

27th Annual Endangered Species Faire!



BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S

Environmental NEWS

Spring 2006

Volume 12 Number 1

Hog Wild: Hwy 149 Expansion Your Tax Money for Urban Sprawl or Safety?

Butte County is no different than most government entities: they are influenced by big business and reticent to correct mistakes. Through twelve years analyzing and promoting the dangers of the intersection at Highways 70 and 149, Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) failed to keep the public safe from the dangers there. Simple, inexpensive solutions were ignored in favor of what is viewed by transportation experts as an endless, expensive treadmill: more lanes are rapidly filled and lead to eventual gridlock, air pollution, and the desire for more lanes (does Sacramento come to mind?). In addition, like many local governments, Butte County is building roads and watching what happens next instead of planning for land use, which should precede transportation infrastructure.

Butte County has defaulted its land use authority to BCAG, the organiza-

tion that garners millions of dollars for transportation planning (www.bcag.org). While Butte County's illegal General Plan demonstrates that the Highway 149 area is zoned for grazing land, not urban uses, BCAG prioritized the Highway 149 expansion (a segment of an expressway to Sacramento sought by CalTrans) instead of rapidly fixing one confusing intersection at 149 and Highway 70. The tragedies that have occurred from the decade of delays are the result of a fixation on transportation infrastructure before land use planning, the proverbial cart before the horse.

This grazing land in this part of Butte County is valued for wetlands that are a treasure to our state and county: vernal pools (Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon). Though less than 10% of the vernal pool ecosystem remains in California, local governments, like Butte County, have

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The intersection of Highway 149 and Highway 70, just north of Oroville.

Photo by Tempra Board

Vernal Pool Recovery Plan Completed

The final Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon (Recovery Plan) has been released today. The Recovery Plan includes goals, priorities, and implementation measures for 33 vernal pool habitat dependent species. It is also one more successful result from litigation initiated by Butte Environmental Council (BEC) in April 2000 as well as the dedication to this task by key personnel

at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We are hopeful that this Recovery Plan will serve as beacon to guide recovery strategies that are as successful as those implemented for our national symbol, the bald eagle," stated Barbara Vlamis, executive director of Butte Environmental Council. "Collaborative efforts are already underway to protect vernal pool grasslands through the

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Environmental News

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

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About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC is devoted to environmental education and information, referral services, and advocacy.

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

How to Join BEC

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

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

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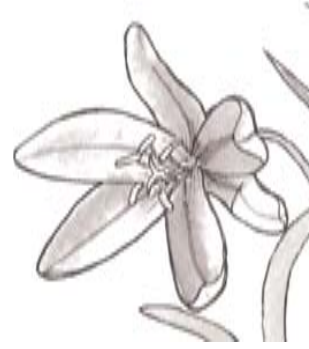
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FROM THE BEC BOARD



**Save the Date
for Butte
Environmental
Council's...**



The 27th Annual ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIRE

Hidden Waters... In Danger?

**May 6th, 10 AM to 4 PM
Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park
Free Admission**

Come join us for Northern California's longest running environmental faire. Sure to be a fun-filled day of entertainment, educational and interactive booths sponsored by local schools, government agencies and non-profit groups. The event is for all to enjoy, but especially kids. Enjoy fine food and specialty items from local eateries and stores.

Bring picnic blankets and low back chairs to better enjoy the day's festivities.

We are always thrilled to have new and familiar 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.

Ride your bike, walk, carpool, scooter or the bus to the faire to help keep car traffic to a minimum.

Contact Cindy at 891-6424 or 891-1616 or email at mccartneyfive@earthlink.net

A small preview...

Talkin' Tree Drum • Bicycle Raffle donated by Pullins Cyclery
• "Dangerous Humans" presented by The Stream Team •
Animals presented by Wild Things • Gordy Ohliger the Banjoman
• Music from Beyond the Pale •

Chico Cat Coalition Forced to Scale Back Services

Editor's Note: BEC appreciates the work that Chico Cat Coalition does for our feline friends. Please consider supporting this organization and their important work!

This time last year, CCC volunteers were unaware that the busiest rescue

season yet was upon us. In 2005 alone the Chico Cat Coalition removed 104 cats and kittens exclusively from Bidwell Park - a number that more than doubled from the previous year! With minimal volunteers and a shoestring budget, we barely survived last year's crisis of an overwhelming kitten season.

Several of our new felines arrived ill and some required extensive surgeries for physical ailments. Foster homes were less than abundant and new cats were arriving faster than we could find homes for them.

Chico's animal overpopulation problem is out of control and Bidwell Park still proves to be a popular dumping ground for many of our community's unwanted felines. We are now forced to tell individuals who call us because they have found a

cat in the park that they themselves will have to care for the animal until a foster home comes available. The CCC will still provide the rescuer with food and other supplies, medical expenses and adoption services, but cannot promise a date that a foster home will come available, if at all. Cats that are rescued by park visitors and taken to the Butte Humane Society will no longer make their way to CCC volunteers.

Our organization has taken many blows the past two years with the loss of our barn as a foster facility for incoming cats, major volunteer shortages, greater medical expenses for our aging felines and of course, higher operating expenses all around. Since our biggest obstacle is a shortage of temporary foster homes for our "new arrivals", we are sadly forced to scale back our services.

If you have the time and a little extra space in your home, we would appreciate your help as a foster parent. You decide the length of your commitment, we provide all food, litter, pens, carriers, bowls and other supplies as well as veterinary costs and transportation if needed, adoption services including all contact with prospective adopters and volunteer support.

Of course we are always happy to receive help from new volunteers in other ways. A variety of shifts are unfilled at our modern BG Barn Sanctuary.



Spencer, one of the kitties up for adoption from the Chico Cat Coalition.

We also have an immediate need for people who can help at adoption events, can carry out fundraising ideas, provide veterinary transportation and are able to trap and feed cats in the park. If you are looking to adopt a feline companion, we hope that you think of us! Several of our cats up for adoption are pictured on our website.

Please help spread the word that our park is not a dumping ground for unwanted animals! Not only is it cruel, but it is also a misdemeanor to abandon any domesticated animal anywhere in California. The Chico Cat Coalition offers a \$500 reward leading to arrest and conviction of a person caught dumping in Bidwell Park.

Since 1998, the Chico Cat Coalition has rescued 806 cats and kittens from exclusively from the park. 647 of them have been placed in good homes. We are an all-volunteer, no-kill, 501(c)3 organization. Your tax-deductible donation is always welcome and greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to join our cause, please contact us! Volunteer applications and other information on our organization can be found on our website at www.ChicoCatCoalition.org. You may also call us at 894-1365 or email catcoalition@hotmail.com. Any help you are able to lend is guaranteed to make a difference in the lives of homeless cats and kittens.

BEC Notes

Historic Vernal Pool Conference Draws Nearly 200 From Across the State

On March 23 – 24, BEC hosted its second Vernal Pool Complexes of the North State conference – marking 10 years since its first. Interest in the conference was outstanding, drawing nearly 200 participants – many of them from out of town – to the Sierra Nevada Brewery for the day-long conference on biology, conservation, and management of vernal pools. BEC's vernal pool tours, scheduled for the next day, remained full, with 40 people braving the ceaseless rain to examine first hand these unique Central Valley wetlands.

Conference panels ranged from issues of conservation strategy to mycorrhizal fungi in the soils of vernal pools, to the use of Sacramento Valley vernal pools by ducks, the importance of the Clean Water Act, the impact of grazing, and the need for public education and grassroots activism. The conference was attended by a range of interests, including government agency personnel, environmental organizations, consultants, and academia. We hope to put this successful event on again in two years.

Special thanks to the event's sponsors and speakers: Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, California Department of Fish & Game, California Native Plant Society, California Rangeland Trust, California Society for Ecological Restoration, CSU Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium, EarthJustice, Geobotanical Phenomenology, New Urban Builders, River Partners, The Nature Conservancy, The Wildlife Society, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, The Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, VernalPools.org, California Native Grasslands Association, Friends of Bidwell Park, League of Women Voters – Butte County, Oxford Suites, Vagabond Inn, Douglas Alexander, Barbara Castro, Chuck Lundgren, Jenny Marr, Robert Schlising, Joseph Silveira, Elizabeth Warne, and Tom Griggs. We'd also like to thank the foundation supporters of BEC's vernal pool programs: The California Wildlands Grassroots Fund and the Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund.

Thank You BEC Foundation Supporters

California Wildlands Grassroots Fund
Fund for Wild Nature
Victor & Lorraine Honig Fund, c/o Common Counsel Foundation
Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund

EDUCATION



What's in Your Gutter? **Mark Your Storm Drains and Protect our Waterways!**

Mark your storm drains and protect local waterways! The Chico Urban Streams Alliance (Chico USA) is sponsoring the event, "What's in your Gutter?" on Saturday, April 29th, 10 am to 1 pm.

To participate meet at the City of Chico parking lot, 421 Main St., at 10:00 a.m., April 29th to receive instructions and materials for marking storm drains, and receive prizes. Wear closed-toed shoes and bring your own transportation to assigned marking sites. (Some walking distance sites will be assigned for those without bikes or autos.)

Call BEC at 891-6424 or visit www.becnet.org (click on Chico USA logo) for more information.

Join Chico USA partners: the City of Chico, the Butte Environmental Council, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance and Kennedy/Jenks, along with other local groups – CAVE, some Girl Scout troops, etc. to make a difference in your community!

This event is part of a larger effort to promote public awareness on how to prevent runoff pollution of our creeks and streams. By marking our storm drains, Chico USA is hoping to get the message out that anything that drains into our street gutters, drains into our creeks without being treated. It's up to everyone to make sure that pollutants, such as fertilizers, used oil, pet waste, litter, soaps and detergents, cigarette butts, etc. do not runoff into our gutters, and into our creeks. Visit www.becnet.org and click on the Chico USA logo for more information on the Chico USA Clean Creeks Project.

If you are unable to attend this event, but would like to participate in the Chico USA Clean Creeks Project call Timmarie Hamill at (530)342-6623 to volunteer for citizen monitoring.

Chico USA has formed with funding from a grant under the Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Grant Program.

Funding support has been provided by the California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) which has as an objective

to restore ecological health and improve water management by working with the community at a watershed level.

Chico USA Upcoming Monitoring Schedule

By Timmarie Hamill, BCCWA, Monitoring Coordinator

This is going to be a great monitoring year! We have new equipment and have expanded our monitoring activities to include aquatic insect monitoring, stream walk surveys, and CNPS rapid assessment surveys. We have also added a few more monitoring sites on Mud, Rock and Little Chico creeks. Your work is very important to the health of our waterways, and your volunteer hours are greatly appreciated!

Please prioritize your calendar to participate FOR SURE on April 22 in our water quality training/refreshers course, and pick up your training certificates and monitoring schedules for the upcoming year. Bring your family and friends!

Monitoring Events:

Water Quality Monitoring:

(Meet @ Five-Mile parking lot, south-side lot @ Centennial (First Saturday of Each Month): May 6, June 3, August 5, September 2, and October 7.

Stream Walk Surveys: TBA
Bioassessment Surveys: TBA
CNPS Rapid Bioassessment Surveys: Tentative date set for April 23rd, call for details

Training Workshops:

Water Quality Monitoring: April 22nd, 9AM to 12 PM (Meet at



Youth participate in water quality monitoring as part of Chico USA.

Five-Mile, south-side lot @ Centennial Way). Required training/refreshers for all participants receive a certificate of completion. Past participants will also receive monitoring t-shirts!

Stream Walk Survey Training: TBA
Bioassessment Training: TBA

Other Events:

What's In Your Gutter?
Saturday, April 29th

Mark your storm drains and protect our local water ways! Prizes will be awarded to participants!

Endangered Species Faire **Saturday, May 6th**

Our Stream Team will be hosting an information booth and if you would like to help with the presentation or be involved in our stage act "Endangered Humans", please let me know ASAP.

"Feet for the Creek"

May 20th (Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve). Call for more details and if you'd like to help with information stations! Please RSVP.

For more information on any of these events, contact Timmarie Hamill at thamill@sunset.net.

EDUCATION

Wal-Mart Extends its Reach, Tightens Grasp on the North State

Wal-Mart's Plans for Butte and Glen counties have intensified. Draft Environmental Impact Reports on Chico's two proposed Wal-Mart Super Centers are tentatively scheduled for completion, review by the Planning Department and referral to the Planning Commission by mid-Spring. Meanwhile, the city of Willows

approved expansion of their existing Wal-Mart into a Super Center. The Oroville Wal-Mart has plans to close that store and construct a Super Center there. If the Gateway development, on the Skyway at the entrance to Paradise,

is built, the developer has said he will most likely include a Wal-Mart in his project. Farther north in Red Bluff the existing Wal-Mart remains, as does Wal-Mart's regional distribution center. And in Shasta county another Super Center is near completion in Anderson, a few miles south of the Redding Wal-Mart.

The two Chico proposals consist of expansion of the existing Wal-Mart on Forest Avenue in south Chico into a 240,000 square foot Super Center (a gas station is also part of the proposal); and 7 1/2 miles away in north Chico, a second Super Center

of the same size is to be built. The north Chico site will require annexation into the city of Chico, which is expected to gain easy approval.

If all goes as planned, the northern Sacramento Valley will be blanketed with these huge (over 200,000 square feet) behemoths from Willows to Redding.

It is possible to block the two Chico Wal-Mart proposals, leaving the existing Wal-Mart in place. But this will only happen if enough people are concerned about this virtual take-over by Wal-Mart to commit themselves to actively opposing approval of the projects.

Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy (CARE) is a group of concerned citizens, committed to responsible growth. We are not opposing the existing Wal-Mart. We are opposed to this unnecessary, irresponsible expan-

sion of Wal-Mart. We will oppose these two Super Centers through petitions to the Planning Commission and City Council to vote against these two proposals, through letters to the Editor, by meeting with individual commission and council members prior to the hearings, and by gathering as many supporters as possible both to attend the hearings and to speak in opposition at those hearings.

If you are interested in participating in these actions, or learning more about the issue, please contact CARE by sending an email to info@chicocares.org, or by regular mail at P.O. Box 7647, Chico, 95927-7647.



A Gift that Works for You!

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

Why Make a Bequest?

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

Planned Giving

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

Other Donations

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

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

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Report Shows Drop in Butte County Groundwater Levels

By Jim Brobeck

In February 2006 The Butte Basin Water Users Association submitted their annual Groundwater Status Report to the Butte County Water Commission. The California Department of Water Resources supplied monitoring information and hydrographs that are used in this report. The stated intent of the report is to provide a better basis for understanding groundwater level trends in Butte County.

It was noted in the previous status report that groundwater levels in many of Butte County's groundwater dependant areas have steadily declined since the late 1990's. The 2006 report did not consider the persistent decline in groundwater levels a matter of concern. "Although the groundwater levels have not recovered to the levels recorded in the late 1990's, the decline has generally stabilized and there is some modest reversal." Environmentalists are concerned that the report downplays the existing decline in groundwater levels.

The water commission voted to accept the report. One of the water commissioners recalls that there were spots in Butte County where the groundwater level was close enough to the surface to create pools and bogs. The decline in springtime levels has been enough to dry these areas out. The commissioner considered this draining of wetlands to be an improvement allowing human use of the terrain.

Aquifers in Butte County slope from the Sierra-Cascade foothills on the east toward the Sacramento River on the west. The slope is enough to create artesian flow in some wells in the valley that punch through the confining layer that overlies the aquifer. Not surprisingly, the most extreme cases of springtime groundwater level decline occur along the foothill margin of the valley.

Groundwater levels in the Pentz area have continued to decline. The spring 2005 measurement was nearly 10 feet below the previous historic low levels measured during the recent drought pe-

riods (1976-77 and early 1990's) in spite of "normal" precipitation during 3 of the past five years. The report suggests *without evidence* that once precipitation "returns to a more normal pattern that groundwater levels should recover." The report makes no effort to explore the obvious possibility that increased drafting from the down-gradient reaches of the aquifer has created the decline in water levels. The report hopes the aquifer will heal itself when heavy rains return. While it is appropriate for the report to state that "This sub-area needs to be watched closely in the future," it is clear that existing data provide ample evidence that action is needed to reveal causes of decline and mitigation of injury to users and the environment.

The report mentions that during 2005 water district irrigation on rice was 500,000 acre-feet higher than what was delivered in 1991 and claims that surface water deliveries are an important component to aquifer recharge in the Butte Basin. If irrigation water from

surface canal deliveries is an important component to aquifer recharge why are aquifer levels continuing to drop when there are such large increases in surface water spreading? Even if the theory held water, there are no possible benefits to up-gradient groundwater users associated with down-gradient replenishment.

Since statehood, Californians have been living in the best of climatic times. And we've taken advantage of these best of times by building the most colossal urban and agricultural infrastructure in the world, all dependent on huge amounts of water, and all based on the assumption that runoff from the Sierra Nevada will continue as it has during the past 150 years. The "paleodroughts" identified by climatologists far exceed, in both severity and duration, any dry periods of our short 150-year-long instrumental record. And they have daunting implications for a state whose huge urban and agricultural infrastructures are utterly dependent on large quantities of runoff from the Sierra Nevada.

The Vina area monitoring well is located north of Chico. This neighborhood is on the edge of the metaphorical bathtub of the lower Tuscan aquifer. Stakeholders in the area presume that impacts to water levels associated with drafting in the lower Tuscan will be more clearly defined in this up-gradient position of the aquifer. The hydrograph for this well shows great sensitivity to drought, dropping low when water use is high and failing to recover in the absence of precipitation. Stakeholders in this locale are very concerned that impacts resulting from use outside of the vicinity may result in termination of agricultural usage on orchards according to County Basin Management Objective procedures.

The Chico urban area monitoring well hydrograph reveals a long-term trend of decline. This is another region in which the lower Tuscan aquifer is up-gradient from agricultural users located to the south-west. While it is appropriate to consider impacts to water levels associated with drafting within the urban

Continued on page 8.

Enjoy a Walk Around Ord Bend

Saturday, April 29, 2006

8:30 am to 10:30 am

Come explore one of River Partners' first restoration sites with our ecologists. See habitat thriving with neo-tropical birds and native trees, such as Valley Oak, Willow and Box Elder. Amidst 10 types of native grasses, blooming in April, learn about the secrets of the site's ancient soils.

This gentle walking tour offers something for everyone as we guide you through this restoration project within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge in Glenn County.

To make a reservation, call River Partners at (530) 894-5401 x 22, or stop by our office at 580 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico, CA 95926. Space is limited, so sign up today!

Great blue heron.



Report on Butte County Groundwater Levels

Continued from page 6

area, there is a need to analyze impacts to the aquifer associated with drafting by water districts down-slope. No such analysis is considered in this report. The data used to create the report reveals our aquifers have a marked sensitivity to short term droughts. This should be cause for concern. But the Butte Basin Water Users Association prefers to put an optimistic spin on the data. "It is anticipated that when annual precipitation returns to a more average pattern that groundwater levels will fully recover." The definition of "a more average pattern" ignores the climatic record identified in the Sierra Nevada Ecosystems Project report. The period of modern settlement in the Sierra Nevada (about the last 150 years) has been relatively wet, containing one of the wettest half-century intervals of the past 1,000 years.

Radiocarbon dates on the stumps indicate that California was in deep drought AD 900 and 1300: over 400 years! Persistent droughts, strident relative to our "normal" conditions of the past 150 years, drew lakes and rivers well below their modern levels on numerous occasions during the past two millennia, most recently during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Evidence indicates that there is little that is climatically "normal" about the past century-and-a-half; it appears, in fact, to be California's third- or fourth-wettest century-scale period of the past four or more millennia.

Why would The Butte Basin Water Users Association deliver a report that throws caution to the wind; that fails to explore the range of reason for decline

in aquifer levels; that over-estimates the contribution rice irrigation makes to groundwater levels? Perhaps it is because this group is composed of water

districts holding surface water rights. Water districts are jockeying for position to profit from water transfers to southern California and the conversion of *our* aquifer into *their* water bank.

Butte Environmental Council continues to send representatives to County water meetings to advocate for the environmental health and economic prosperity that only a robust aquifer will provide.

Water districts are jockeying for position to profit from water transfers to southern California and the conversion of our aquifer into their water bank.

Vernal Pool Recovery Plan Completed

Continued from Page 1

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition with landowners, agencies, and environmental organizations, if only Congress and the legislatures in California and Oregon will add their signatures to the effort," she continued.

This Recovery Plan provides economy of scale by seeking protection of sizeable acreage that houses multiple species while also providing additional societal and ecological benefits such as water quality, storm water detention, grazing, tourism, and additional species not covered (p. I-1). The mapping in the Recovery Plan provides a comprehensive view of the landscape that should guide statewide and local conservation planning efforts. One conclusion held by BEC that diverges significantly with the Recovery Plan is that if recovery is to occur, the mapped priority areas of the vernal pool species must not only be protected, they must be expanded. Vernal pools are unique depressional

wetlands that fill and dry every year. The 33 species are endangered, threatened, and of concern due to the severity of vernal pool destruction in California and Oregon. As the vernal pool critical habitat rules have indicated, Holland estimates that close to 75% of the Central Valley's vernal pool habitat was lost by 1997; the central coast has lost at a minimum 90%; southern California's losses exceed 95%; and Oregon has had 60% destroyed with 18% of the extant habitat considered intact (2002). More recent estimates place the habitat losses at over 90% throughout the historic range of vernal pools (Wright 2002).

In closing, Vlamis emphasized that "Serious and rapid implementation of the Recovery Plan will be most favorable for the 33 vernal pool species, which, ultimately, benefits society as whole."

For more information: www.fws.gov/sacramento and www.access.gpo.

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Hog Wild: Hwy 149 Expansion

Continued from page one

neglected to prioritize protection of the landscape despite the known value for ranchers, water quality, tourism, and wild plant and animal species. The Highway 149 project was permitted by a federal agency with the strong caveat that a Habitat Conservation Plan must accompany it to mitigate for the sprawl, basically, that follows such major infrastructure projects. BCAG and CalTrans have not only failed to adequately protect the public for well over a decade, but now they have reneged on their permit obligations. Despite the honest acknowledgment by Supervisor Curt Josiassen in January 2006, "I know that Supervisor Dolan and Mayor Andoe [of Oroville] and I obviously spent a lot of time talking to those folks and it was very clear that they wanted an HCP of some type with this project," neither BCAG, CalTrans, or the Butte County Supervisors took it seriously. When that was brought to their attention again, BCAG scrambled for congressional intervention to alter the permit.

The serial irresponsibility that brings us to the present must be challenged. Butte Environmental Council, the California Native Plant Society, and Defenders of Wildlife intend to do just that

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are a set of FAQs intended to illuminate the issues regarding the Highway 149 Expansion that is slated to turn Hwy. 149 into a four-lane freeway, complete with a Los Angeles-style clover-leaf interchange at the intersections with Highways 99 and 70.

What's the history of the expansion project?

Studies for the expansion project go back to at least 1991, which estimated the price at \$41.5 million.

CalTrans initiated the expansion project in 2001, which included producing a quick, cheap environmental review in lieu of a comprehensive analysis -- hoping that no one would suggest otherwise.

BEC and one federal agency challenged the CalTrans environmental review, forcing the agency to create an Environmental Impact Report in 2002, which was finalized in 2003.

In 2002, BEC pushed for a quicker and cheaper alternative to the expansion project, making the intersections safe within months instead of years.

CalTrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) received permits in 2002 for the expansion project, but have failed to implement the most time consuming, comprehensive, and significant portion: a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The funding for the expansion project was not

made available until mid-2005, slowing the project down by many years.

The intersection of Highway 149 with Highways 99 and 70 south of Chico is clearly dangerous. Isn't widening the road and adding clover-leaves the best and quickest way to make it safe?

Wider roads and clover-leaves are certainly safer than the current situation, but they are not the quickest route to safety. Funding and environmental constraints (and other issues) can prevent projects from being built. This is why CalTrans will often use a stop-gap measure that quickly -- and cheaply -- addresses safety issues.

For example, the intersection of Ophir Road and Hwy. 70, just south of Oroville, is unsafe. Traffic signals are being installed at Ophir Road because the funding and permits aren't available for a large-scale widening.

If traffic signals will work at Ophir Road, why not use them on the Hwy. 149 intersections?

Why indeed? BEC has been pushing to signalize both Hwy. 149 intersections since 2002, but its proposal has fallen on deaf ears. The local media hasn't helped the situation, preferring to focus on the project expansion as the only solution to the safety issue.

Perhaps the local media should be asking CalTrans the following: if the agency knew that Hwy. 149 was dangerous in the early 90s, why wasn't it pushing to get traffic signals installed immediately? The agency surely knows that multi-million dollar freeways and cover-leaves take years to be funded, permitted, and constructed.

What is BEC's proposal?

1. Signalize both intersections at a cost of approximately \$250,000 each or use a fly over ramp.
2. Diminish traffic speed between Chico and Oroville to 55.
3. Lengthen turn lanes on Hwys 99 and 70.
4. Provide more funding for more CHP personnel in the area to enforce the lower speeds.
5. Most of the traffic on Hwy 149 is from Oroville to Chico and vice versa (DEIR/S May 2002), so it's important to increase the number and frequency of

"I firmly believe one of the greatest legacies we can leave to future generations is the heritage of our land, but unless we can preserve and protect the unspoiled areas which God has given us, we will have nothing to leave them."

-Governor Ronald Reagan, April 3, 1971



The current Hwy 149 interchange expansion will pave the way for sprawling tract-home development, already seen marching up Hwy 99 from the south.

buses during peak commute hours and provide incentives to use mass transit.

What's the cost of BEC's proposal vs. the expansion project?

The cost of installing a signal at the Hwy. 149 intersections is approximately \$250,000 for both intersections, versus an estimated price for the expansion project of \$130 million.

What's another alternative to widening roads?

CalTrans neglected to look at all of the alternative suggestions to the Hwy. 149 expansion project and disparaged alternative solutions, including commuter rail service.

A freeway lane carries 1,800 cars per hour, or less than 2,200 people. A single light rail track can comfortably carry from 8,600 to 16,000 people per hour equating to four to seven freeway lanes

(The Rochester Rail Transit Committee, Inc.). A report by the Institute of Transportation Studies at U.C. Berkeley, *The Full Cost of Intercity Transportation*, indicates that while internal system costs for transportation place rail highest at \$0.233, highways at \$0.198, and air at \$0.124, when social costs such as air pollution, congestion, noise, and accidents are added to the analysis, rail is the clear winner at \$0.0002 with air travel at \$0.0043, and highways at \$0.0045 (Levinson et al., June 1996). And as transportation advocates know, widening roads fuels speed, accidents, sprawl, conversion of farmland and wildlands, ironically resulting in more congestion (Sacramento Bee 2/28/06).

What are the environmental issues?

No legal general plan

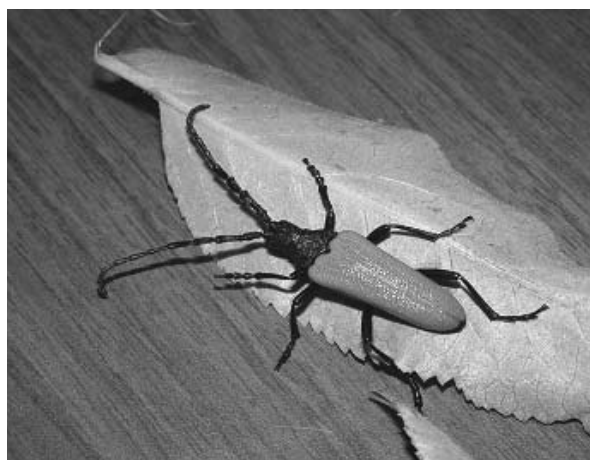
The Butte County General Plan is required by the state to provide the residents of Butte County with a comprehensive analysis of the areas best suited for housing, industry, agriculture, recreation, etc. while adequately protecting the environment. Without such a blueprint for the future, major infrastructure projects are heavily growth inducing and can lead to severe cumulative impacts. Butte County does not have a legally defensible General Plan and Attorney General Lockyer has noticed the problem (August 11, 2000).

Continued on next page.

Landmark Restoration Agreement Provides Model for Future Action

By Michael J. Bean, Environmental Defense, and John Carlon, River Partners

While the Governor's plans for beefed up flood control efforts garnered big headlines recently, too little attention was paid to an important agreement among often-sparring conservation and flood control agencies in the state. That agreement, finalized in November 2005, and shepherded by River Partners for more than two years, breaks a longstanding impasse over ecological restoration efforts along the state's rivers.



The Valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

The Reclamation Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all deserve credit for harmonizing their public safety and environmental responsibilities.

But to understand why this agreement is so important, you must take a short walk through history. California's rivers were once lined with extensive riparian forests, spread out over wide floodplains. Over the years, agricultural, commercial and residential development has occurred in these floodplains, some of it with little heed of the attendant flood risks or the environmental consequences. The development rendered riparian forests – on which many of California's endangered species depend – one of the state's most imperiled ecosystems.

The land between the levees is often the only place where significant stands of native riparian vegetation remain and is generally the best place to restore such habitats. Yet proposals to restore habitats likely to be used by endangered species have brought into sharp focus the challenge of accomplishing both public safety and environmental protection goals. Routine floodway maintenance can sometimes harm endangered species or their habitats. Mitigation of those impacts by positive measures elsewhere is usually required. And mitigation costs can be significant.

In a head-to-head battle between cost savings vs. nature, money usually wins. The Reclamation Board's permits for restoration activities usually prohibited the planting of elderberry bushes, which provide habitat for a boldly colored but exceedingly rare creature – the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle. If they're not planted, they can't be destroyed, which means they don't have to be mitigated. That kind of cost-saving,

however, sacrifices one of the best opportunities to recover the beetle and get it off the protected list, which everybody – including the Reclamation Board – wants.

The new agreement addresses this very conflict. On the O'Connor Lakes Unit of the Feather River Wildlife Area, River Partners and the Department of Fish and Game will restore habitat on 228 acres, including the planting of 1,300 elderberry bushes

(see article on page one). That will increase the number of elderberries on the site more than tenfold. The multi-agency agreement allows the planting of the elderberries now, without any obligation to mitigate for their loss if future maintenance or flood fighting activities damage or destroy the planted bushes. By avoiding future mitigation costs and improving floodway maintenance while simultaneously creating habitat for an endangered species, the agreement serves both public safety and conservation goals.

River Partners was pleased to see almost immediate, on-the-ground results of this agreement. Once we were allowed to begin restoring the O'Connor Lakes project on the Feather River (in Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat), we discovered that previous flood control efforts in the area were ineffective and expensive, and that a simpler method of revegetation that would both improve flood control and provide species habitat, could be utilized. Our efforts were rewarded when the January 2006 high water flowed exactly as we wanted through the newly restored project site (see photo on page one).

This approach resembles a now decade-old idea that allows private landowners to restore or improve habitat for rare wildlife without encumbering their land with unwanted new restrictions. Called "safe harbor agreements," they build upon the theory that relieving fear of future restrictions can foster significant habitat improvements, with River Partners' help. The Reclamation Board, the Departments of Fish and Game and Water Resources, and the Fish and Wildlife Service have produced a sensible solution that will save taxpayers money, improve flood protection and benefit endangered species.

Highway 149 Expansion

Continued from previous page.

Air quality

Butte County's air quality for ozone and PM2.5 (airborne particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) exceeds national standards and exceeds state standards for PM10. The environmental impact report (EIR) for this project does not address the impact this project will have on worsening air quality.

Inadequate analysis of all of Hwy. 149 expansion. The EIR of the Hwy. 149 expansion did not incorporate the impacts of the entire project, which is the push to expand to four lanes from Sacramento to Chico. "The 1990 Corridor Study identified SR 70 as the preferred route for upgrades to complete an inter-regional transportation facility from Sacramento to Chico. A gap-closure project along SR 149 is an integral part of this freeway/expressway system." In legal terms, this is called "segmentation," in which the impacts for small segments are analyzed, rather than the entire project. Segmentation is illegal under federal and state law.

Induces growth

Increasing road capacity directly affects land development patterns. After road capacity increases, land speculators hire professional lobbyists to advocate for projects near the expanded roads. In fact, there is a direct link between the Hwy. 149 expansion and a proposed casino project. The land near the project is currently zoned as grazing and open space, with 40-acre minimum parcels. Once the Hwy. 149 expansion proceeds, the casino will likely be approved, which will put even more pressure on surrounding land owners to sell or develop their open space.

Destroys habitat and kills species

The EIR states that the Hwy 149 expansion "would contribute to these losses of riparian habitat, vernal pools and wetlands that support federally listed species (including vernal pool invertebrates and Butte County Meadowfoam), valley elderberry longhorn beetle." It then goes on to say the losses are acceptable, given that there's plenty of habitat nearby. What it ignores is that the Central Valley has lost over 95% of its wetlands, and that each project that destroys them further adds to the losses (Central Valley Wetland Water Supply Investigations: Administrative Draft Report, 2000).

Butte Environmental Council's
Endangered Species Faire - May 6, 2006
RAFFLE!



Raffle Prizes

Stay in Lake Tahoe at the Clair Tappaan Lodge:

Enjoy a one-night stay for two, which includes three delicious meals, donated by the Sierra Club, Yahi Group. In the forested hillside near historic Donner Pass, enjoy a night at the lodge built by Sierra Club volunteers. Lodge features a fireplace and hot tub. Enjoy meals prepared by professional chefs. Located near the Pacific Crest Trail and Donner Lake.



Dye Creek Preserve Cottage: Two night stay at Dye Creek Preserve cottage donated by the Nature Conservancy. Personal guided hike up the beautiful Dye Creek canyon available by request. Enjoy the serene beauty of this striking preserve for two days. Wildflowers, spectacular hiking and birding and quiet, quiet, quiet just 30 minutes from Chico.



Rustic Cohasset Retreat:

Two night stay for up to 12 people at a secluded, rustic Cohasset retreat donated by Sue Lawing. Great for a family reunion, gathering of friends, or a weekend away from

everything. Pond, sauna, forest, walking, and peaceful quiet.

Rafting on Butte Creek: Float trip down lower Butte Creek and "Salmon Perspectives video" donated by Friends of Butte Creek. Take this three-hour tour through the incredible Butte Creek preserve with Allen Harthorn. See ducks, hawks, osprey and possibly eagles or bear. Experience the creek in a completely different way, from the water!

Bird Banding and Lunch at CSU Chico Ecological Reserve:

Learn about mist-netting and bird banding with licensed bander Dawn Garcia and apprentice bander Mike Fisher. Up to four guests will watch and may assist with extracting birds from nets, banding, data collection, and release of the birds. Lunch will be provided. Donated by the Altacal Audubon Society and CSU Chico.

Dinner for Four at Sierra Nevada Brewing Company:

Enjoy award-winning beer and fine food at Chico's premier restaurant and taproom. Dinner for four is donated by the Brewery. Choose from a constantly changing menu featuring the finest, freshest ingredients.



One-Hour Massage: Treat yourself to a relaxing, re-cuperative one-hour massage by local masseuse Bing Abbott. Donated by Friends of Bidwell Park.

Donation is not required to enter, though your support is essential to enable us to host the fair. Simply send in this form with your donation. Indicate the number you would like entered and we will fill out the tickets for you. The drawing will take place at the Endangered Species Faire on May 6 (you need NOT be present to win).

THANK YOU to our Sponsors!

Sierra Club Yahi Group • The Nature Conservancy • Sue Lawing
Friends of Butte Creek • California State University, Chico
Altacal Audubon Society • Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
Friends of Bidwell Park • Bing Abbott

TICKETS:

- \$5 each
- 6 for \$25
- 14 for \$50
- 30 for \$100

Send your tickets and recommended

donation to: Butte Environmental Council

116 W. 2nd Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928

Thank you for your support!

Send your tickets and donation to:

Butte Environmental Council
116 W. 2nd Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928
For questions, call us at (530) 891-6424
Thank you for your support!

Endangered Species Faire • May 6, 2006 • RAFFLE!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Number of Tickets to Enter: _____

☐ Check Enclosed -or-

☐ Charge my Credit Card (visa, mc, amer. exp.)

CC#: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

As Bureaucracy Goes, so Goes the Environment

By Randy Abbott

All publicly owned lands are connected to some form of government stewardship. In the case of local historic Bidwell Park, that means the City of Chico. And in the City of Chico's case that means a tangle of various documents, protocols, numerous Staff and Divisions, a Commission and a Council – a veritable bureaucracy.

Many people believe the policies and laws that protect environmental resources receive adequate support from legal stewards like the City of Chico. The reality is that there are too many things in our society competing for funding and attention (deserved and undeserved), and laws that are on the books are sometimes not clear or binding enough for those granted the power to freely interpret them. This can result in an under emphasis and even loss of critical conservation policies and laws.

You might expect an update of the management plan for Bidwell Park to be cause for a renewal and a refinement of long term goals already found throughout City of Chico's General Plan (1994) and existing Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP - 1990). What you will probably find is something different altogether.

Take for instance the case of Annie Bidwell's "Deed of Conveyance." Dated 1905, it listed strict requirements to which the City of Chico was, at the time, legally bound to adhere.

The 1990 BPMMP states,

"A) Annie Bidwell's requirements as noted in the Deed of Conveyance

must always remain a primary consideration in all decision making related to Bidwell Park.

B) The Deed of Conveyance should be used to maintain the City's dedication to stewardship of Bidwell Park.

C) The goals, Objectives and Recommendations in the MMP should be considered as a supplemental policy statement for management of Bidwell Park."

Despite this very clear language, the current BPPC de-emphasized the link to the past and the Park's origins and purpose by voting last November to confine Annie B's requirements to an appendix at the back of the Document. The quotes above from the 1990 BPMMP are completely missing.

So what about more recent documents? Doesn't the City of Chico's General Plan (GP) have something to say about the Park's resources? Yes it does, and so does the City's Master Environmental Assessment referring to the entire park as a "wilderness preserve."

The General Plan provides an overlay for the entire Park called a "Resource Conservation Area". According to the GP, RCA'S are limited to 'non-development oriented uses, limited passive recreation, scientific study, off-site mitigation banking and educational activities.'

The GP description of RCA's jibes perfectly with the 1990 BPMMP that stressed the need to very carefully manage the Park's fragile resources, preserving the 'grandfathered' developed recreational facilities, like the

one-mile recreation area, Hooker Oak and Sycamore ballfields, and the Chico Municipal Golf Course.

RCA's differ from Resource Management Areas (RMA'S), another GP overlay designation. "RMA'S, unlike RCA's, would allow some level of development if proposed projects demonstrate that sensitive resources would be protected. (GP1994)"; several pages carefully describing restrictive policies for developing an RMA follow that introduction.

Unfortunately, a similar degree of codified clarity over habitat protection standards called for in the GP's section on RCA's has never been developed and adopted by City Council.

As for the BPPC, when the RCA overlay description came up during review of the BPMMP, some Commissioners found its description far too restrictive, even contradictory to the Park's purpose.

Emphasis was placed on the BPMMP being the lead policy document for Bidwell Park with no effort to acknowledge or defend the GP's intent.

What about the Municipal Code? Anything about Bidwell Park in there? Of course there is:

The Municipal Code (Section 12R.08.030) clearly spells out restric-

tions on designating new areas for "intensive recreation" ("not allowed if the area is already been dedicated as open space to remain in its natural state, or has been dedicated to a passive recreational use requiring... peace, tranquility and quiet").

Nevertheless, the BPPC forges ahead to finalize plans for two disc golf courses in Upper Park, and has at times complained about having its hands tied when considering new developments in the Park due to so called "moratoriums."

As long as we trust the stewardship of our natural resources to government bureaucracies – and what choice is there, really? – those of us who value nature must always stay vigilant, and seek to improve the inevitable role of governments by reminding and educating our representatives of both the value of the environment, and the critical role of good stewardship.

There are many ways to comment on critical environmental issues like those that affect Bidwell Park to members of the BPPC, Chico City Council or City staff. Simply email the City Clerk at: dpresson@ci.chico.ca.us, or write a letter the good old fashion way, or contact your representative by phone or in person.

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Pontchartrain

under graves in the cemetery,
cross streets speaking blue parlance. Notes
of the dead. Cans of chicory
blur with it around town, before stone boats
of the gone. Elbows make comrades, someone says,
all of us aching to deposit ourselves where
taps and the moody heron won't find us,
its god eye fixed on a figure in the mirror.
The suit of the beloved now should be hung
in the kitchen with the plate from the world's fair.
Old bones stew in the sink, young
vines curl over the sill. The moon, bright revolver
between slats of ruined wall,
looks for all the world like a wrecking ball.

Beth Spencer

New Developments in the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update

By Randy Abbott

The City of Chico's Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) has been reviewing and changing the Draft Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) since September of 2005, and as of the beginning of March still has at least one more month of input to go.

It was expected that the EIR and Public Comment period for the EIR would soon follow the BPPC approved Draft of the BPMMP, but a recent letter

Local Bidwell Park lovers can keep pace with the changing schedule of the BPMMP update at friendsofbidwellpark.org or through the City of Chico's Park Division - 896-7800.

dated 2-17-06 from Park Commissioner Russ Mills may change that if the City Council agrees with him.

Mills is concerned that if an EIR is conducted on a draft plan approved by the BPPC and the Council makes

modifications, there will be additional environmental review required at additional cost. "What a waste of money," Mills laments.


Central to his concern are decisions made by the City Council prior to the Update and awaiting environmental review (closure of an additional section of South Park Drive to vehicular traffic). According to Mills this prior Council decision has been dropped from the MMP Update/EIR process at the hands of a BPPC vote.

Local BPPC watchdog group the Friends of Bidwell Park have also stated they will bring concerns about funding and implementation, as well as issues of resource protection, fire and invasive plant management and recreational use pressures to the attention of the Council.

Local Bidwell Park lovers looking to keep pace with the changing

schedule of the BPMMP update can check at friendsofbidwellpark.org or contact the City of Chico's Park Division @ 896-7800.

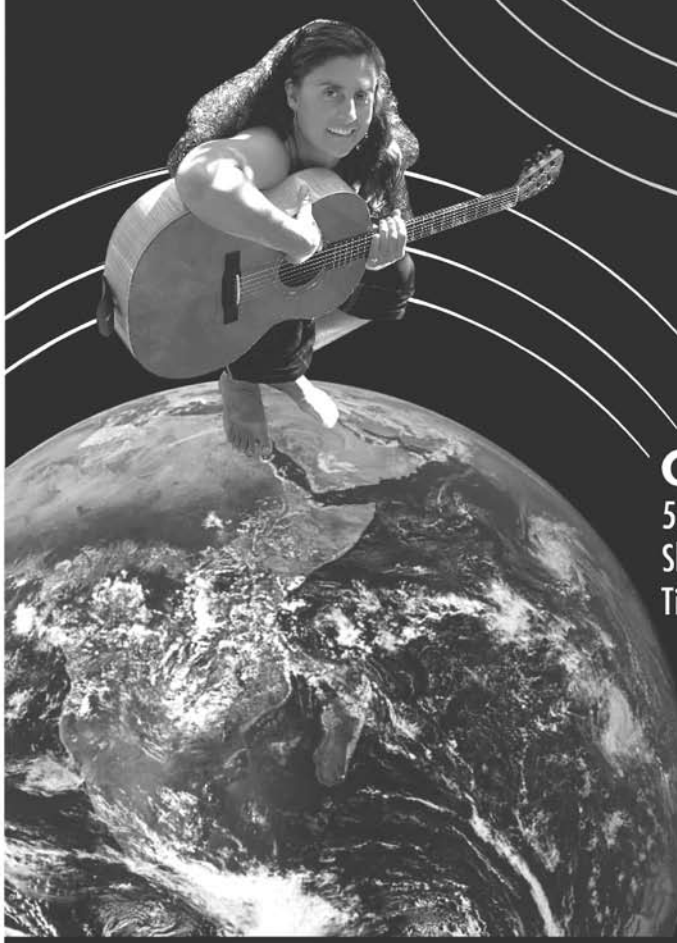
Public comment to the BPPC and/or the City Councilors can be sent through the City Clerk's office, or by emailing dpresson@ci.chico.ca.us.



A BENEFIT FOR BEC


Alice Dimicele Band

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006






Chico Women's Club

592 East 3rd Street
 Show 7:30 pm • Doors 6:30 pm
 Tickets: \$18 adv. • \$20 door




Tickets available at: Chico Natural Foods, Country Touch (Paradise), Diamond W Western Wear, Lyon Books, Music Connection and www.chicotickets.com. For more info call 530-345-8136 or visit www.chicotickets.com

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 Fax: (530) 342-8224
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ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

Ongoing Events

Weekly Power Walk Meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 6:30PM for a 1 1/2 hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear tennies/walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

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

Yahi Group Cross Country Ski List. Join our more than 65 cross-country ski enthusiasts as we explore the back-country of Colby Meadows and Lassen Park and enjoy the groomed trails of Mt. Shasta, Royal Gorge and Tahoe-Donner. If you'd like to be added to (or updated on) our list, please contact Yahi Group Leaders: Jeanne, 899-9980 or Larry, 342-7998. All ability levels welcome. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

April Volunteer Opportunities in Bidwell Park

Spring 2006 Trail Days

When: Saturdays: April 22, May 13 & 20 and June 3; begins 9:00 am – noon
Where: Meet at Chico Community Observatory (Parking Lot C) in Upper Park.

Community volunteers will help provide trail repair and maintenance work to the Middle Trail. The work day will last until noon or longer for volunteers who wish to continue. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, weather appropriate clothing, a hat, and bring snacks and drinking water. The City Park Division will provide tools. *Volunteers under 18 need a release form signed by a parent or guardian.*

Earth Day Community Clean Up, hosted by Starbucks Green Team
When: Saturday, April 22; begins at 10:00 am
Where: Meet at Children's Playground downtown
Community Volunteers will remove litter along the river creekbeds beside Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater, Children's Playground and then on to Lost Park (along 1st Street).

Earth Day Project in Lost Park, hosted by Friends of Bidwell Park
When: Sunday, April 30; from 9:00 am to noon. For more information, call 892-1666 or email info@friendsofbidwellpark.org

For more information about these projects and other ways to volunteer in Bidwell Park, please call Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, Park Division, at 896-7831 or email: lspters@ci.chico.ca.org

April 2006

Saturday, April 15

Botanical Illustration Workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Sunday, April 16

Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Natural History walk. Meet at the Chico east Park and Ride Lot at 12:30 pm, carpool to the Reserve and return about 3 pm. The Reserve is directly upstream of Upper Bidwell Park. www.csuchico.edu/bei/BCCER/include/eventsBccer/eventsIndex.html

Thursday, April 20

Alice Dimicile Band - Boogie with BEC Benefit. At the Women's Club. Music at 7:30, doors at 6:30. Tickets: \$18 advance, \$20 at door. See page 13 for more info., go to www.chicotickets.com, or call 345-8136.

A Visit with John Muir -The Scootcher of a Lifetime. Our new program

chair Goodie Sweatt has arranged for Frank Helling, a renowned impersonator of John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, to appear in Chico for a performance. Program open to all. Please come and invite your friends! It will be held on the CSUC campus, in the Ruth Rowland Theater at the Performing Arts Center, room 134. 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact: Goodie Sweatt, 894-3988. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday, April 22 EARTH DAY

Bike Ride to Chico Airport Meet at 11 AM at the Chico Nut Company, Esplanade and E. 11th Ave (park on E. 10th Ave by Chico Nut Company parking lot). We'll take the nearby bike path to the Airport and the newly opened Chico Air Museum. Round trip ride of 8 miles. Helmets required. Bring water and lunch or buy lunch at the airport deli. Rain cancels. Leader: Gene: 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Long Deer Creek Hike This is the full 9-10 mile round trip on the trails of Deer Creek. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and lots of energy for this mid-spring pleasure. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 AM, returning about 5 PM. Leader: John, 872-8258 or hubhollister@yahoo.com. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Water Quality Monitoring Training Workshop Learn how to help monitor the health of Big Chico Creek or set up a monitoring program for your own creek. Meet at Five Mile Recreation Area (south side off Centennial Dr.) from 9 am to noon. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

Identification of Plants from Vernal Pools and other Seasonal Wetlands Workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

EcoFest. Bands, workshops, children's eco-art, information booths and speaker Julia Butterfly Hill. CSU Chico, Kendall Lawn and the Free Speech area. 12 noon to 6 PM. For more information, call 898-5676 or email earc@csuchico.edu. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Sunday, April 23

Black Butte Lake Hike. We'll walk across the dam and drive to the west side of the lake to walk the Buckhorn Trail - a 1.3 mile loop and then walk the shoreline for a couple of miles. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 12 PM. Bring snack and water. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491 or Michelle95963@yahoo.com; Asst. Leader: Annette, 872-3557. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday, April 29

What's In Your Gutter? Storm Drain Marking. Protect local waterways and win prizes. 10 a.m. to 1. See page 4 for details, call BEC at 891-6424, or visit www.becnet.org.

Ord Bend Walk. Join River Partners ecologists to explore one of their first restoration sites in the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. See page 6 for more info., or call 894-5401 x. 22. – *River Partners*

Feather Falls Hike. Enjoy the 6th highest waterfall in the U.S. and the beautifully flowered and shaded, 8-9 mile round trip trail to it. Wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes and bring lunch, water and carpool \$\$\$. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:35AM. Leader: Julian: 893-1994. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Sunday, April 30

Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Natural History walk. Meet at the Chico east Park and Ride Lot at 12:30 pm, carpool to the Reserve and return about 3 pm. The Reserve is directly upstream of Upper Bidwell Park. <http://www.csuchico.edu/bei/BCCER/include/eventsBccer/eventsIndex.html> – *Friends of Bidwell Park*

Earth Day project in Lost Park Pick up trash and remove invasive plants in this forgotten downtown park area. From 9 am to noon. Tools, water, gloves and instruction provided. For more information, call 892-1666 or email info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

May 2006

Saturday, May 6

Deer Creek Hike Experience the full spring beauty of the Deer Creek trail in a 5-6 mile round-trip hike. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and a camera. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Leader: Julian, 893-1994. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

27th Annual Endangered Species Faire. The oldest environmental fair in northern CA. This year's theme reflects local concerns about plans to exploit the aquifer: "*Hidden Waters... In Danger?*" If your school, agency, or non-profit would like to attend and promote your activities or support the Faire, contact: Cindy, mcartneyfive@earthlink.net or 891-6424. 10AM to 4PM in Bidwell Park, Chico.

Water Quality Monitoring Help monitor the health of Big Chico Creek. Meet at Five Mile Recreation Area (south side off Centennial Dr.) from 9 am to noon. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620. – *Friends of Bidwell Park*

Oak Woodland Ecology and Management workshop and field trip sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Sunday, May 7, 14, 21

Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Natural History walk. Meet at the Chico east Park and Ride Lot at 12:30 pm, carpool to the Reserve and return about 3 pm. The Reserve is directly upstream of Upper Bidwell Park. www.csuchico.edu/bei/BC-CER/include/eventsBccer/eventsIndex.html – *Friends of Bidwell Park*

Friday, May 12

Dinner at Grayatip Thai Restaurant. Enjoy good company and a delicious meal. Please call by Thursday, so I can make the reservation. Leader: Michelle 865-9491 or Michelle95963@yahoo.com. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday, May 13

Introduction to the Salicaceae of California (cottonwoods and willows) Workshop sponsored by the Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Sunday, May 14

Forks of the Butte Creek Trail Hike & Swim We'll hike upstream from the Doe Mill Rd Bridge over Butte Creek, through the old Forks of Butte mining town site in the BLM recreation area of the same name. Bring water, lunch, extra shoes for creek exploration and a swimsuit. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 10 AM for the drive up to Forest Ranch then down into the canyon. Low clearance vehicles not recommended for this somewhat rocky road. Leader: Stephen: 876-1391. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday, May 20

Rock Ranch Wine & Art Fundraiser for Butte Environmental Council. Enjoy fine May weather, local artwork and artists, silent auction, and wine and hors 'd'oeuvres at the ranch of Maria and

Chris Rock. Tickets \$35. Contact BEC at 891-6424 for more information.

3rd Annual YAH! Group Garden Tour Tickets at the Little Red Hen, Fostine's, Growing Grounds, Chico Creek, and Vagabond Rose in Chico, Mendon's in Paradise and Nelson's Footwear in Oroville. Contact: Joanne at 893-2154. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21

Overnight Campout at Bruff's Rock/Smoke Creek Canyon We will camp at the beautiful Ramshorn BLM improved campground north of Susanville. On Saturday we'll take a relatively flat hike of about 3 miles round trip in the high desert of Upper Smoke Creek Canyon. Bring sturdy boots, hat, sunscreen, water, camera and binoculars. Leader: Alan, 891-8789. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

May 27-29

Mill Creek Memorial Day Backpack Join the Yahi Group for our annual Memorial Day weekend trail maintenance trip. We will hike either 14-15 miles downstream starting at Upper Mill Creek (4000 feet) to Black Rock (2000

feet) or hike in 4-5 miles at camp before returning. Group size is limited, call for reservations. Return time around 6PM Monday. Leader: Tony, 916-448-3230; Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

June 2006

Saturday, June 3

Paradise Lake Walk Come enjoy the beauty and serenity of Paradise Lake. We will do a 9 mile round-trip hike on the dirt path which follows the indentations of the Lake. Meet at 9 AM at the Chico Park & Ride or at 9:45 AM at the Paradise Lake parking area. For driving directions contact the leader. Bring water lunch and comfortable shoes. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491. – *Sierra Club Yahi Group*

Saturday, June 10

Introduction to Identifying Northern California Grasses (Poaceae), spring-season grasses of the northern Sacramento Valley and adjacent foothills Workshop sponsored by Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium. www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html



What's in your Gutter?

Please help us mark storm drains to let people know that our gutters drain directly into our creeks.

Meet at the City of Chico parking lot. 411 Main St. **April 29, 10 am - 1 pm.**

Funded by CALFED and Prop. 13
Sponsored by Chico Urban Streams Alliance
Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
Butte Environmental Council
City of Chico
Kennedy / Jenks Consultants

In case of rain,
call: 879-6951
or visit:
www.becnet.org



FORESTRY

Our National Forest Lands For Sale

By Patricia Puterbaugh & Jim Brobeck
Lassen Forest Preservation Group

Like many environmental groups, we are riding out the second Bush term in a defensive position. The hits just keep on comin' and we're doing our best to defend the environmental laws enacted in the 70's. The Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act are the bedrock of US environmental protections. Wally Herger, Richard Pombo and other California representatives are busy weakening these laws, even though a majority of Americans favor increased environmental protections.

The latest US Forest snafu is the much-publicized Bush plan to sell off 303,379 acres of National Forest land. Historically, rural counties have benefited from logging in their nearby National Forests through the Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination program. This program compensated rural counties containing National Forest parcels, as they were not able to collect tax revenue from these lands. As logging has declined on National Forests, the money has declined. Instead of funding education through the budget, Bush plans to sell US Forest land.

Fortunately, like many current administration policies, this one is not popular even among Republicans and conservatives. Many are aware that these parcels of land are not "inefficient, low-value and isolated." Many of these parcels have been used as trade for private land to enlarge National parks, wilderness areas and other public lands. Many of these parcels also have important habitat, recreational and public access values.

It is unclear who will "buy" these public lands. We are concerned that the answer may be logging companies or developers. Butte County lands include acreage in Cohasset that was replanted by local activists after the 1990 fire. There is land on Big Chico Creek, Deer Creek, Butte Creek and the Feather River that has been spared the orgy of logging and clearcuts going on right now. There are many parcels surrounding Sawmill Peak above Paradise and Lake Oroville that are valuable and important for wildlife and people.



(Need cartoon credit)

We need to see a huge protest against this plan from the people in surrounding communities. Maybe even Wally Herger will take note! **Please e-mail your comments to: SRS_Land_Sales@fs.fed.us or write to: USDA FS, SRS Comments, Lands 4S, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop 1124, Washington, DC 20250-0003.** Congress will need to approve this plan, so write your representatives, too.

Recently, The Lassen Forest Preservation Group and the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club have joined many other organizations in lawsuits against the Forest Service for huge logging projects planned for the Plumas and Lassen National forests. The North 49 project on the Hat Creek Ranger District and the Creeks project on the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen Forest, are enormous plans that threaten the California spotted owl, Northern goshawk, American marten, Sierra Nevada red fox, trophy trout and migratory bird species. The Meadow Valley project in the Plumas Forest is already being logged with many clearcuts adjacent to the Bucks Lake Road. All of these projects are purported to be "forest health projects" to reduce fire danger and restore forest health. We disagree, as do almost the entire community of scientists in this field. The plans not only threaten wildlife habitat, but very importantly they fragment the remaining, high quality habitat left on our National Forest lands.

The wildlife need corridors and contiguous habitat to feed, travel, breed and grow. The lands slated for logging are some of the best habitat left, outside of wilderness areas within the Plumas and Lassen forests. These lands also spawn the streams and rivers we all depend on for clean water and fisheries. The massive Jonesville project, due to come out next year will cut thousands of acres in the Butte Creek watershed. These are creeks we cherish for the abundant life-giving water that blesses our region.

Our groups have worked with the Forest Service for years trying to implement plans for sustainable logging that will provide jobs, restore forest health and reduce fire danger. There have been many positive developments including the Fire Safe Councils throughout the state working to reduce fire danger around communities. Our groups have not opposed logging around forest communities such as Butte Meadows, Lake Almanor, Hat Creek, Jonesville and others to reduce fuel loads. We will not compromise however, when logging threatens critical wildlife habitat and important recreational values far from towns and neighborhoods. We will continue to fight for a vision of our National Forests where resource extraction is renewable, sustainable and scientifically based. We will continue to litigate when the environmental laws of the US, written to protect the greater good, are trounced on for profit.

Feinstein Vows to Defeat Bill

Many Republicans are speaking up against President Bush's wish to sell national forest and Bureau of Land Management parcels to help balance the budget. Not northern California Congressman Wally Herger. Herger thinks Bush's idea to sell off some federal land to raise money for rural counties is a good idea. Herger called Bush's plan "a good solution to the problem." "The parcels proposed by the president are small, isolated, low-value tracts of land," Herger wrote. "Transferring these low-value parcels will make the U.S. Forest Service more efficient by consolidating the national forest, and will enable us to continue this important rural education and forest health program."

Senator Diane Feinstein holds an entirely different opinion on Bush's Plans to sell-off over 85,000 acres of California's national forests. Feinstein said, "This proposal is a terrible idea based on a misguided sense of priorities. First, the Administration is proposing to sell off our treasured public lands to help finance the President's irresponsible budget. And second, the Administration plans to ratchet down and then terminate an important program [the Secure Rural Schools program] that has been the life-blood for rural schools in California and many other states. I will do everything I can to defeat this effort....A stable funding source must be provided, but not at the expense of our wilderness."

PDF Maps of USFS Parcels Potentially Eligible for Sale available: www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/rural-pdf.shtml

Comments on the proposed list must be received by May 1 and may be sent by e-mail to SRS_Land_Sales@fs.fed.us. Written comments may be sent to: USDA Forest Service, SRS Comments, Lands 4S, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop 1124, Washington, DC, 20250-0003. Send faxed comments to (202) 205-1604.

BUTTE COUNTY

RECYCLING

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

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

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

- 5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)
Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise,
Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu
877-0937, M-F 8-4
- 6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap Metal South & Nor-Cal Recyclers
Auto bodies (call first), 878 E. 20th St., Chico,
343-7166, M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12; 766 Oroville-
Chico Hwy., Durham, 345-6241, M-F 8-4
1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville, 532-0262
M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12
- 7) Chico Transfer & Recycling
2569 Scott Ave., Chico, 893-0333, M-F 8-4, closed
12-1 for lunch. www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 8) Butte Co. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport)
895-4829 or 343-5488, Fri-Sat. 9-1
Free to City of Chico residents.
- 9) Country Roads Disposal
Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather
Falls & Palermo, 589-3680, M-F 8-5
- 10) Fair St. Recycling-Work Training Center
2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30, www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm

- 11) Joe Verni Recycling
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1
- 12) Neal Road Landfill
345-4917, Daily 7-4, www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 13) NorCal Waste Systems Curbside Recycling in Chico 342-4444
- 14) NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville, 533-5868; Recycling
Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste F 1-6
Free to City of Oroville residents.
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Sta-
tion Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of
month, Gridley residents only 9-4
- 16) Paradise Elementary School
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise; Drop boxes open 24 hrs.
- 17) Recycle Paradise
951 American Way, Paradise
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia
(CRV, newspapers only); Stratton's Mkt.

- 5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers
only) 877-2777, M-Sat 10-4
- 18) TOMRA Pacific
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville
(916) 381-6861, Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
- 19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs,
Durham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)
www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

A.S. Recycling Program

BMU 005, CSU Chico, Chico 95929
Drop off center: 417 Cherry St., Chico
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978
www.aschico.com/recycle

A.S. Environmental Affairs Council

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

Altacal Audubon Society

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927
530/824-0253
www.altacal.org; Jacksons3@aol.com

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

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

Bidwell Environmental Institute

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

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

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

Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

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

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

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

Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

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

Butte Environmental Council, Inc.

116 W. 2nd 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

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

California Oak Foundation

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

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

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

California Wilderness Coalition

1212 Broadway, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612
510/451-1450 fax: 510/451-1445
www.calwild.org; info@calwild.org

Cherokee Preservation Society

530/534-0400; fax: 530/534-0400

Chico Certified Farmer's Market

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

Chico Creek Nature Center

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

Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association

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

Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program

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

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

Community Legal Information Center, CSUC

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

Environmental Action & Resource Center

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

The Esplanade League

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

Farm Sanctuary

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

Friends of Bidwell Park

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

Friends of Butte Creek

PO Box 3305
Chico, CA 95927
530/879-0887
www.buttecreek.org
friends@buttecreek.org

Friends of Plumas Wilderness

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

Friends of the River

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTORY

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

Humanity Rising

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

Kids & Creeks

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

Lassen Forest Preservation Group

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

Little Chico Creek Watershed Group

Dept. of Biological Sciences, CSUC
Chico, CA 95929-0515
530/898-5684 fax: 530/898-4363
jhubbell@csuchico.edu

Middle Mountain Foundation

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

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

Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility

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

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

River Partners

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

Sacramento River Preservation Trust

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

Sacramento River Watershed Program

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

Sierra Club, Yahi Group

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

Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign

915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
916/442-3155 x206 fax: 916/442-3396
Sierra_Campaign@friendsoftheriver.org

South Bidwell Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 2057, Chico CA 95927
530/879-5339
www.sbpnassoc.com
sbpna00@yahoo.com

South Campus Neighborhood Association

1405 West 3rd St., Chico, CA 95928
530/898-2623, preusser@shocking.com
southcampusneighborhood.org

South Chico Neighborhood Association

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

The Bidwell Conservancy

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

Streaminders

Chapter of Izaak Walton League
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530/895-0866; streamrc@earthlink.net

TreeAction

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

Trout Unlimited

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

Valley Water Protection

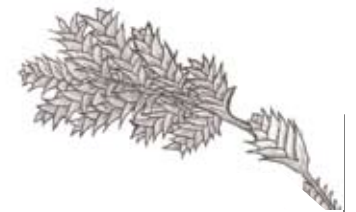
7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965
530/343-0916 fax: 530/894-7829
cofarm@shocking.com

Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association

2096 Vallombrosa Ave.
Chico, CA 95926

Young Life Woodleaf

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



Haiku

In the park today
pear blossoms bloom in the rain.
Worms seek higher ground.

Tangled roots of tree
stranded above the water
clear the tangled mind.

White throat, banded breast
Bank Swallows quick, twist and turn.
The sun rises slow.

Karen Laslo



Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

- Hosts the Endangered Species Faire
- Participates in public hearings on proposed developments
- Hosts cleanups of Chico creeks
- Helps thousands of residents with recycling and toxics questions
- Protects California's wetlands

What BEC membership brings you:

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

Sign me up for a BEC membership!

- ☐ \$500
- Cougar Cadre (Receives 4 tickets to the Environmental Banquet)
- ☐ \$150
- Energy Elite
- ☐ \$35
- Individual
- ☐ \$100
- Wetlands Watch
- ☐ \$20
- Low income
- ☐ \$50
- Household

Become a BEC Angel!

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

Method of payment

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

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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

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

Thank You to Our *Environmental News* & BEC Sponsors:

River Partners • Greenfeet • Pullins Cyclery • Bartlett Computer Repair • Ed's Printing • Floral Native Nursery • Shocking.com
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
Please support these organizations and businesses!

Help Row the BEC Boat!

The local environment needs your contribution!

You can make a difference. If you can volunteer your time (no matter how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. Thank you!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

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

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

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- ☐ Various Creek Cleanups
- ☐ Annual Endangered Species Fair

☐ Publicity

☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations

☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)

☐ Clean-Up
- ☐ *Environmental News*, BEC's quarterly newspaper
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work

☐ Mailings

☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)

☐ Phones

☐ Research
- ☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)
- ☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies