



# Endangered Species Faire!

## Saturday, May 7

See Pages 10-11



# BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S Environmental NEWS

Spring 2005 Volume 11 Number 2

## Butte County 2025: Rich in Water, Agriculture & Wildlands or Tacky Sprawl USA?

By Barbara Vlamis

What path will Butte County pursue in the coming 20 years? The destructive subdivision trend spreading along Highway 70 in Yuba County is the apple of “pig-snout home” developers like KB Homes and AKT. Along with developer Dan Kohrtdt, the Illinois transplant now owning close to 25,000 acres in Butte County, these spoilers of nature, agriculture, and urban communities seek to transform the Sacramento Valley into the Cement and Surreal Model: auto malls, big box retail, trophy homes, golf courses, and congested freeways. For a peek at what they have in mind,

just look at Sacramento’s malignant expansion along highways 99, 80, and 50: a current nightmare that is expected to almost double in 45 years.

In response to the escalating losses of wetlands, oak woodlands, and grasslands, and the traffic, water, energy, and flooding problems in the Sacramento County region, the Sacramento Association of Governments (SACOG) went through an expensive planning process: the Sacramento Region Blueprint Transportation-Land Use Study

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## Sac. Valley’s Water at a Crossroads

By the Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus  
(<http://sviewc.org>)

The manipulation and alteration of water resources throughout the Sacramento Valley’s watersheds have produced enormous wealth for some at the expense of many others. Unfortunately, if recent efforts by the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and some local water districts and farmers are successful, this trend will worsen.

### The Pressing Problems and Threats:

1. Reclamation has renewed almost all Central Valley Project water contracts for millions of acre-feet of water for 25-50 years. Even though the renewed contracts will allow the water districts to take more water than they have historically used and sell their water out of the Valley, Reclamation has determined that there will

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## Victory for Vernal Pools! Conservation Groups & Developers Reach Agreement to Protect Placer County Wetlands

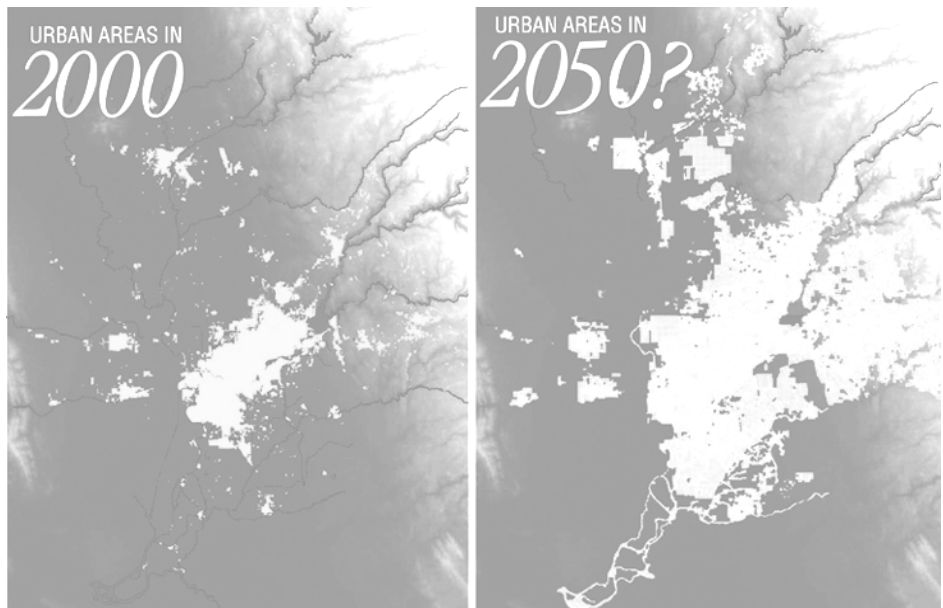
By Barbara Vlamis

On April 11, 2005, Defenders of Wildlife and Butte Environmental Council announced an agreement with federal agencies and local developers that will ensure extensive protections for increasingly rare vernal pool wetlands within Placer County. The settlement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and development companies, 1600 Placer Investors, and Roseville/Fiddymont Land Ventures sets an important precedent for construction projects within California’s rapidly urbanizing Central Valley and is an encouraging example of what

can be accomplished when developers and conservation groups work together to address common problems.

“Today’s agreement signifies just how successful we can be when local stakeholders work together to achieve a common goal.” Kim Delfino, Director of California Programs for Defenders of Wildlife added, “We hope that future developers will look at this agreement as an example of how local stakeholders should be working together early in the development process to preserve and protect our national wildlife and wild lands.”

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A projection of Sacramento Valley growth by the Sacramento Region Blueprint Land Use Study ([sacregionblueprint.org](http://sacregionblueprint.org)).

## 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 Calender, e-mail Tempra Board at [tempra@wildcalifornia.org](mailto:tempra@wildcalifornia.org). All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via e-mail to [tempra@wildcalifornia.org](mailto:tempra@wildcalifornia.org). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC. Photos and art work will be returned if requested (include a SASE).

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### About BEC

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

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**Hours:** Monday through Thursday,  
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### 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

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# FROM THE BEC BOARD

## Notes from the Board President By Kathryn Hood

The Environmental Banquet held at the Sierra Nevada Big Room (Thank you Ken Grossman) on April 6<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success thanks to the support of Chico's environmental community. Thank you also to the local groups that gave of their time and talents to help plan and sell tickets. We are also grateful to the businesses that contributed donations for the raffle and silent auction.

Several hundred people attended the event, which supports the Endangered Species Faire,

with land use, air quality, water issues, endangered species, and a host of other issues that impact the North Valley and foothills ecosystem. Thank you, Felicia, for your vote of confidence!

BEC's long-standing Michael McGinnis Service Award went to volunteer Jim Brobeck for his tireless work on forestry issues in Butte County. BEC is also excited to announce a new award this

year – the Coleen Jarvis Environmentalist of the Year award, which was awarded to Coleen posthumously, and presented to her daughter, Carli Jarvis, at the banquet.

This year's Environmental Banquet was indeed a collaborative effort that resulted in a great evening of conviviality and celebration.

### Recruiting, Recruiting, Recruiting

As ever, we are recruiting new blood for the BEC Board of Directors. The commitment for a board position is one year. If you are interested, a present board member would meet with you to talk about what the duties and responsibilities are and then you would be invited to a board meeting to see us "in action."

We are also recruiting energetic people to serve on one or two of our committees. These include the Events Committee- would you like to help plan and put on the Environmental Banquet or Endangered Species Faire? The Fundraising Committee- do you know of creative ways to raise money? The Membership Committee- as you are aware, our Angles and members are



*Faces at the Environmental Banquet: Felicia Marcus and Lynn Barris*



*Diane Suzuki and Mira Talbott-Pope*

taking place Saturday, May 7 (see center spread for details). Felicia Marcus, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Trust for Public Land gave an impassioned presentation on the Politics of Environmental Protection. She noted how critical it is to have advocacy groups like BEC, who keep the pressure on through their direct action and convening activities. Felicia added that it's unusual to have a group like BEC that is so holistic in its approach – dealing



*Karen Laslo*

the lifeblood of BEC and the "care and feeding" of our supporters takes time, such as the writing of thank you letters and making phone calls to encourage renewals. The Public Relations Committee- are you media savvy and can think of positive ways to get our name out there to the general public? Then become our volunteer publicist! If you are interested helping out in a way that will really make a difference in the protection of the quality of life in our beautiful North State, you can call the office or contact a present board member.

Butte Environmental Council is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. A newly formed committee (another one that you could join!) is meeting to plan activities and events to celebrate our thirty years of service as a not for profit public benefit corporation that has kept the environmental health of our community at the top of its agenda.

Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in May, the 7<sup>th</sup>, to attend or help at the Endangered Species Faire. This event is a wonderful way to have fun and show your support for the many organizations that have booths with information and "free stuff." The theme of the faire this year is Grassland Wonders. The T-shirt and poster design was unveiled at the Environmental Banquet and it is a beauty! This shirt is a "must have" for kids and adults. Hope to see you there!

# FROM THE BEC DIRECTOR

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## Butte County 2025 Beating the Cement and Surreal Model

(Blueprint). The Blueprint used well-known *smart growth* principles, created a number of expansion scenarios, and solicited extensive input from the public and area policy makers. As expected, overwhelming majorities selected the anti-sprawl vision and the SACOG Board of Directors unanimously approved the Preferred Blueprint Scenario for 2050 in December 2004.

What is encouraging from the Blueprint effort is that the public and politicians have an understanding of what planning principles mean on the ground (e.g. compact urban form, open space preservation, mixed use, transit corridors), however, the implementation of the Blueprint is a failure. "The Preferred Scenario is intended to be a voluntary guide for jurisdictions to help make land-use and transportation choices over the next 50 years as the region's population grows from 2 million to more than 3.8 million people." *Voluntary*? How will that protect the region from repeating the mistakes of Los Angeles, San Jose, Walnut Creek, and existing Sacramento sprawl? Imagine if the police told you that they would prefer that you not run red lights or break into your neighbor's home, since enforcement for such crimes isn't

**Imagine if the police told you that they would prefer that you not run red lights or break into your neighbor's home, since enforcement for such crimes isn't mandatory anymore.**

mandatory anymore. It would just be nicer.

California has recently experienced massive electricity shortages, catastrophic flooding and water shortages, and everyone abhors the traffic deaths and delays so common in every major urban area here. Gas prices, long unrealistically low, are climbing rapidly and the world's available petroleum stockpile may be gone in less than a generation. Yet we refuse to alter how we plan for the future. Why do the state, counties, and cities keep allowing residential and commercial building that exacerbates the worst planning possible? Are Californians incapable of learning from places many have fled? Do we, as well as the state and federal governments, fail to comprehend living within a budget?

Like SACOG, the State of Maryland created its own proposal to build livable human communities while encouraging agriculture and treasuring nature (see sidebar). If regions would mandate this model of planning, it would not only be a healthier place to live, it would be tremendously cost effective! Restoring what has been lost in the sprawling subdivisions of California is outrageously expensive (making them pedestrian

and transit friendly – L.A., Bay Area; cleaning the air and water – L.A., San Joaquin Valley; revitalizing downtowns and abandoned big box stores – cities everywhere; and restoring habitat for species pushed to the edge of extinction – California's coast, Central Valley, deserts, and forests).

Planning with purpose and law can protect what all people clearly value: clean air, clean water, wildlands, recreation, and agriculture. Butte County hasn't been devastated...yet! There is still time to plan well here, but time is running out. If you look at the Butte County Zoning and Land Use map, you can see the existing cities. Imagine them doubling in size as some are envision-

ing. Picture a new town north of Chico as Dan Korhdt proposes. Imagine the agricultural lands south of Biggs and Oroville growing subdivisions and Walmarts, not fruit and cattle. Is Butte County destined to trade its water, air, food, forests, and heritage to be Anywhere USA?

Why do we tolerate such expensive, counterproductive residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation planning? Vested interests play a pivotal role in continuing the Cement and Surreal Model seeking private profit at public cost. But we also suffer from ideological blinders. Decades of indoctrination in the virtues of automotive dependence and market competition and the evils

of government have left many citizens unable to comprehend that the allure of the open road fostered by Detroit and Tokyo and market values are frequently detrimental to the public good. To untangle Butte County from the Cement and Surreal Model, residents need to participate in the democratic process that is our birthright.

If you are interested in updates on vital planning issues in Butte County, please send your e-mail address and contact information to: [staff@becnet.org](mailto:staff@becnet.org). In addition, you will find local government contacts on page 12, and tips for living lightly on the land on page 16. Read. Listen. Speak. Engage. It can make all the difference in your world!

### State of Maryland Proposal



1. **Investing in Downtowns** provides a vital center for neighborhoods, cultural events, business centers and jobs.
2. **Concentrating Development** near cities and towns and revitalizing existing neighborhoods helps save money, time and Maryland's natural resources.
3. **Agricultural Lands** are a key part of Maryland's future. Sound management practices provide wildlife habitat, protect local streams and the Bay, and provide food.
4. **Large Forests** provide vital wildlife habitat, help filter pollutants from air and water, and provide forestry products.
5. **Streamside Forests and Wetlands** filter nutrients and toxics from the water and provide food and shelter for a while array of animals on land and water.
6. **Streamside and Rivers** are the blood vessels of the landscape. A healthy Chesapeake Bay can only be as healthy as its tributaries. There are over 17,000 miles of streams in Maryland, but many are threatened by erosion and pollution from development.
7. **The Chesapeake Bay** is the Nation's largest and most productive estuary, but it is threatened by excess nutrients and sediment.

### BEC Upholds Law in Face of Korhdt

Butte Environmental Council sued Butte County on December 8, 1999 after three Supervisors voted to issue grading permits to a developer in Oroville, Dan Korhdt. Despite explicit advice from Butte County Counsel's office, that indicated the grading was in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act and in violation of Butte County Code requirements, the Board of Supervisors on a 3-2 affirmative vote by Beeler, Davis, and Josiassen, directed County staff to permit Ridgeway Development to conduct additional grading in clear violation of the law. BEC was the only group in the region that would tackle this explosive situation and we successfully settled the lawsuit with every demand intact!

# WATER

## Restoration Projects Bring Flood Management Benefits

By Barney Flynn, River Partners

The ecological vision of floodplain management involving the restoration of riverbank forests, sometimes called riparian forests, and the acquisition of floodplain lands, has brought significant flood control benefits to farmers and residents of California's Central Valley. It is important to recognize these ecologically based benefits, especially now as the present leadership in Washington is reviving an older version of floodplain management. This older vision rejects the vision of floodplain ecology in favor of narrow channelized streams, running between rock levees and scoured clear of vegetation -- the cemented Los Angeles River is the most extreme model. And this scorched-earth

vision is filtering down to California where state officials are toying with the idea of reviving the once-discredited Chico to Red Bluff Land-ing project, which proposes giant bank rock projects for the Sacramento River.

The ecological vision of floodplain management requires establishing area both for the river and the riparian forests that flank the riverbanks. The riparian forests provide some of the richest wildlife habitat in the state of California, and offer unique recreation opportunities. In flood conditions, out-of-bank flows are stored in the expanded floodplain and flow velocities are reduced. All this may seem like pie-in-the-sky, but the cost of a half mile flood plain strip is comparable to the cost of a rock channel.

Specific advantages to farmland behind a floodplain are multiple. Incoming river flow velocities are reduced by the riparian forest. At these slower flows, sediments deposit that would otherwise be swept onto farm fields in the form of silt dunes. The riparian forest screens out the logs and river flood debris that might wind up in an

orchard or alfalfa field. And the lower flow velocities reduce actual scouring and erosion on farmlands behind a floodplain zone. In addition, in the process of restoring riverside riparian forests, vestigial orchards are removed. These orchards, typically planted in times of high commodity prices and later abandoned, become sources of pests such as the navel orange worm and walnut husk fly, which can plague neighboring farmers.

Water quality is an additional benefit of floodplain ecology as a result of the "filter strip" effect of floodplain forests. As urban and agricultural chemical resi-dues flow through the riverside forests, riparian vegetation sequesters chemi-

cal components, producing cleaner water.

Current floodplain technology challenges the stereotype that real engineers build levees and dams while Johnny Appleseeds plant forests.

est. River Partners, established as a non-profit in 1998 in Chico, California has been a leader in this area and continues to develop plans for floodplain development that can accommodate both urban and agricultural neighbors.

At the 400-acre La Barranca project south of Red Bluff on the Sacramento River, River Partners is removing a floodplain walnut orchard, planting a riparian forest and grassland area that fills old gravel pits along the river, and removing a non-functioning levee, thus opening a floodplain that will take flood pressure off the across-the-river Dairyville neighbors.

The La Barranca project is designed as a self-contained floodplain that mainly accommodates out of the channel flows. In contrast, River Partners' O'Connor Lakes project, five miles south of Yuba city on the west bank of the Feather River involves riparian planting in the main flood channel.



*River Partners workers restoring a riparian forest on the grounds of the McConnell Arboretum, part of the Turtle Bay Exploration Park. The restoration will improve the habitat quality for wildlife and recreational opportunities for the community.*

This project involves rigorous scientific modeling of river flows, based on flood depths measured after the 1997 floods.

The riparian planting is designed as a mosaic of plant communities: trees such as oaks and cottonwoods; brushy plants such as elderberry and coyote brush; and native grasses such as creeping wild rye. This plant mosaic is defined on a computer database so each plant has a designated place, and the plants are arranged according to the projected flood-flow hydrology.

Floodplain ecology could be the ace-in-the-hole as the Central Valley faces doubled population in 2030 decade. Riparian forests could be a recreational bonanza. And, as possible climate changes bring bigger and earlier spring rains, floodplain water storage could help keep our new urbanites dry. And the wildlife habitat established both by the river and forest environments can preserve for future generations California's ecological heritage.



# WATER

## The Need for Water Justice In Northern California

Amy Vanderwarker  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Throughout the state, there is a growing movement for water justice in California. *Water justice* is the idea that all Californians, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or income should have access to safe, affordable water for all uses – from drinking to recreation to sustainable agriculture to subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering. The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water has been building a statewide coalition that supports a community-based vision for water in California, born from the environmental justice movement.

Many low-income communities of color face disproportionate environmental and health burdens as a result of inequitable environmental policies.

Environmental justice addresses the lack of political, economic and social resources and unequal health problems communities may face. Across California, many low-income communities of color do not have access to safe, affordable water. According to the Department of Water Resources, about 250,000 Californians sometimes go without water because they do not have a reliable source. Over 4 million residents may be drinking water that is contaminated. In urban areas, predominately low-income, people of color face increased flooding and toxic sewage overflows. Fishers who rely on daily catches may consume fish that has been contaminated as a result of legacy

pollution. Indigenous groups who once used salmon runs as a source of livelihood and spiritual connection must now rely on severely depleted populations. These communities are paying the costs for California's unsustainable water management with their health and quality of life.

Water in California has never been based on equity and justice. The state's extensive "plumbing" system was developed to transport water from northern California into growing southern California cities and agricultural empires. It has benefited real estate developers and rich, elite business interests. While agricultural interests continue to get cheap, subsidized water piped in from the Sierra Nevadas and northern California rivers, the surrounding rural communities are predominately small,

impoverished Latino communities. While these communities supply the labor for agricultural empires, they do not receive the benefits. Many drink local groundwater supplies that have been contaminated by years of pesticide use.

Environmental justice demands that communities participate as equal partners in every level of decision-making. Unfortunately, water is governed by a confusing system of water districts and agencies. Public agencies such as the Department of Water Resources operate on assumptions that exclude much of the public. Not everyone can speak or read English fluently, can travel long distances, miss work, and pay for childcare in order to attend policy meetings.

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## Birds of the Riparian Habitat Tour



Black-headed grosbeak



Swainson's hawk



Spotted towhee

Saturday, June 4, 2005  
8:30 am - 11:30 am

Three-hour, 2 mile  
Difficulty: Easy, fun for the entire family

You'll be amazed at what you'll see....  
on this guided walking tour of **Del Rio Wildland Preserve!**

Join our guides Tom Griggs Ph. D., Senior Ecologist and Dan Efseaff, Restoration Ecologist for this unique tour of a riparian restoration project in the Sacramento River floodplain. This gentle walking tour offers something for everyone, as we guide you through the restoration project. Riparian forests and savannas are home for a wide variety of animals, and this is a great time of year to discover the diversity of songbirds that use even new restoration sites. We request a tour donation of \$5 for adults. Children under 12 are free and must be accompanied by an adult.

To make reservations or for questions call River Partners (530) 894-5401  
or stop by our office at 580 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico CA 95926.



# WATER

## Sacramento Valley Water's Future at a Crossroads

### *Help Decide its Course*

Continued from Page 1

be no significant impacts with these changes. We believe that their conclusion is terribly wrong and needs to be reconsidered.

2. More and more water districts in the Valley are willing to sell water out of their watersheds, predominantly to the MWD, even in the face of our regional environmental needs. If not for near record levels of rainfall in the south, tens of thousands of acres of land could have been fallowed in the Valley this summer as its water would have been shipped south. Some of the transferred water could also have been made up by increased pumping of the Valley's groundwater reserves, giving those water districts the benefit of making \$100 per acre foot selling water they paid little or nothing for, and being able to continue to farm while causing potential impacts on neighboring wells and groundwater supplies.

3. Every year, Reclamation and DWR want to squeeze hundreds of

thousands of acre-feet more water out of Shasta, Oroville, Trinity, Folsom, and other reservoirs to ship to corporate farms and cities south of the Delta. They want to pursue removing more water from these reservoirs sooner, leaving reservoir recreation economies with undesirable lake levels much more often. Conditions will be much worse when there are only a few below normal water years in a row. In even moderate droughts, the Valley's farms, fisheries, and economy will be enormously harmed. Downstream fisheries will suffer with warmer and less water. Groundwater usage will skyrocket. The hydrologic cycle of our rivers will become even more unnatural than they already are, with less flows released in the spring and winter and more flows in the summer, the exact reverse of the conditions in which native habitat and species evolved.

4. As voters in the south become more dependent on exports from the

Sacramento Valley, it will be nearly impossible to ensure that local farmers, communities and the environment have enough water, especially during droughts. By committing to the south's growth, the economy and communities of the northern valley, foothill, and mountain ecoregions are threatened. Our groundwater reserves will again be over tapped possibly resulting in permanent damage to our aquifers. Our recreation will be diminished. And only a few will make money selling our water supplies, while fields go fallow, workers are laid off, suppliers lose revenue, and our regional economy is harmed.

To stop these potential problems and threats from becoming reality, local interest groups and leaders need a common vision and plan to save and make the best use of our regional water resources for the benefit of all. We need people like the reader of this article to help. See the sidebar for information on how.

### A list of actions you can take now:

- Learn more about what is going on. Become a member of Butte Environmental Council, Friends of the River, Sacramento Preservation Trust, NRDC, CalTrout, your local chapter of Sierra Club, Audubon, NCCFFA, your local watershed organizations and other important groups. Get their newsletters. Encourage them to actively help with the effort to protect our water resources. Volunteer! You can make a lot happen through these dedicated organizations and their infrastructure.
- Write a letter, talk and meet with your local, state and federal elected representatives and ask what they are doing to help ensure we are not harmed as the efforts to transfer our water south intensify (see page 12). Take notes and make follow up calls. Educate them. Write letters to the editor. You can have more influence than you imagine, because they have little choice but to agree with you. And they know you represent hundreds of others with similar views.

- Subscribe to the Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus's [free](#) email newsletter. Send a request to Kevin Wolf ([kevin@wolfandassociates.com](mailto:kevin@wolfandassociates.com)). Make a donation to the SVEWC's efforts by sending a check to Friends of the River – SVEWC, 915 20th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

- Put on your calendar June 11, 2005 and join the SVEWC in Chico as it unveils its plan to create a broad campaign to protect and save the Valley's water resources. For more information, contact Barbara Vlamis, John Merz, Steve Evans, Michael Jackson, Jim Brobeck, Bruce Smith, Marty Dunlap or Kevin Wolf.

Thank you. You can make a difference in this effort to ensure that everyone who loves the Sacramento Valley, its watersheds, its farmlands and towns, its native species and habitat can realize a common vision of secure water resources to meet all our needs.

## Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

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In northern California, people may be drinking contaminated water because they do not have money to properly maintain their wells or groundwater is not properly monitored. Rural systems face hefty pump and pipe costs they must cover with little financial or technical support. Trips to water board or agency meetings, where decisions are made, are long and expensive.

The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is bridging the gap between urban and rural community water fights. As we work to develop a common language that encompasses diverse communities needs, the perspective from northern California must be included. Our coalition is made up of grassroots organizations and advocacy groups. We connect state-level policy work with

local, grassroots efforts, advocating for community concerns in government and agency halls. We help communities with their own water-related struggles, from assisting with grant applications for water-related funding to providing information on how water systems work.

Our coalition has successfully helped fight off corporate control of water in a small, rural community; succeeded in getting the Department of Health Services to set aside \$10 million dollars in water grant funding for small, disadvantaged communities; and pushed the California Bay-Delta Authority to incorporate environmental justice into their programs. We are developing water education and strategizing workshops to help communities identify and address water problems they may face. In June

of 2005, we will release a report that details the extent of water-related injustices in California. It includes a historical analysis of water policy and highlights many community strategies to address water problems in their areas.

We encourage anyone interested in our work to call us or visit our website, [www.ejcw.org](http://www.ejcw.org). We also encourage anyone to contact us with requests for our upcoming report on the need for water justice in California.

For more information, please contact Amy Vanderwarker  
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# WETLANDS

## Victory for Vernal Pools!

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The vernal pool grasslands intended to be protected by this agreement fill with water during fall and winter rains, providing vital habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species that often exist nowhere else in the world. These unique wetlands and surrounding grasslands were historically found throughout most of California's Central Valley and southern California coastal areas, but independent scientists now estimate that more than 90 percent of this habitat has been destroyed.



Fairy shrimp

Reflecting this loss, much of the remaining habitat, including the land at issue in this case, has been designated under the Endangered Species Act as "critical habitat" for two endangered species found nowhere else in the world—vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp.

Key points of the settlement include:

- Establishing a system for ensuring that for every acre of vernal pool critical habitat that is developed, two are purchased for conservation purposes.
- Requiring developers to purchase mitigation properties prior to development, including three key Placer County parcels totaling 1,084 acres within the area designated as critical habitat and directly in the path of future development.
- Providing funds to the Placer County Land Trust for acquisitions and easements of at least 1,000 acres of vernal pool grasslands within the next five years.
- Future acquisition of an additional 3,835 acres of wetlands and grasslands critical habitat – all within

Placer County.

- Funding of two studies addressing the cumulative losses of vernal pool grasslands within the Central Valley and analyzing the biological viability of the current practice of using small preserve areas surrounded by development – for the destruction of larger intact vernal pool grasslands.
- Requiring federal agencies to incorporate terms of the settlement into their approvals for the project, setting an important precedent for future development in Placer County.

The Westpark/Fiddymont Ranch project is part of the West Roseville Specific Plan, which was challenged earlier for violating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) due to air, water and traffic concerns. The parties to that suit announced a settlement in August 2004 in which a community benefit fee program was created to secure future land protection.

The settlement comes after Defenders and Butte Environmental Council filed a federal lawsuit under the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act against the project because it would have eliminated thousands of acres of vital habitat, an issue not addressed in the CEQA litigation.

"Our settlement agreement significantly strengthens the CEQA settlement agreement by 'front-loading' the protection of thousands of acres of vernal pool grasslands within the first five years of the development project instead of waiting another 10 years," stated Ms. Delfino. "It also ensures that the agreement will be consistent with efforts to recover endangered vernal pool species."

## Deal Set to Protect Habitat

Reprinted from the *Sacramento Bee*  
By Denny Walsh -- Bee Staff Writer

Two acres of vernal pool habitat will be purchased and preserved by the developers for every acre destroyed in building a planned-community addition in Roseville, under the terms of a legal settlement announced Monday.

It is anticipated that 5,790 acres that are home to fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp will be preserved to offset the project's impact on 2,771 acres, according to Kim Delfino, an official of Defenders of Wildlife, one of two organizations that sued in Sacramento federal court to save the shrimp habitat.

The suit targeted actions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that allowed what is known as the West Roseville Specific Plan to proceed.

"Today's agreement signifies just how successful we can be when local stakeholders work together to achieve a common goal," Delfino said.

But Barbara Vlamis, executive director of the Butte Environmental Council, the suit's other plaintiff, was not so beneficent in her assessment.

"This settlement accomplishes what the Fish and Wildlife Service should have done two years ago - securing mitigation from this project that would promote recovery of grasslands rather than managing them toward extinction," Vlamis said.

Al Donner, Fish and Wildlife assistant field supervisor, said the law changed last year and the agency now has a mandate to work on the recovery of species as well as survival. Had that been the case when it signed off on the Roseville project, the agency might have extracted more in the way of mitigation.

"We're just glad to avoid long, costly litigation that would be a drain on the time and funds available to recover and preserve habitat," Donner added.

Vlamis said she hopes the outcome will be instructive to developers in the future.

"Maybe if development has to pay the true costs of destroying what little remains of California's endangered vernal pool grasslands, it will encour-

age developers to build within existing urban boundaries instead of obliterating our last remaining open spaces."

The 3,142 acres on which the project is to be built was annexed by Roseville for that purpose. It is northwest of Baseline and Fiddymont roads and is expected to add 21,000 residents to one of the fastest-growing areas of the state.

"We've settled and that's good," said Jim McKeehan on behalf of the two companies developing the property, WestPark Associates and Signature Properties. "We've got a project ready to go, and we're going to build it. We think it's a good one."

The project was challenged in an earlier lawsuit initiated by a coalition led by the Sierra Club. That suit focused on air, water and traffic concerns but did not address shrimp habitat. The first suit was resolved last year with a settlement that created a half-percent conveyance fee on the gross sales price of resales for 20 years. The fee doesn't apply to the initial purchase of homes.

The settlement announced Monday requires that 65 percent of land conserved under the terms of the first agreement be vernal pool critical habitat.

Approximately \$26 million already has been paid to acquire 1,084 acres in mitigation. The funding is a no-interest loan from the developers to the Placer Land Trust, a vehicle set up by terms of the first settlement to acquire property in mitigation.

Conveyance fees will be used to retire the loan and acquire additional habitat for preservation.

Construction of the planned community is scheduled to begin this year, with the first homes going up in spring 2006.

The vernal pool grasslands to be protected by Monday's agreement fill with water during fall and winter rains, providing habitat for a wide range of plant and animal life, some of which are unique to the Central Valley, including the two shrimp species.

Scientists estimate that more than 90 percent of the Central Valley's vernal pool grasslands have been destroyed.

# BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE

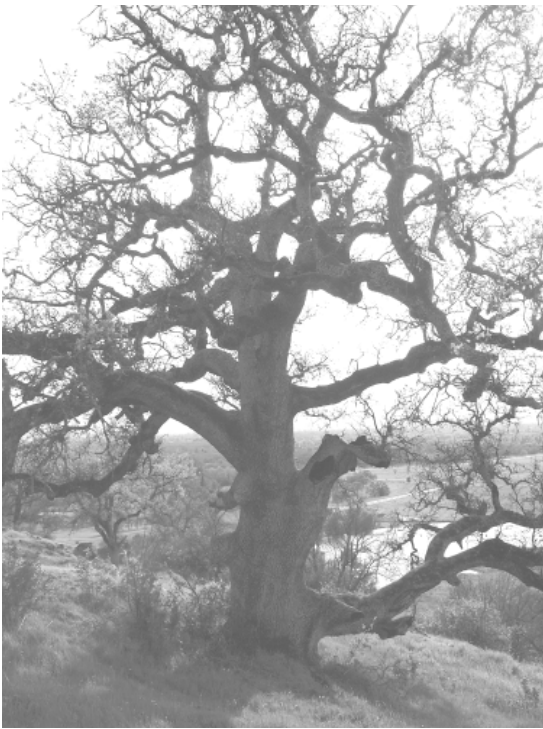
## Conversation At One Mile

By Karen Laslo 3/05

It's an ancient and aging Valley Oak. It's huge – three adults would be hard pressed to link hands around its massive trunk. In the rain it's dressed in a cloak of green moss. In the Fall it drops a brown and gold mosaic of leaves on the pavement below where I pass on my morning walks approaching One Mile in Bidwell Park. In Winter, a dark silhouette of bare tree branches stands out against the pale grey-blue of a winter morning sky, and a chill sun filters through, painting the limbs in alternate patterns of light and shadow. An artist friend of mine once told me that in winter, the exposed branches of trees remind him of human veins, the way they twist and turn and taper toward the tip.

One Spring morning a patch of bright saffron-yellow on the side of the oak caught my eye. When I stopped to look I saw that it was a bracket fungus emerging from a deep scar where the tree had once lost a limb. I knew that the fungus was a sign that this venerable old tree was deep into its decline. I noticed then how many of its limbs were broken, leaving jagged, sore-looking ends. Its thin scattering of leaves looked ragged and pathetic topping the great trunk of the tree that had once supported a thick and spreading crown.

This same morning of the bracket fungus, a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers flew up and clapped on to the side of the tree. A Grey Squirrel yipped at me from an overhead branch. A White-breasted Nuthatch walked



upside down on its trunk looking for insects. The last few shreds of a nest, left over from a previous spring, clung to a twiggy concave in the branches overhead.

I closed my eyes then, and, forgetting where I was or who might be passing by, I pressed my palms and forehead against the trunk of the dying old oak. The bark was thick and deeply grooved. I felt slight and fleeting against the sheer mass of the tree. Then, suddenly embarrassed that I might've been seen, I turned my back on the tree, and relieved to find that no one was in sight, I went on as though I were merely passing by on my usual walk. That's when the tree spoke to me. "I'm old," it said, "and yet, still useful. Ask the woodpeckers, they like me better than ever." "You're old," my heart replied, "and you're beautiful."

## Chico's Growth Boom Much More is Coming

Chico's growth is booming and most of us are stunned by the pace, cost and effects of this growth. Heavier traffic and unaffordable housing prices concern all of us and are not likely to improve. Chico seems too popular for its own good.

Environmentalists are deeply concerned about the increasing loss of open space and foothill views, habitats and species, and threats to air and water quality. Yet many developers continue to urge more expansion areas for sprawling tract homes. Since urban refugees and speculators will buy whatever they build, there's no motive to consider the two-thirds of Chico residents who can't afford or don't like what they're building. This is a recipe for environmental and social disaster.

Here's a sampler of what's coming our way:

**The Oak Valley subdivision between Highway 32 and Humboldt Road** is proposed for 340 acres and 1,300 homes, extending east from Bruce Road to the upper power lines, 1.2 miles above California Park. It's the largest foothill proposal since California Park and Canyon Oaks. It would develop Chico's most significant remaining foothill views and part of the Humboldt Road Burn Dump. The proposal will significantly impact traffic and public safety, stormwater runoff and pollution, oak woodlands and pristine open spaces.

**Traffic Gridlock:** Highway 32 intersections will reach gridlock because of anticipated development and no funding is currently available to provide essential highway improvements. The developers are paying nothing to rem-

edy these problems.

*Burn Dump Issues* will be partly resolved by prohibiting housing (but allowing parking and commercial buildings) directly on remediated toxic lands. Safety of the cleaned areas remains a concern. Housing may be built next to toxic sites before cleanup is completed, so protecting workers and new residents is a serious concern.

*The General Plan* calls for concentrating Oak Valley's housing near Bruce Road and preserving the upper area viewshed and habitat. But the Planning Commission majority has resisted proposals to limit development to the lowest, least visible areas and to prohibit or restrict building in the viewshed area. The view lots will offer little affordability to Chico residents and will mainly draw people to move here.

*Upper Humboldt Road* is a historical treasure, prized by cyclists. With more residents in the vicinity, it could be an even more important recreational amenity. But it is proposed for widening, with houses and apartments as close as 50 feet, devastating its surrounding park-like open spaces.

**Many developers continue to urge more expansion areas for sprawling tract homes. Since urban refugees and speculators will buy whatever they build, there's no motive to consider the two-thirds of Chico residents who can't afford or don't like what they're building.**

*An appeal to the City Council is likely*, which will put the decision in their hands in May. Intense public input at Council hearings will be crucial to protect Humboldt Road and our precious view of the foothills, to avoid toxic waste hazards, and to assure that developers pay their fair share to improve Highway 32 and avoid intersection gridlock.

**The "Meriam Park" Neighborhood**, west of Bruce Road, is similar in size to Oak Valley, but there the resem-

Continued on Page 9





# BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE

## Butte College Solar Project Impacts Area Wetlands

By Barbara Vlamis

Energy conservation is a laudable activity, promoted by environmental groups such as Butte Environmental Council for decades. *How* one accomplishes this is equally important. The Butte-Glenn Community College District failed to act responsibly when analyzing possible sites for solar panels using the least rigorous standard of review and notifying interested parties and adjacent landowners. Compounding those errors in judgment and possible illegality, the local newspapers continue to miss opportunities to adequately inform the public.

To provide some background, Butte Valley Preservation Society is challenging the district's solar project for failing to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. When projects will significantly impact the environment, CEQA requires environmental review that provides analysis of alternatives (like roof or parking lot placement), notifying the public and interested parties, and presenting thorough analysis of the environment impacts. This project will directly impact 13.5 acres of oak woodland and wetland savanna on property that the district designated as a preserve due to the valuable resources found there.

In a February 3, 2005 editorial in the CNR and a February 5, 2005 editorial in the Enterprise Record, a restraining order decision was misinterpreted as a profound statement on the merits of an environmental law case, which has yet to be heard. To start, the acting judge has no knowledge of environmental law – he is a criminal judge – the “environmental” judge had to disqualify himself due to conflicts. Second, anyone that attempts a CEQA case in Butte County knows full well that you better count on an appeal as Butte County has such limited expertise in this area of law. This current CEQA case has merit, with the district not only avoiding the spirit of the law, but also undertaking the weak-

est form of environmental review on their sensitive preserve. A critical review of the district's historic practices also demonstrates a pattern by the district to act in this manner. For example, the district previously destroyed wetlands that are protected under the Clean Water Act without permits and even acknowledges this error in a 1991 memo: “Our record to present in terms of wetland preservation is not good, possibly illegal.” It would behoove our educational institutions to not only teach about the environment, but to exhibit an environmental ethic.

In closing, we realize that Butte County's media is even more constrained financially than larger mainstream news outlets. Investigative reporting is time consuming, therefore expensive, which is why it is so easy for media to default to sources that are viewed as credible in our system: government, business, and some academic sources. Educational institutions are habitually accepted as credible even in the face of years of mismanagement and duplicitous behavior (e.g. Chico's Canyon View High). While we give credit to the CNR for articles presenting opposing views on this topic, neither paper has pursued the detailed entanglements and paper trail. All too often the local media show their built-in bias towards mainstream “official” sources such as business and government (such as schools), while ignoring non-mainstream sources such as individuals and grassroots groups. BEC encourages local media outlets to investigate many of the documented irregularities with this solar project, learn more about California's environmental laws, and consider media's inherent bias toward “official” sources.



*This aerial photo demonstrates clearly the wetland signature (note the light colored depressions), though Butte College's letter of April 14, 2004, denies the existence of any wetland habitat. Documentation currently with the Army Corps of Engineers, however, demonstrates that after public and agency scrutiny, the college recently acknowledged the existence of wetlands on the property.*

## Chico's Growth Boom

Continued from Page 8

blance ends. It is nearly surrounded by existing development and within walking/biking distance of several schools. The proposed design will preserve Little Chico Creek's open spaces and protect crucial wetlands habitat along Humboldt Road. As a first for Chico, it includes a significant “village commercial core” with upstairs housing and offices to reduce auto dependency. Its “smart growth,” “neo-traditional” design may serve as a new model for quality infill and pedestrian-friendly development. But housing affordability may remain an issue, unless people speak out in support of more affordable housing styles.

**The Diamond Match Property**, across in southwest Chico, is proposed for mixed residential-commercial development with several hundred residences. It may have a fairly smart design and is largely surrounded by development, but is up against the agricultural Green Line and next to the old “Barber” neighborhood, which would bear the brunt of its traffic. The project and its streets must be designed to minimize impacts to agriculture and the neighborhood and provide housing

more affordable to Chico residents.

**Moving up to Chico's northwest corner, the Northwest Specific Plan** is being developed for 632 acres and 2,000 residences, spanning Highway 99 south of Sycamore/Mud Creek. Many of us hoped this master plan would produce smarter, more efficient land use and affordability, but Council instructions for the plan have dampened expectations. *Public input will be important.* This plan will set the tone for either well-planned, more sustainable, compact development, or endless suburban sprawl across the Green Line and points west.

**A Mud Creek Specific Plan**, west across the Green Line, along Sycamore Creek, is being considered for 550 acres and 1,800 dwelling units. This is an area long designated by Butte County as a “study area” for *possible* future development, but it seems premature to consider it yet. Political pressures on all sides of this issue will be intense.

**The Sycamore Glen-Mountain Vista Subdivisions**, east of Cohasset along Sycamore Creek, propose 600 residences in an area with extensive

Continued on Page 12

# ENDANGERED



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# SPECIES FAIRE

## ***Grassland Wonders***

**May 7th, 10 AM to 4 PM**

**Cedar Grove, Chico**

**Free Admission**



## ***Stage Schedule***

**10:00 Faire Opens**

**10:20 Welcome to the Faire**

**10:30 Local World: World Music**

**11:15 Meet the Animal: Checkers the Owl**

**11:30 Gordy Ohliger: Banjo-ologist**

**12:15 Meet the Animal: Alligator**

**12:35 Molly's Favorite: Traditional Celtic Folk Music**

**1:20 The Lorax Theater: "The Lorax" brought to life**

**1:50 Banana Slug String Band: Environmental Family Entertainment**

**2:50 Storycloth: Traditional Hmong folktale**

**3:15 Beyond The Pale: Folk Rock**

**4:00 Faire Closes**

Come join us on May 7th, 2005 for Northern California's longest running environmental faire. The day will abound with entertainers, educational and interactive booths sponsored by local schools, government agencies and non-profit groups. The event is for all to enjoy, but especially kids. Come enjoy fine food and specialty items from local eateries and stores.

**Ride your bike, walk, carpool, bus, or scooter to the faire. Let's keep the car traffic to a minimum.**

**Bring picnic blankets and lowback chairs to better enjoy the day's festivities.**

We are always thrilled to have new and returning faces to help in the set up, take down, and running of the faire. We also greatly appreciate donations to help keep the faire free to the public, and exciting to attend. Contact Olivia at 891-6424 or [Olivia\\_bec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Olivia_bec@sbcglobal.net).

# LAND USE

## Chico's Growth: A Look at the Area's Major Development Projects

Continued from Page 9

wetlands and endangered species. These plans seriously conflict with multiple General Plan policies. An EIR is nearing completion and Planning Commission hearings can be expected in coming months.

**Enloe Medical Center's 20 Year Expansion Plan** features a 5-story surgery and bed tower, two parking structures, and major changes to in the neighborhood. An EIR is being prepared and substantial neighborhood opposition is organizing, raising serious

questions as to whether expansion and neighborhood changes are necessary. This may reach the City Council later this year.

**And then there's WalMart** - *two of them*: a "superstore" off 20<sup>th</sup> and a regular big box on the north Esplanade. Kohls and other giant chainstores also want new or bigger big boxes. Struggling local retailers and neighborhood grocers are deeply concerned. Traffic studies show massive impacts, especially if other businesses are forced out.

Chico's best protection is a cap on the size of big boxes and parking lots.

Enough said. This gets depressing. Obviously, concerned residents need to get involved to preserve the quality of Chico against this onslaught.

**Concerned residents want to change Chico's growth patterns**, including:

- Compact development to stop sprawl;
- More intensive use of underdeveloped infill areas

- Smaller, resource-efficient homes that are more affordable and require less land; and

- Mixed commercial-residential development, putting land uses close together to reduce auto dependence.

This is a big order for Americans enculturated to believe that detached houses with a lawn are the American Dream. It's hard to accept that they aren't affordable any more (in price, land use, and resource consumption). Asking neighbors to welcome a second unit (a rental) next door may be asking too much. Asking commercial builders to include upstairs housing would be a big change for Chico.

Home and neighborhood design is a major, hidden environmental issue because of its indirect impacts on open spaces, resource consumption, traffic, pollution and energy use. Environmentalists seldom think of opposing dangerous, intensely hot, wide streets in new neighborhoods and overly bright, tall street lights that invade our homes, night skies, and energy resources. *These growth issues need activist voices.*

Environmentalists must lead the way in recognizing these issues and in supporting necessary and inevitable lifestyle changes. Like it or not, living closer together, more simply, in smaller homes, and conserving land and other resources, are essential in an overpopulated world with dwindling resources.

We may deny that these changes are coming, or try to prevent them. Humans generally resist change. Or we might find ways to speak out and help change the way we grow, to foster these essential transitions smoothly and collaboratively, for ourselves, our children, Chico, and this lovely planet.

## Contact Your Representatives!

Local		
<b>Butte County Supervisors</b> Dist 1: Bill Connelly – 538-6834 BConnelly@buttecounty.net Dist 2: Jane Dolan - 891-2830/895-6508 fax JDolan@buttecounty.net Dist 3: Mary Anne Houx - 891-2800/895-6508 fax MAHoux@buttecounty.net Dist 4 : Curt Josiassen - 882-4447 CJosiassen@buttecounty.net Dist 5: Kim Yamaguchi – 872-6303 KYamaguchi@buttecounty.net	<b>Glenn County Supervisors</b> District 1, Tom McGowan 934-6418 gcboard@countyofglenn.net District 2, Gary Freeman 934-6418 gfreeman@countyofglenn.net District 3, John Amaro 934-6418 gcboard@countyofglenn.net District 4, Denny Bungarz 934-7342 dbungarz@countyofglenn.net District 5, Keith Hansen 934-6418 gcboard@countyofglenn.net	<b>Tehama County Supervisors</b> <b>District 1</b> Gregg Avilla: 527-4655 ext 3015 <b>District 2</b> George Russell 527-4655 ext 3014 <b>District 3</b> Charles Willard 527-4655 ext 3017 <b>District 4</b> Ross Turner 527-4655 ext 3018 <b>District 5</b> Ron Warner 527-4655 ext 3016

State			
<b>Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger</b> State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 http://www.govmail.ca.gov	<b>Senator Sam Anastadt, 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District</b> State Capitol, Room 2054 Sacramento, CA 95814 895-6088, (916) 651-4004 Senator.aanestad@sen.ca.gov	<b>Assemblyman Rick Keene, District 3</b> State Capitol, Room 6027 P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0003 Phone: (916) 319-2003, Fax: (916) 319-2103 Local Office: 1550 Humboldt Road, Suite 4, Chico, CA 95928 Phone: (530) 895-4217, Fax: (530) 895-4219 Assemblymember.keene@assembly.ca.gov	<b>Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa, District 2</b> State Capitol, Room 4177 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002 Phone: (916) 319-2002, Redding 223-6300 Yuba City 751-8351, Fax: (916) 319-2102 Assemblymember.lamalfa@assembly.ca.gov

Federal	
<b>Senator Barbara Boxer</b> 112 Hart Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3553 fax (202) 228-1338 1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240 San Francisco, CA94111 415-403-0100 415-956-6701 fax	<b>Senator Dianne Feinstein</b> 331 Hart Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3841 (202) 228-3954 fax San Francisco (415) 393-0707 (415) 393-0710 fax (916) 442-3396 http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html

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# FORESTRY

## Bush Administration Continues War on National Forest Protections

By Jim Brobeck

The Cheney-Bush administration continued their onslaught on the environment by issuing changes to the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). These changes drastically diminished the protection NFMA has provided to ecosystems on our national forests. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) requires the Forest Service to develop land and resource management plans for the National Forests and to revise those plans at least every 15 years.

The regulations and directives carefully differentiate legally binding “standards” from non-binding “guidelines” and make it abundantly clear that forest plans should no longer include any standards. The directives allow the Forest Service to “depart from guidelines when it is necessary to deal effectively with unusual situations.”

Unstable energy prices and periodic wildfires are likely candidates for “unusual situations” that will allow public land managers to deviate from environmentally sound management strategies. As the public concern over energy shortages increases the government is likely to deviate from environmental standards to open up public land to energy exploitation, even if the short-term gains have permanent destructive

effects. During the past 4 years the Forest Service, under the leadership of timber lobbyist Mark Rey, has used the fear of wildfire to pursue a policy of increased timber harvest in the name of fuel reduction.

The new NFMA directives that steer individual forest plans ensure that guidelines are encoded to maximize management flexibility and minimize conservation requirements: “Do not write guidelines in the imperative mode because imperative mode conveys mandatory compliance. Guidelines should not use the helping verbs ‘do not,’ ‘may not,’ ‘may only,’ ‘must,’ ‘not allowed,’ ‘prohibit,’ or ‘shall.’ These helping verbs convey a degree of compliance or restriction that is not appropriate for guidelines. The helping verb ‘should’ or ‘ought’ is recommended for guidelines...” (FSH 12.23b)

### KEY ISSUES

#### Species Viability Requirement

One of the most controversial issues in the Bush NFMA regulations is the elimination of the species viability requirement, which was the legal basis for the Northwest Forest Plan, Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework, and other wildlife and old-growth habitat conservation strategies. The new regulations replaced the viability requirement with vague direction to “provide appropriate ecological conditions” for at-risk fish and wildlife species. The revised Framework allows the elimination of existing habitat to promote fast growing trees that might provide habitat in the future.

The regulations emphasize that “ecosystem diversity is the primary means by which a plan contributes to sustaining ecological systems.” This is the argument the Forest Service is using to justify the placement of thousands of small commercial clearcuts in the Lassen and Plumas Forests.

The regulations and directives distinguish between three categories of species: federally listed threatened and endangered species, “species of concern,” and “species of interest.” Stricter management regulations apply to the threatened and endangered species and

more flexible guidelines are allowed for species of concern. Protecting habitat for species-of-interest is not required but is left up to the discretion of the individual Responsible Forest Official.

The problem is that the directives define “species of concern” very narrowly, relegating many at-risk species to the less protective status of “species of interest.” Species of concern are “species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be

necessary to prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act.” The new directives allow officials to rank species and subspecies according to global rarity rather than regional status. For example, the ranking excludes the wolverine, a critical forest carnivore that may be abundant in some regions but has become rare in the Sierra due to trapping and habitat destruction. Many more at-risk species are likely to fall into the less protective “species of interest” category.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

In addition to eliminating the species viability requirement, the 2005 NFMA regulations and directives exempt forest plans from the normal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The previous requirement that the agency consider management alternatives has been replaced with the Forest Supervisor’s decision whether or not to examine “options.”

#### Environmental Management System

An untested tool in the new planning process is the role of the Environmental Management System (EMS). The 2005 regulations provide direction to the Forest Service regarding EMS, declaring that the agency “must establish an EMS for each unit of the National Forest System” and that forest plans “must

be completed in accordance with the EMS.” But the EMS has never before been used by the Forest Service. Environmental advocates are not familiar with how EMS will affect both planning and on-the-ground management of national forests. Unfortunately, the regulations and directives fail to de-

fine the meaning of EMS or the relationship between EMS and forest planning. What role the public will have in the EMS process, if any, is also unclear. The directives sim-

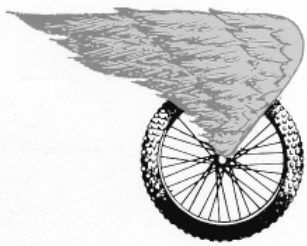
ply state that “for EMS, the Responsible Official determines the method of public participation.”

In summary, the new directives rely on “guidance,” not defined rules, and provide a great deal of discretion to Forest Service managers in deciding the scope of planning and involvement of the public. This is a level of autonomy not seen in the National Forests since before the NFMA was enacted in 1976, with very little in the way of accountability. Given the fact that former timber industry lobbyist Mark Rey oversees the U.S. Forest Service, agency autonomy must be balanced by informed environmental advocacy through participation in planning processes.

When Defenders of Wildlife and the Endangered Species Coalition filed a Freedom of Information Act request for information about timber industry meetings with the Department of Agriculture as they revised the NFMA, Rey told the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that there were no records documenting meetings between the agency and industry groups during the process of revising the forest policies. Rey is well-versed in the timber industry’s concerns, having spent nearly 20 years working for timber trade associations before joining the Bush administration, so there’s an argument to be made that he didn’t need to meet with industry groups to enshrine their vision of forest management.

The USDA Forest Service is taking public comments on the new directives until June 21st. Comments can be sent electronically to: [planningdirectives@contentanalysisgroup.com](mailto:planningdirectives@contentanalysisgroup.com). The subject line should read: Planning Directives.

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E-mail: [pullinsusa@aol.com](mailto:pullinsusa@aol.com)



# 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).

**January-December** - 100 Years of Gratitude. Bidwell Park Centennial exhibit encompassing the cultural history, community impact, and natural history of the first 100 years of Bidwell Park. At Chico Museum, 141 Salem St., Jennifer Oman, 521-2260, [joman@neteze.com](mailto:joman@neteze.com).

**May-November** - **California Wildlife Festival.** Wildlife events, exhibits, celebrations throughout Northern Cal. See [www.cawatchablewildlife.org/festivals](http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org/festivals)

**May 12, June 9, July 14** - **Citizens Advisory Committee for Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Meetings.** All meetings are open to interested members of the public.

6 pm, Conference Room 1, City Council Chambers 411 Main St.

**May 14, 28, June 4 (National Trails Day!) - Upper Park Trail Maintenance.** Help to improve the condition of Upper Park trails & learn more about Upper Park. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Tools, water, gloves and instruction provided. Meet at Parking Area A at 9 am, wear sturdy shoes & bring lunch. For more information, contact Park Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue at 896-7800 or [shogue@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:shogue@ci.chico.ca.us).

**Fri., May 6 - Compost Tea Party.** Learn about the benefits of compost, how to make compost tea and how to use compost around your yard! We will have iced-tea and snacks! 12-3 pm, Compost Display Area (behind Yolo hall along the railroad tracks). Sponsored by ASRecycling. More info. 898-5033.

**Sat., May 7 - Endangered Species Faire.** Cedar Grove, Bidwell Park, 10 am to 4 pm. Free admission. Join us for Northern California's longest running environmental faire. Music, animals, theater, story-telling, environmental booths, food and fun. See pages 10-11 for schedule and details. Butte Environmental Council, 891-6424.

**Sun., May 8 (Mother's Day) – Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Hike.** We'll meet at the Chico Park & Ride (the west lot nearest the

freeway) at 8:30 am and carpool up Highway 32 to the green gate trail in Upper Park. From there we'll hike down to the bottom and proceed up canyon into the reserve to look for birds, flowers, and geological formations. The hike will go until mid afternoon. Bring binoculars, hiking boots, water, and lunch. By Altacal Audubon. Leader: Gaylord Grams, 872-0739.

**Wed., May 11 - Bidwell Park: A Gateway to Birdwatching.** The final presentation in the Museum

Without Walls Bidwell Centennial Series. By Roger Lederer, Professor at CSUC, Presented by the College of Natural Sciences, CSUC Chico and the Northern California Natural History Museum, in cooperation with the Chico Area Recreation and Park District, and the Bidwell Park Centennial Committee. 7:30pm, Vallombrosa CARD Center, \$2.00/person, children under 12 and students free. More info: 895-4711.

**Sat., May 14 – Upper Bidwell Park Walk.** Take a casual walk along the creekside and adjacent woodlands in search of birds that breed in Upper Park. No experience necessary, just bring your binoculars, a field guide if you have one, hiking shoes, water & snacks. Meet at Parking Area E (the old shooting range parking lot at the gate) at 8 am and walk until about 11:30 (2-3 miles). This trip is by Altacal Audubon.in cooperation with Friends of Bidwell Park. Leader: Skip Augur, 893-9222 or [wba@acm.org](mailto:wba@acm.org).

**Sat., May 14 - Wildflowers of Upper Park.** Join botanist Josephine Guardino to view the late spring wildflowers. Meet at Parking Area E, 10 am to noon. More info: 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org).

**Sat., May 14 - Archeology of Upper Park.** Led by Elena Nilsson. From 1 to 3 pm, meet at Parking Area E. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks. Call 892-1666 or email [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information.

**Sat., May 14 - Birdwatching in Upper Park.** Take a casual walk along the creekside and adjacent woodlands in search of birds that breed in Upper Park. No experience necessary, just bring your binoculars, a field guide if you have one,

hiking shoes, water & snacks. Meet at Parking Area E at 8 AM and walk until about 11:30 (2-3 miles). More info: Phil Johnson at 893-3222 or [pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net](mailto:pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net). Sponsored by Altacal Audubon Society.

**Sat., May 14 - Sierra Summit on Land Use and Smart Growth One-Day Conference.** Please plan to attend to learn what is happening at a statewide, Sierra- wide and local level with smart growth and tools to use. Cost: free, lunch is \$10. **Auburn Civic Center, Rose Room; 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn.** More info: Megan Suarez, Watersheds Program Coordinator, Sierra Nevada Alliance at 542-4546 or email [megan@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:megan@sierranevadaalliance.org).

**Sat., May 14 – Advanced Compost Workshop.** Topics include determining proper carbon/nitrogen ratios, compost bin designs, troubleshooting, and how to use finished compost. Presented by Dr. Mark Steimen, 10 am, Compost Display Area (behind Yolo hall along the railroad tracks). More info. 898-5033.

**Sat., May 14 - Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Second Annual Candles in the Canyon.** 5 pm. More info., Jeff Mott 898-5010.

**Sat., May 14 - Hike the Dan Beebe Trail in Oroville** (Grade 2, Class A). We will see views of Table Mountain, Feather River Canyon and Oroville Dam, while hiking from the Nature Center in Oroville along the Feather River. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:15am or the trailhead in Oroville at 9am. Bring plenty of water, lunch, carpool \$\$ and sturdy shoes. Return time approx. 5pm. By Sierra Club, Yahi Group. More info: Michelle, 865-9491.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**Sun., May 15 - Mechoopda Indian Tribe Presentation.** Part of the Bidwell Park Centennial celebration, at the Chico Museum from 1-3 pm. More info: [www.bidwellpark.org](http://www.bidwellpark.org).

**Sun., May 15 - Sacramento River Float, Red Bluff - Jelly's Ferry.** This is a great opportunity to see, experience and photograph this incredibly scenic stretch of river! Binoculars are recommended, as eagles and osprey are often spotted overhead and a wide variety of other wildlife may make their presence known as well. The guided trip will lead adventure seekers through the proposed Sacramento River National Conservation Area (NCA), a designation representative of the area's outstanding scenic, cultural, recreation, ecological and water resource values. Boating equipment and river guides will be provided. Kids 12 and over are welcome to join. Cost: \$35/person with lunch. Additional donations are appreciated. Sponsored by Sacramento River Preservation Trust and Friends of the River. More info: 345-1865.

**Sat., May 21 - Butte Meadows.** Meet at the Chico Park & Ride (the west lot nearest the freeway) at 8 am and caravan up to the Butte Meadows/Jonesville areas to look for warblers and other montaine species. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy light hiking until about 3pm. By Altacal Audubon. More info: Phil Johnson at [pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net](mailto:pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net) or 893-3222.

**Sat., May 21 - Colby Meadows Hike** (grade 2, class A). We hike about 7 total miles in the cross country ski area. We will see seldom visited meadows and springs and may see pileated woodpeckers, northern goshawks and red breasted sapsuckers. Bring boots, lunch, water and \$ for drivers. Meet at the Chico Park

& Ride at 9am. By Sierra Club, Yahli Group. Leader: Larry, 342-7998; Asst. Leader: Julian, 893-1994.

**Sat., May 21 - Sacramento River Watershed Celebration** is a FREE event that will be fun and educational for the entire family. There will be exhibits (including a Trust table), local crafts and artwork, displays, birding opportunities, tours of the native plant demonstration garden, river outings, puppet shows, wood carving, agricultural displays and products, and hands-on activities for all ages. There will also be food and entertainment, as well as a fun walk and run. Sponsored by and held at the Sacramento River Discovery Center, 1000 Sale Lane, Red Bluff from 9 am to 3 pm. More info: 527-1196.

**Sun., May 22 - Lower Bidwell Park Hike** (grade 2, class A). Celebrate the 100th birthday of Bidwell Park with a flat, mostly shady 9-10 mile trek in Bidwell Park along the south and north side of Big Chico Creek. Meet at Caper Acres Parking Lot at 9am. We'll walk on the paved park road (and maybe some dirt trail offshoots) past Five Mile to Upper Park (via a dirt road/trail) and end at the golf course. We then return to the Five Mile picnic area for lunch and come back on the north side of the creek to return to the parking lot by 2-3pm. Bring lunch and water. Lunch can also be purchased at the golf course and carried back to Five Mile. By Sierra Club, Yahli Group. Leader: Carla, 891-6977; Asst. Leader: Gene, 873-1552.

**Thurs., May 26 - Sierra Club Newsletter Folding.** Join us to help fold and sort the Yahli Group Newsletter for mailing. It only takes about an hour and we always have a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed. Newcomers and old mem-

bers are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions and more info.

**Sat.-Mon., May 28-30 - Mill Creek Memorial Day Backpack & Trail Maintenance** (grade 3, class B) (educational). Join the Yahli Group for our annual Memorial Day weekend trail maintenance trip. We will hike 15-16 miles downstream starting at Upper Mill Creek (4000 feet) to Black Rock (2000 feet) in a Wilderness Study Area proposed addition to the Ishi Wilderness. On the way we hike through forests, enjoy wildflowers and follow the creek. The Forest Service will provide tools and shuttle. Group size is limited, call for reservations. By Sierra Club, Yahli Group. Leader: Tony, 916-448-3230 or [HikingTony@earthlink.net](mailto:HikingTony@earthlink.net). Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net).

**Wed., June 15 - Who Built It?** A history of Lower Park projects, past, present & future, from Lost Park to the Chico Creek Nature Center, about 2 miles each way. Meet at the city-owned parking lot next to Lost Park (East 1st St. between Wall St. & Flume St.) at 6 pm. More info: email [info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org](mailto:info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org) or call 892-1666.

**Sat., June 18 - The Bidwells and Early Chico.** Join amateur historian Dave Nopel on a walk through CSUC & downtown Chico, to learn more about the Bidwells, the establishment of CSUC, Big Chico Creek and Bidwell Park. Meet at Bidwell Mansion at 9 am, walk ends 1 pm. Bring water and lunch. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahli Group. More info: Dave Nopel at 342-4118.

**Wed., July 27 and August 24 - Bidwell Park Centennial Committee Volunteer meeting.** If you're interested in learning more about the celebration and would like to volunteer,

please join us! 5:30-7 pm, **Chico Chamber of Commerce conference room, 300 Salem St.** More info: 891-5559 ext 307, or email [bpcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bpcc@sbcglobal.net).

**Fri.-Sun., August 12-21, Lost Creek Campground, Lassen National Park.** Group campsite for tents and one or two small RVs, a perennial favorite. We will be offering easy and strenuous day hikes, attending evening programs, biking, or just relaxing. Everyone is free to set their own schedule. Cost: \$15.00/weekends, and \$20/week to pay for the site. Please reserve early, limited number of spaces. By Sierra Club, Yahli Group. Co Leaders - Jeanne 899-9980 and John 872-8258.

**Sat., August 27 - 5K Fun Run/Walk in Bidwell Park.** Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bidwell Park and the 30th Anniversary of the Chico Running Club. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Bidwell Park Centennial Committee. 8 am, One-Mile Recreation Area in Lower Bidwell Park. Entry forms available at [www.chicorunningclub.org](http://www.chicorunningclub.org). For more info: [info@chicorunningclub.org](mailto:info@chicorunningclub.org).

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# SUSTAINABLE LIVING

## Saving the Environment on a Budget

By Megan Kulluk

Helping to make Butte County a better place to live doesn't have to be hard, time consuming or even expensive. It shouldn't be a chore to recycle or a hassle to ride your bike rather than driving. This is Chico, and anyone that prefers to drive here rather than ride their bike is crazy. For those of you who don't have a bike, it's never a far walk to get to where you want to go. However, when that time comes when you do have to get across town and you can't walk or ride your bike, take CATS (Chico Area Transit System). They have a great transportation system. If you're a student it's free, which will help you save money especially now with the ever rising gas prices. If you're not a student, a bus pass never costs more than 75 cents for one way and if you decide you love the bus, you can buy a 30 day pass for only \$25. Plus you'll

never know who you might meet on the bus. The people you meet always make the bus ride a little more interesting.

If you decide to drive there are ways to be a greener driver. Besides purchasing a more fuel efficient car, keep your car properly tuned. Tuned cars can get up to 10 percent more efficiency out of gasoline than non-tuned cars. Also remove unnecessary weight from the car. It's the end of winter, so go ahead and take all of your snow clothes and supplies out of the trunk. Your pockets will thank you, because you will start to get better gas mileage. The most important thing to remember is to obey the speed limit. Cars get 20 percent better gas mileage at 55 mph rather than 70. Also try to keep a constant speed - slowing down and speeding up wastes gas. Finally, remember to try not to drive when you don't have to.



The next thing that everyone can do is to reduce the amount of unnecessary trash they produce in their daily lives. On average Americans throw away 3.5 to 6.5 pounds of solid waste per day (Elkington). So what can you do to help reduce the amount of trash you produce?

One way is rather than building up a supply of unnecessary grocery bags from when you go shopping, try to reduce the amount you take home with you. Try to avoid getting grocery bags when you don't have to. You can do this by carrying around a tote bag or something reusable that you can put all your groceries in. Tote bags are more durable and you won't have to worry about what to do with the supply of grocery bags in your house. If you leave the house with out one, try to pile up all your food into one bag. It might be a little heavy, but a little lifting never hurt anybody. When you do take those unnecessary bags home, try to make use of them - they work great as trash bags, which will also save you money since you won't have to buy them.

Another thing you can do to help reduce the amount of daily trash is to consume less or buy products with less packing. Packaging is a major

contributor to Americans' waste. Every hour the United States goes through 2.5 million plastic bottles. There is so much unnecessary packaging that goes into marketing the food that the best thing to do is to not buy food or products that have unnecessary packaging. Or try to

buy food where you can reuse the packaging. I eat a lot of salsa and peanut butter, so rather than recycling the jars they come in I reuse them. In fact almost all of my drinking glasses were origi-

nally food containers. They also make great "Tupperware" if you save the lids. There are many simple (and fun) things that everyone can do to help the environment. The most important thing to remember is to simplify your life, and you will produce less waste.

**"This is Chico, and anyone who prefers to drive here rather than ride their bike is crazy."**

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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,Tu-Sa 10-4:30  
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  
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530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978  
www.aschico.org; Barbara Kopicki

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

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asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

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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

## **Avenues Neighborhood Association**

1627 Arcadian Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926  
530/343-8334  
www.theavenues.org  
avenues@infostations.com  
Kasey Merrill

## **Bidwell Environmental Institute**

CSU Chico  
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530/898-6317 fax: 530/898-4363  
www.csuchico.edu/bei

## **Bidwell Park 2005 Centennial Celebration**

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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  
bigchicocreek@digitalpath.net  
Susan Strachan, Chair

## **Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**

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

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

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

## **Butte Humane Society**

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

Bill Reeves

## **California Native Plant Society**

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 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

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

PO Box 68  
Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530/895-0866  
rwcole@jps.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  
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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



# ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

530/879-0887  
www.buttecreek.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.friendsofbidwellpark.org/kid-  
screaks.html  
rbaxter@ci.chico.ca.us  
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  
middlemountain@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  
Davit Zeleke

## **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

## **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**

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

## **Sacramento River Watershed Program**

500 Orange Street  
Chico, CA 95928  
530/879-0887  
www.sacrivert.org  
ahart@harpos.to  
Allen Harthorn, Education Coord.

## **Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

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

## **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  
LJ1984KL@aol.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  
colefarm@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

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