of every month. You can contact BCAG at 879-2468 or visit their web site at: [www.bcag.org](http://www.bcag.org).



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 |
| CRV                            | \$ | \$ | ◆ | \$ | ◆ | \$ | \$ |   | ◆ | \$ |    |    | ◆  | \$ | \$ | ◆  | \$ | \$ |    | \$ |
| Glass                          |    | \$ | ◆ | \$ |   | \$ | ◆  |   |   | ◆  | \$ |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Metal                          |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Bi-metal cans                  |    | \$ | ◆ |    | ◆ | ◆  |    |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Tin cans                       |    | \$ |   |    |   | ◆  | ◆  |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |
| Aluminum foil/ pie pans        |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    | \$ |   |   | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Scrap metals                   |    | \$ |   | \$ |   | \$ |    |   |   |    | \$ |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Plastics                       |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| #1 Plastic                     |    | \$ | ◆ | ◆  | ◆ |    | \$ |   | ◆ | ◆  | \$ |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| #2 Plastic                     |    | \$ | ◆ |    | ◆ |    | \$ |   |   | ◆  | \$ |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| #3-7 Plastic                   |    | \$ | ◆ |    |   |    | ◆  |   |   | ◆  | \$ |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    |    |
| Paper                          |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Newspaper                      |    |    | ◆ |    |   | ◆  | \$ |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Magazines                      |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    | ◆  |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Phone books                    |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    | ◆  |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Cardboard                      |    |    | ◆ |    |   | ◆  | \$ |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |    | ◆  | ◆  |
| Mixed paper                    |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    | \$ |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Ledger paper                   |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    | \$ |   |   | ◆  |    |    | ◆  | ◆  |    |    | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |
| Hazardous Waste                |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Alkaline batteries             |    |    | ◆ |    |   |    |    |   | ◆ |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Car batteries                  |    | \$ |   |    |   | \$ | ◆  | ◆ |   |    | \$ | ◆  |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Paint                          |    |    |   |    |   |    |    | ◆ |   |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Pesticides                     |    |    |   |    |   |    |    | ◆ |   |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Fluorescent lights & ballasts  |    |    |   |    |   |    | \$ | ◆ |   |    |    |    |    | \$ |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Used motor oil                 |    |    |   |    |   |    | F  | ◆ |   |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    | \$ |    |    |    |
| Anti-freeze                    |    |    |   |    |   |    |    | ◆ |   |    |    |    |    | ◆  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Miscellaneous                  |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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
- 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, M-F 8-4, closed  
12-1 for lunch. www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 8) Butte Co. 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.
- 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

- 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
- 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 Sta-  
tion 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 hrs.
- 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
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products  
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Yard Waste: Compost Facility  
Cohasset Rd (west headed toward airport),  
624-3529, 8-4 Tu-Sa, \$19 per cubic yard.

Septic Problems: Butte County  
Environmental Health Dept.  
Chico: 891-2727; Oroville: 538-7282

# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

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

BMU 002, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0763  
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978  
www.aschico.org; 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  
530/824-0253  
www.altacal.org; Jacksons3@aol.com  
Jackson Shedd, 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  
First & Normal Streets  
Chico, CA 95929  
530/345-4542  
www.csuchico.edu/amc  
mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu  
Mike Lennox, President

## **Bidwell Environmental Institute**

CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0555  
530/898-6317 fax: 530/898-4363  
www.csuchico.edu/bei  
rlederer@csuchico.edu  
Dr. Roger Lederer, Director

## **Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial Celebration**

PO Box 88  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/891-5559 ext. 307  
bpcc@sbcglobal.net  
Ann Schwab, Chair

## **Bidwell Park Endowment Fund**

PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223  
530/345-7265  
ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net  
Tom Barrett

## **Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927  
530/343-9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)

## **Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance**

PO Box 461, Chico, CA 95927  
530/894-1308; www.bigchicocreek.org  
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org  
Susan Strachan, Chair

## **Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**

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

## **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**

2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916/447-2677; cnps@cnps.org  
www.cnps.org

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

PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927  
530/342-6053  
woodyelliott@digitalpath.net  
Woody Elliott, President

## **California Oak Foundation**

1212 Broadway, Suite 810  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510/763-0282; fax: 510/208-4435  
www.californiaoaks.org  
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org  
Janet Santos Cobb, Executive Director

## **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**

530/534-0400; fax: 530/534-0400  
Ellen Simon & Lee Edwards

## **Chico Certified Farmer's Market**

305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/893-3276  
Terry Givens, Market Manager

## **Chico Creek Nature Center**

*In Bidwell Park*; 1968 E. 8th Street  
Chico, California 95928  
(530) 891-4671 fax: 530/891-0837  
www.chico.com/naturecenter  
naturecenter@chico.com  
Tom Haithcock, Director

## **Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association**

1627 Arcadian Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/343-8334; www.theavenues.org

avenues@infostations.com  
Kasey Merrill

## **Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program**

PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530/895-0866; streamrc@earthlink.net  
Roger Cole

## **Chico Velo Cycling Club**

PO Box 2285, Chico, CA 95927-2285  
530/343-8356 fax: 530/342-4646  
800/482-2453; www.chicovelo.org  
ed@chicovelo.org; Ed McLaughlin

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

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

## **Environmental Action & Resource Center**

418 Ivy St., Chico, CA 95928  
530/898-5676  
www.csuchico.edu/earc  
earc@csuchico.edu

## **The Esplanade League**

PO Box 4868  
Chico, CA 95927-4868  
www.esplanadeleague.org  
eleague@shocking.com  
Diana Dwyre, President

## **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**

PO Box 3036  
Chico, CA 95927-3036  
530/892-1666  
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org  
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org  
Susan Mason, President

## **Friends of Butte Creek**

PO Box 3305  
Chico, CA 95927  
530/879-0887



# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

www.buttetecreek.org  
friends@buttecreek.org  
Allen Harthorn

## **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

## **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

## **Kids & Creeks**

113 W. 19th Street, Chico, CA 95928  
www.kidsandcreeks.org  
roxannebaxter@sbcglobal.net  
Roxanne Baxter

## **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  
530/898-5684 fax: 530/898-4363  
jhubbell@csuchico.edu  
Jean Hubbell

## **Middle Mountain Foundation**

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

## **Mill Creek Conservancy**

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

## **The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley**

500 Main Street, Suite B  
Chico, CA 95928  
530/897-6370 fax: 530/342-0257  
Sam Lawson

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

2300 B Estes Road, Chico, CA 95928  
530/345-7590; mike4pax@aol.com  
Michael Pike

## **Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave., Chico, CA 95926  
530/894-7738 fax: 530/894-7738  
www.landconservation.org  
ncrlt@shocking.com  
Calli Jane-Burke, Executive Director

## **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**

580 Vallombrosa Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/894-5401 ext 22,  
fax: 530/894-2970  
www.riverpartners.org  
info@riverpartners.org  
John Carlon, President

## **Sacramento River Preservation Trust**

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

## **Sacramento River Watershed Program**

500 Orange Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
530/879-0887  
www.sacriver.org

## **Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927  
530/824-2588  
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/  
gmradm@aol.com  
Grace Marvin, Chair

## **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  
sbpna00@yahoo.com  
Phil Smith

## **South Campus Neighborhood Association**

1405 West 3rd Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
530/898-2623  
www.southcampusneighborhood.org  
preusser@shocking.com  
Charles Preusser, Chair

## **South Chico Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 3582, Chico, CA 95927  
dguzzetti@hotmail.com  
David Guzzetti

## **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; streamrc@earthlink.net  
Roger Cole

## **TreeAction**

530/896-1168; www.treeaction.org  
laz@chiconet.com; Karen Laslo

## **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  
Dan Cook

## **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

# Become a BEC Member!

## What does BEC do?

- Hosts the Endangered Species Faire
- Participates in public hearings on proposed developments
- Hosts 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 quarterly *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"/> \$150 | Energy Elite   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Wetlands Watch   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 | Low income |
| <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).

## Donate Your Used Vehicles

To Butte Environmental Council!  
Running or not, and get a tax deduction...

Call toll free (have title with you)

**(877) CARS-4-US Ext. 1865**

**Cars, boats, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles,  
vans, jet-skis, motor homes, and even buses.**

## Thank You to Our *Environmental News* Advertisers & Sponsors:

River Partners • Pullins Cyclery • Bartlett Computer Repair  
Greenfeet • Please support these organizations and businesses!

## A Gift that Works for You!

Did you know that your gift to Butte Environmental Council can provide you with income for life, reduce capital gains taxes, and leave a powerful legacy of environmental protection and education?

### Why Make a Bequest?

The bequests our members make leave an ongoing legacy to the Butte Environmental Council. A growing number of members understand the benefits of including BEC in their estate plans. There are a variety of methods available for providing financial support:

### Planned Giving

- A bequest from your Will or Living Trust
- IRAs and Qualified Retirement Plans

### Other Donations

- Commemorative or Memorial Gifts
- Monthly Giving (BEC Angels)

*If you are interested, please contact your  
personal financial planner or attorney.  
For basic information, please contact  
Butte Environmental Council.*

Phone: (530) 891-6424

Email: [legacy@becnet.org](mailto:legacy@becnet.org)

