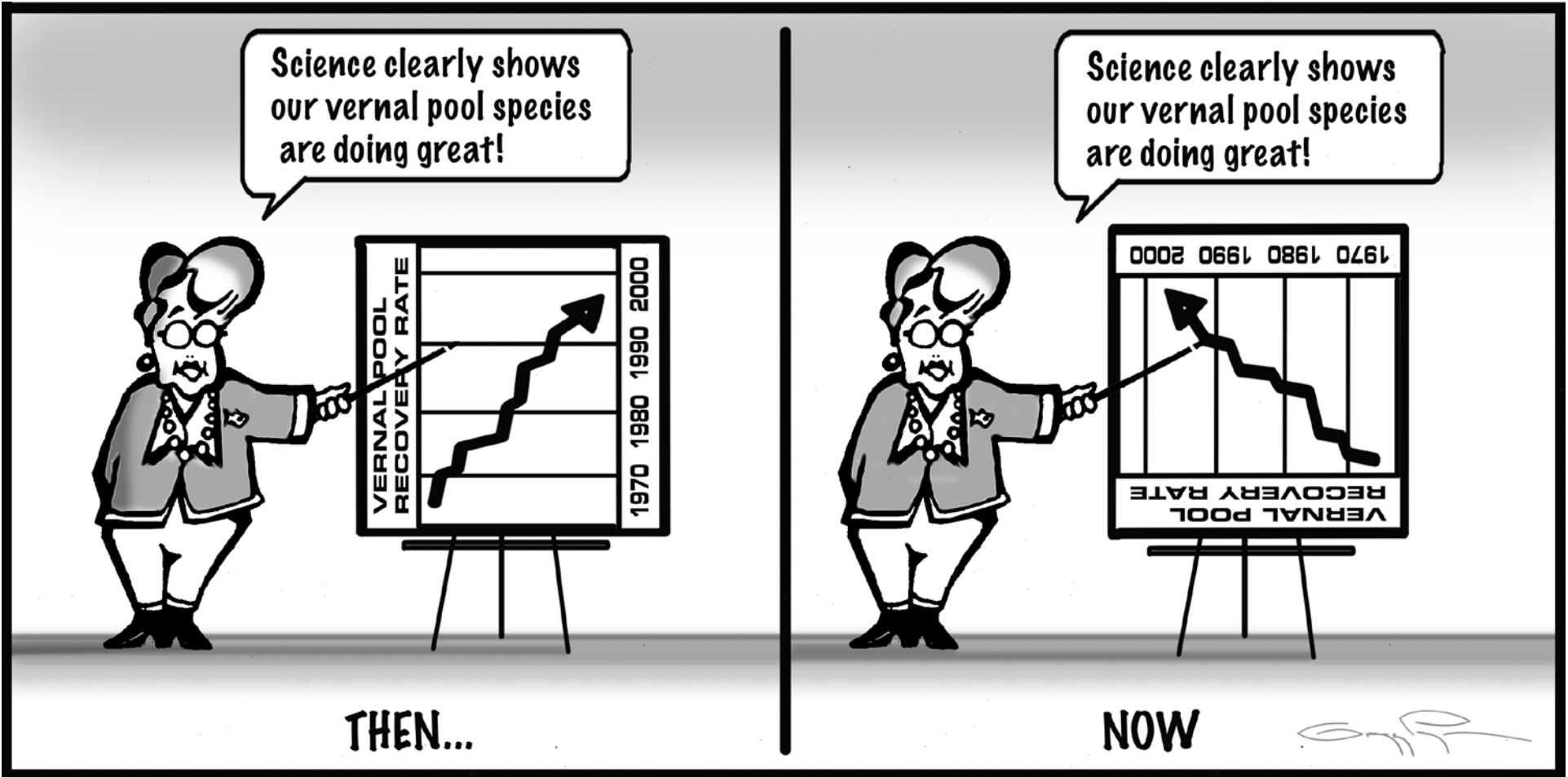


BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S  
**EnvironmentalNEWS**

**Summer 2007** **Volume 13 - Number 2**

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*Environmental News*, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. All articles, events for the Environmental Calendar, photos, and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to Tempra Board at [tempra@tempraboard.com](mailto:tempra@tempraboard.com). BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC.

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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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#### How to Join BEC

To join BEC, fill out the membership form in this paper or visit [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org).

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## FROM THE BEC BOARD



### Tempra's Tantrums

By Tempra Board

Those of us who toil daily in the realm of nonprofit advocacy and education—particularly around local

and global environmental issues—face the challenge of effectiveness. How do we make the change happen that we want to see in the world? Although we work long hours, spend time agonizing over strategy, meeting with each other and with those “on the other side,” many of us still, at the end of the day, worry that we aren’t doing enough—or that what we are doing isn’t working.

To save my sanity, I often turn to humor, which can have enormous power to heal us and to break through barriers. As Al Franken says in his book *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them*, “We have to fight back. But we can’t fight like they do. The Right’s entertainment value comes from their willingness to lie and distort. Ours will have to come from being funny and attractive.” Even if this strategy doesn’t work, at least we can improve our personal health through laughter.

To break through, we often discuss and mull over strategy. We discuss psychology—what makes people tick? What motivates them? We discuss philosophy and the human condition—are humans basically good or evil or both? Can we ever really break out of our most basic survival instincts, which manifest in the “us vs. them” fight mentality, the insatiable desire for power, and the unwillingness to truly listen to or join with the other side? Why are so few of us truly altruistic?

And are we truly able to listen to the other side? It often seems that those who are vocal on issues are dismissed. We think we know this person, we know what they are going to say, and we don’t like it. So we shut down, refuse to listen, and if we think other people are listening, we set them straight by publicly or privately assassinating the character of the speaker.

Aside from strategy, there’s the sheer enormity of the problem, which often serves to overwhelm: Never-ending environmental and social justice issues, war, the expanding divide between rich and poor, the power of corporations in the top echelon of government, and the difficulty in making our voices heard.

It’s these heavy thoughts that have been swimming (or perhaps sinking) around in my head for the past few weeks, after the May 8 Board of Supervisors’

unanimous decision to adopt the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, which opens the door to the pumping of ground water to replace surface water being sold out of our region.

Among many other advocacy and public education tactics, we ran a two-thirds page ad in the *Enterprise-Record* (see page 6 for a reproduction) warning of the potential for a drying up of our region—similar to the plight of the Owens Valley in eastern California. After the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District quietly won this small

**“If you want to change the world, start sitting in on county board meetings, and leave your protest signs at home.”**

farming community’s water rights, it succeeded in diverting the Owens River into the Los Angeles Aqueduct, ultimately swelling Los Angeles County to its current ten million people.

Some thought later that maybe we offended the Board of Supervisors with this ad. Perhaps it did so only if it exposed the truth. Was it over the top? I can never tell. Was it hyperbole? I don’t think so. It’s easy to dismiss such talk as “sky is falling” paranoia and conspiracy

theory—until the worst happens. Then of course it’s too late.

I finally picked up the May-June issue of the *Utne Reader* around this time, and was surprised to read a series of articles by Joseph Hart about protest (or the death of it) that spoke directly to these issues. While recognizing that there are times when it’s necessary to fight, Hart adds that the typical left vs. right mentality serves to “alienate potential allies with the power to act and instead causes them to react defensively.”

**Continued on next page.**

### Letter to the Editor Dear Bidwell Park Lovers,

As a former classroom teacher, and now an environmental outreach and education coordinator, as well as the Aunt of two young nephews, I approach the disc golf course issue in Bidwell Park as an excellent opportunity to provide outreach on the concept of environmental stewardship through recreation. There are groups that exist who work toward conservation of natural resources, and also see disc golf as a means toward that end (The Save Our Canyons group in Utah has seen the wisdom and benefit of this combination.)

Many people do not experience nature unless it is through sports or

other outdoor activities. Our City park is an amazing place that we can share and enjoy in our many different ways. It’s important to remember that Bidwell Park is a park, and not a preserve, or a reserve. It’s an amazing gift for the City, and is the place where we do need to compromise and share. We are lucky to have 2,724 acres preserved through the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, as well as 750 acres of Bidwell Ranch land. I was the curator of the museum exhibit on the Bidwell Park Centennial, which was an honor. While researching the history of Bidwell Park, I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the various ways

**Continued on page 4.**



## Jim Brobeck Wins 2007 Anthony Grassroots Prize

By The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment

Jim Brobeck is the 2007 winner of the Anthony Grassroots Prize, awarded by the Rose

Foundation for Communities and the Environment, in Oakland, CA. As a result of the award, \$500 grants will be made in Mr. Brobeck's name to two organizations for which he devotes countless volunteer hours, the Lassen Forest Preservation Group and the Butte Environmental Council.

For many years, Mr. Brobeck has been at the forefront of community environmental stewardship in Lassen, Tehama and Butte Counties. As a volunteer with the Lassen Forest Preservation Group, he has donated countless hours helping to lead community participation in environmental reviews of forestry projects. As a former firefighter in

Butte County, he has brought his unique perspective to help disparate groups achieve consensus on difficult issues, especially around environmentally sustainable solutions to fire safety issues that impact rural communities.

Mr. Brobeck is also very active with the Butte Environmental Council and the Sacramento Valley Watershed Caucus helping local communities to monitor and model long-term groundwater trends—crucial knowledge that helps local citizens participate effectively in the sometimes contentious debate amongst water users, agricultural interests, water districts, environmental organizations and state officials. Throughout 2006, he also hosted a weekly radio show called "Dialogues" on KZFR, presenting well-researched and entertaining segments exploring local, regional and statewide topics. In the midst of all this volunteer work, he also made time to advocate reduced pesticide use in the local schools, took personal responsibility

for keeping Chico's Bidwell Park clean, and helped raise his grandchildren—often taking his granddaughters home from school on his bike—his preferred means of transportation.

Prize Committee Chair Juliette Anthony, a lifelong grassroots environmental activist, explained the factors that led to this year's Anthony Prize award, "We had a record number of deserving applicants, but just look at everything Jim Brobeck does. He's a voice of reason who facilitates consensus amongst diverse interests on forestry and water issues. He sets a personal example to the community by keeping the local park clean and commuting by bike or bus. And then he finds time to educate the school district about pesticide use. The only thing I can't figure out is how he finds

time to sleep!"

The Anthony Grassroots Environmental Prize was established in November of 1999 by environmental activist Juliette Anthony. The Prize recognizes an outstanding example of grassroots environmental stewardship over the previous year. The award is administered by the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, founded by Jill Ratner and Tim Little in 1992. The Foundation is dedicated to the memory of Rose Ratner, whose wit and wisdom were forged in the neighborhoods of Chicago over the course of 50 years of community activism. The Foundation is based upon the principle that environmental protection and community regeneration must go hand in hand and are inextricably linked to a healthy economy.

## Tempra's Tantrums

Continued from previous page.

Making the case that the old methods of protest, including peace marches and carrying signs, are not getting the media attention or having the impact they once did, Hart encourages us to be creative and to develop new methods of protest, but then to go beyond them. To truly have power, citizens need to come to the table—literally. "If you want to change the world," he affirms, "Start sitting in on county board meetings, and leave your protest signs at home." Sometimes, rather than a "fight for what's right," our focus should be on finding "solutions that arise from collaboration and consensus." Of course in some cases, where so much has already been lost (such as with certain endangered species and habitat), consensus may not be the best tool.

Maybe you're nodding your head in agreement. These are good ideas—but are we really using them? So far, I

think not. Disc golf in Bidwell Park is a local example. After a long process of open public meetings, studies, and compromise, a few people—on both sides—still have steam shooting horizontally out of their ears. This, of course, makes it hard to hear anyone else. The issue of our area's ground water is so complicated that we're not breaking through and getting the public involved. And when only one person shows up at a water commission meeting to stand up for keeping our water local, there's a problem.

So we must continue to discuss and meet with not just our allies but those on the other side. We must also find new strategies to break down barriers and empower others to speak, get involved, and use the power that we all hold in our hands—the power of individual actions that add up to a collective movement—a collective change for the better.

## Thanks for a Great Art Show and Benefit!

BEC would like to thank everyone who made a donation or attended the event. We would especially like to thank the following individuals, local businesses and musicians for their generous support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Show and BEC Benefit:

Armeda Ferrini  
Art, etc.  
David Guzzetti

Local World  
Jim and Lyla Gregg

Upper Crust Bakery  
New Urban Builders

The artwork was beautiful and local. The food was mouth-watering. The music was uplifting. The message was hopeful. BEC was able to raise funds for its current important advocacy efforts thanks to everyone's support.

Thank you also to the local, talent who displayed their lovely photographs, and shared the profit from the sale of their work for BEC's cause. What better way to protect and sustain the environment that we all love and call home, than to also support our artists who commemorate our natural treasures?

Marion Bronson  
Anthony Dunn  
Jim Gregg  
David Kelly

Michele Miller  
Charlie Osborn  
Gregg Payne  
John Peters

Jeffrey Rich  
Mike Simpson  
Coby Walters-Fournier



Paradise Lookout by David Kelly





## Be Part of Bidwell Park's Future

By Nancy Park, Friends of Bidwell Park

Upper Bidwell Park.  
Photo by Tempra Board

The public has a rare opportunity to weigh in on the future of Chico's crown jewel, Bidwell Park. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) update has been released for public review. The deadline to provide comments is June

26, 2007. Your review and comments will influence Bidwell Park for years to come.

Among other things, the DEIR identifies and examines the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of four projects proposed for the park: 1) The Trail Plan, including new trails and trail closures; 2) The Horseshoe Lake Conceptual Plan; 3) The Cedar Grove Plan and; 4) The formal development of two 18-hole disc golf courses in Upper Park, which is currently designated as a Resource Conservation Area.

The DEIR states that implementation of these projects would have potentially significant effects on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, noise, and traffic. The document also outlines mitigation measures claiming to reduce these negative effects. Individuals and agencies should review these documents carefully to ensure the City has addressed all potential impacts and whether the proposed mitigation measures are adequate.

Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) has followed this process closely and is concerned about the nature of further development projects in the park. FOBP is urging that the spirit of Annie Bidwell's Deed of Conveyance

be followed, especially Condition #3, which states: "That second party [the City] shall preserve, as far as reasonably possible, for the beauty of said Park as well as for the preservation and protection of the waters of Chico Creek, all of the trees, shrubs and vines therein, and it shall sacredly guard the same and only remove such thereof as it may find absolutely necessary." In addition, over the last few years, FOBP has campaigned to "Keep Upper Park Wild!"

You can review copies of the BPMMP and the DEIR at the Butte County Library – Chico Branch (1106 Sherman Ave.) and CSU, Chico's Meriam Library (Special Collections, Third Floor). These documents can be seen online at the City's website [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us).

CDs may be purchased at the City of Chico Planning Services Department at 411 Main St.

**Written comments must be sent by June 26, 2007 to:**

**Brendan Vieg, City of Chico  
Planning Services Department  
P.O. Box 3420, Chico, CA, 95927**

Spoken comments may be given at the only scheduled public meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 6:00 pm in the Chico Council Chambers at 421 Main St.

If you have questions, please contact Friends of Bidwell Park at [info@friendsofbidwellpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofbidwellpark.org). FOBP's web site is [www.friendsofbidwellpark.org](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org).

## Dear Bidwell Park Lovers...

Continued from page 2.

over the years that Chicoans "played" in the park: water skiing, archery, Boy Scout camps, etc. The chance to give people who play disc golf (or ride mountain bikes, or ride horses, or do exercise courses, or swim, or take nature hikes, or play on playground equipment, or play baseball, etc.) the experience to enjoy nature and be out in it, is something that can and does benefit our community. Protecting nature while people enjoy it, so that future generations can do the same, is important. People who take up that cause in a balanced and inclusive manner, are exceptional, and deserve our thanks.

Following through with the viable compromise for both sides of the disc golf issue is important and needed. Much public money has been spent, and extensive planning has occurred to try to allow a permanent disc golf course at its current location. The ideal would be to go ahead with the plan, providing all of the mitigations are consistently followed, and we can make our disc golf course one of the

best examples of environmental respect and beauty. However, if it turns out that there is a better location in our park, or an additional location that would help lessen the impact on the current location, then we need to identify it in an expedient manner and make it happen. We can't discriminate against one group of recreators and not others. That makes for low public moral, and a feeling of unfairness in the community.

We owe it to each other to accommodate one another's needs in the most intelligent and fair manner possible. Out of 3,600 acres we can find a good spot for disc golfers to enjoy the park too.

**Here are positive opportunities to keep in mind:**

- Help create a positive model for other public lands, of recreational and environmental planning working together.
- Provide an example of a project that environmentalist ideology can

Continued on page 11.

### BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S Environmental NEWS

Summer 2007 • Volume 13, Number 2

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**Copy Editors:** Jennifer Haney, Jennifer Oman

**Cover Illustration:** Gregg Payne

## Interior Department Files Third Inadequate Plan for Wetland Species

The U.S. Department of the Interior released a *third* Vernal Pool Critical Habitat Rule on May 31, 2007. The Rule is for 15 endangered and threatened vernal pool plants and animals that live in the vernal pool landscapes of California and southern Oregon. This Rule and the previous versions are the result of court orders from litigation originally initiated by Butte Environmental Council. The 2007 Rule maintains the same acreage found in the 2005 Rule: 858,846 acres, with the exclusion of almost 900,000 acres that were proposed in the original 2002 Draft Rule. What has changed is the Interior's justification between the second and third Rule, stating, however illogically, that federally threatened

and endangered species will manage to recover even with major losses to their habitat.

The current Rule maintains the flawed economic analysis from 2005 that overestimated the potential costs of critical habitat designation and underestimated or completely disregarded potential benefits of designation, such as providing educational, research, and recreational opportunities, infrastructure support services, ranching, tourism, and economy of scale by covering 15 species in one rule. To illustrate the overstated conclusions in the Economic Analysis, Butte County's projected costs were \$152 million over 20 years. Even if one accepts the economic methods

used, which the plaintiffs do not, this translates into a microscopic 0.17% per year when compared with the annual economic output of the county, \$7.36 billion (IMPLAN 2001).

In addition, the Interior unlawfully continued exclusions in many areas by assuming adequate management and oversight of National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, Tribal land, state lands, and lands overlapping with habitat conservation plans.

Designating critical habitat for federally listed species is important for the recovery of listed species because it clearly identifies the areas essential for their recovery, a requirement of the ESA. The habitat maps are essential to provide information for statewide and local conservation planning efforts, but if recovery is to occur, the remaining range of the 15 vernal pool species must not only be protected, it must expand. At the pace of destruction set by the Interior Department, 30% to 100% of the habitat is being destroyed from direct and indirect impacts from development, infrastructure, agriculture, and illegal activity.

"The latest Rule is no better than the last, just another sad statement about the political agendas that have lead to the species crash in the San Francisco Bay Delta (see article, page 8), denial that New Yorkers were breathing toxic fumes post September 11, and the obliteration of the Superfund program," stated Barbara Vlamis, executive director for Butte Environmental Council. "The Bush Administration is determined to undermine as many laws as possible while in office, up to, and including, the U.S. Constitution," she continued. "It is a sad commentary regarding the Republican party, whose President signed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, to see the 'Bushies' bring biologist, scientists, and executive management to their knees as species dive toward extinction (see sidebar, this page)," she concluded.

Vernal pools are unique depressional wetlands that fill and dry every year. The eight endangered and seven threatened species are currently listed due to the

severity of vernal pool destruction in California and Oregon. As the 2002 Proposed Rule indicated, noted vernal pool expert Robert 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).

For a list of all the plaintiffs in the litigation leading to the 2007 Rule, and for more background on this issue, visit BEC's website at [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org).

## Dems Slam Interior Over Science Meddling

By Matthew Daly,  
Assoc. Press, May 9

**Editor's Note:** Julie MacDonald's editing of scientific documents was first brought to light with BEC's own lawsuit challenging the Department of the Interior's exclusion of nearly one million acres of vernal pool habitat from its Vernal Pool Critical Habitat designation. She altered the first version of the designation with erroneous math and then slanted the second version by hiring a shotgun economist.

WASHINGTON—Democrats said Wednesday an Interior Department official who pressured government scientists to alter their research was just one example of a larger problem.

Julie MacDonald resigned last week as deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks after the department's inspector general said she bullied federal scientists and improperly leaked information about endangered species to private groups.

"This is an agency that seems focused on one goal: weakening the law by administrative fiat, and it is doing much of the work shrouded from public view," said Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

## Letter to the Editor

### A Call for Compromise on Disc Golf

As the discussion of disc golf in Chico begins again, I hope that cooler heads will prevail and that some kind of compromise can be reached. The fact that there are now 2,348 disc golf courses in the U.S. (111 in California) suggests to me that 1) it is a very popular form of recreation and 2) a lot of communities have found a way to include disc golf in their park systems.

Here in Chico, hundreds of people play disc golf regularly on the undeveloped course off of Highway 32 in Upper Park. For many it is the primary way that they enjoy the park and most players are very conscientious. But some park users argue that the course should be removed because the soil there is too fragile and the plant life too vulnerable. Others don't want a disc course anywhere in the park. But surely, in one of the largest municipal parks in the country at 3,618 acres, we should be able to accommodate a 30-acre disc golf course somewhere in Bidwell Park.

Like most disc golfers, I consider myself an environmentalist. One of the reasons I play is because it is a form

of recreation that utilizes the land as it is—no bulldozers, irrigation systems, pesticides, or herbicides. The terrain is altered as minimally as possible.

The people that are opposed to disc golf in Upper Park should come forward with support for another site. Disc golfers should also be open to compromises. (I personally think a disc golf course on the north side of 5 Mile, in the part of the park where most of the recreation facilities already exist, would be a great choice.)

In any case, let's come to some kind of agreement and move on. We should be allies working together on the many other important environmental issues that confront us here in Chico.

Peter Hollingsworth

**Editor's Note:** BEC strongly believes in zoning and proper approval. No form of recreation, for-profit, or non-profit endeavors should adversely affect the environment without following local, state, and federal laws—however innocent the activities.



# WATER

## Local Ground Water at Risk After Water Sellers Score Victory

The Butte County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) on May 8, 2007. The county will now receive \$2.8 million for two production wells to provide the cover of "research" that will very likely result in water sales. The Supervisors could not conceive that they are participating in the demise of their own region. Only two Supervisors, Yamaguchi and Kirk, asked pertinent questions during the agenda item.

County staff's dubious reason to participate in the Plan is to provide the county with a voice in the regional dialog. Although this may appear logical, the fact is that the county won't gain a voice by participating in the Plan. The governance structure for the SVIRWM is comprised of only irrigation districts. Not one legislative governing body or public member has a vote, or more importantly, veto power (Other IRWM programs have holistic decision-making structures with veto capacity). BEC and the public presented this point repeatedly to the supervisors, but it is almost impossible to enlighten elected officials during a hearing, especially when staff is advocating urgent approval, albeit using unsound arguments.

The Plan itself has significant flaws that threaten the health and viability of the ground water of northern California. The Plan fails to provide an accurate assessment of the existing conditions of the aquifer, surface and subsurface hydrologic flow processes, and estimates of conditions under prolonged droughts. Furthermore, objective parties have not even been found or funded to start the

necessary, preliminary studies of the hydrogeology of the Lower Tuscan aquifer and its respective recharge areas. Until this level of analysis is conducted, funding any implementation projects is premature, yet the temptation of acquiring grant funds for a local Magalia dam project was too much for the five supervisors to oppose. Pursuing projects of any kind without robust analysis, whether they are beneficial to local water needs or to external water sales, is grossly negligent.

As presented in the county work plan for the grant, water sales are part of the program:

"Planning decisions made today by local government will help to shape the use of water within and outside of the region interested in identifying the potential yield and geological make-up of the Lower Tuscan Formation Aquifer System (Lower Tuscan Formation). Access to a comprehensive database of aquifer information is invaluable for the above-mentioned local uses, as well as the potential for conjunctive water management programs that result in water being transferred outside of the area." (Butte County

Water and Resources Department, Tuscan Aquifer Monitoring, Recharge, and Data Management Project).

Water sales that result in increased ground water extraction may harm family farmers dependent on ground water, as well as impact 15,000 residential wells and the cities of Chico and Oroville. These parties are vulnerable to the whims of down-gradient production wells that will be installed through the Plan with public money for private irrigation district profits.

**Water sales are part of the Plan: "Access to a comprehensive database of aquifer information is invaluable for...the potential for conjunctive water management programs that result in water being transferred outside of the area." (Butte County Water and Resources Department)**

### Say NO to Another Owens Valley Help Stop the Sale of Your Ground Water!

A plan is up for the approval by the Butte County Supervisors to let water marketers install wells to start pumping out our ground water! Instead of conducting genuine scientific research, this "test" will begin pumping water to find out how this will affect our ground water levels...and this is only the beginning.

The Supervisors are being asked to approve an entire package of projects that will eventually place 60 high-volume production wells in the Sacramento Valley basin. This will allow water to be exported from our valley to, among others, Los Angeles' Metropolitan Water District.

#### Remember the Owens Valley

Ever since sprawling Los Angeles tapped out the Colorado River and had their supply cut off in 2003, they've been looking for a replacement. And according to federal agency documents, they think they've found it here.

- What effect will this have on the 15,000 residential wells, local family farms, and businesses in the area?
- We don't know how long it will actually take for the water to be replenished, IF the water will be replenished.
- Less than one percent of the local population stands to profit from this scheme.

**More than 85% of Butte County residents depend on well water. This is NOT an expendable resource.**

**Please call or email your Supervisors before May 8th: Tell them to vote NO on the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Stand up to the State and Feds, and protect Butte County's water!**

#### Supervisors to Contact:

District 1, Bill Connelly - 538-6834, BConnelly@buttecounty.net  
District 2, Jane Dolan - 891-2830, JDolan@buttecounty.net  
District 3, Maureen Kirk - 891-2800, MKirk@buttecounty.net  
District 4, Curt Josiassen - 882-4447, CJosiassen@buttecounty.net  
District 5, Kim Yamaguchi - 872-6303, KYamaguchi@buttecounty.net

#### For more information, contact:

Butte Environmental Council  
(530) 891-6424; staff@becnet.org  
Leroy and Rosalie Cartwright, (530) 342-3364  
Barris Farms, (530) 893-5243  
Also supported by: California Sportfishing Protection Alliance; Sacramento Valley Environmental Watershed Caucus



Illustration by Gregg Payne.

**What will happen if our Supervisors allow our Ground Water to become part of the state water supply? No one really knows...but it could:**

- Reduce drinking water quality.
- Threaten the water reserves needed for the North State's future.
- Deplete the creeks and rivers, causing destruction to salmon, birds and a host of other species.
- Deplete our native trees of the taproot water they depend upon to survive.
- Make it necessary for wells in Butte County to be drilled deeper since the water table will be lowered.

**The ad opposing the Plan that ran in the Enterprise-Record on May 4.**

In light of the vote by Butte County Supervisors on May 8, 2007, BEC will escalate its advocacy for protection of Butte County's ground water in every available arena.

To understand some of the myths and facts about the plan, please see page 8 of this newsletter.

**Editor's Note:** The Butte County Board of Supervisors did vote unanimously to add language to the proposed water management pact that would make its governance process more inclusive. However, at this point, this is only a request from one of the many entities participating in this grant round. Modeled on the governance

structure of the Consumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the request would provide for modified consensual decision-making and would enlist a wide range of stakeholders, from environmentalists to water district managers. Thank you to Maureen Kirk for her leadership on this important issue.

(Update: As this issue goes to press, the water commission is being presented with language in a Memorandum of Understanding that circumvents the language in Maureen Kirk's resolution. Stay tuned.)

## When the Wells Ran Dry

**Almond Farmer Lynn Barris  
Shares Her Experience of  
Ground Water Impacts to  
Durham Residents  
and Farmers**

# 1994

*Just after the Butte County Board of Supervisors approved Butte County's participation in the Sacramento Valley Integrated Water Management Plan on May 8, 2007 (see article on facing page), Jim Brobeck, radio host of Dialogues on Chico's KZFR, spoke to Lynn Barris of Durham, who remembers the water sales and dry wells of 1994.*

**Jim:** Tim and Lynn Barris are Almond Farmers in Durham. Lynn has been a leader in protecting Sacramento Valley ground water efforts since 1994 when California activated the State Drought Water Bank which gave water purveyors an opportunity to sell water and ramp up pumping of our ground water.

You and your husband are nut farmers. How long have you been farming nuts in the Sacramento Valley?

**Lynn:** Since 1987. It's seven days a week but to live in the country and do things with your hands and grow things in the sun is worth it all.

**Jim:** Now those nut trees need to be watered during the summer here in the hot valley, don't they?

**Lynn:** Yes, they do.

**Jim:** What's your source of water?

**Lynn:** Of course it's ground water. All almond farmers in our area use ground water.

**Jim:** Can you describe what your community experienced in 1994 when the drought water bank was activated and the water purveyors started extracting water out of the aquifer system?

**Lynn:** Yes, and I'd like to go back a little farther than that. 1991 and 1992 were drought years and the farmers in the southern part of the county, Western Canal and Ridgevale Irrigation District (and there may have been other districts)

sold water, but there were no impacts. In 1992 I was chosen to be on the grand jury and my husband just happened to say that water is being sold out of this area, and maybe the grand jury should look at it. Actually we went into a year long examination, with the grand jury meeting weekly and interviewing all the parties from the state level all the way down to the managers of all the irrigation districts in our area. The same words came to us over and over—in early 1994 before they started pumping water—they said, “No matter what, we will never hurt anybody. We wouldn't do this to the community. You have nothing to worry about. We are good water managers.” And so in 1994 we wrote in our grand jury report—because we believed their attorneys, we believed the state, we believed the people we talked to—that we thought it was going to be okay, that we could let these people care for our water, and we had examined it very closely.

I was off the grand jury in June of 1994, and by the end of June they started pumping water out seven days a week and 24 hours a day, and lowered the water table precipitously. In my own area where the farmhouse is, many of my neighbors ran out of water. But because none of us, including the grand jury, had been alerted that water sales were going to happen, when people's wells went dry, or no longer worked, or had to be dug deeper—they assumed it was their fault because there was no public announcement that the water districts had stuck straws in our aquifer and just started pulling out water so they could sell their surface water for millions of dollars.

We have no more protection now than we had in 1994. The water commission



**Almond orchards.**

still does not have a real representative for those of us on groundwater. We have no representation or protection, and now the Board of Supervisors has just decided to give over our water.

Do you want me to tell them what happened when our houses ran out of water?

**Jim:** Yes, and tell them about what happened to the town of Durham.

**Lynn:** The town of Durham has three municipal wells, and when the water started coming out, the water level dropped so quickly that it started bringing up contaminants. One of the three wells had to be shut down completely, and the town started rationing water. Out here in the country, where we are all on our own individual wells for our homes, when many people ran out of water, they would call up neighbors—the water table was fluctuating from this massive draw down—and so someone a quarter mile away would call up and say “Oh we have water in our tanks today. Bring over the garden hoses.” So our neighborhood kept together in part by stringing links and links of garden hoses between houses so when someone had water, we all had water.

There's nothing like getting up in the morning and wanting to make coffee or brush your teeth and find out that you have no water.

What really gets me is at this last Board of Supervisor meeting when the county had a chance to go slower—instead of allowing the water districts to add our ground water to the state water supply—and chose not to, the verbiage I heard was “Let's take this

leap of faith. You have to take a leap of faith. We're not evil people. We're not out to take anybody's ground water away.” I have to tell you, those are *exactly* the same words we heard in 1994. And when farms started running out of water and people went to who had traditionally been their neighbors—the rice farmers—and said “you guys have got to quit pumping all that water out. My wells have run dry and I can't water my crop at all.” You know what they said, those people who are now telling us to take a leap of faith? They said, “Too bad. Go get a lawyer.” They wouldn't stop until the Department of Water Resources made them stop pumping for 24 hours, and then when the water level didn't come up right away in 24 hours, they said, “See it wasn't our fault at all.”

It's just unbelievable that that kind of stuff went on, but to this day, we have no more protection than we did in 1994. After a permit is issued, they'll only stop selling water if they start bringing up salt water. They'll only stop selling water if we have a great deal of subsidence, where the land collapses because the water that was holding the area up underground was withdrawn. And they'll stop selling our water if it becomes so contaminated that it's no longer useful. Only then will they quit selling the water.

**Editor's Note:** *One thing you can do on water issues is to join BEC (see back of this newsletter) and our water email action alert list. We will keep you up to date on opportunities to comment and become involved.*



# WATER

## Sacramento Valley Integrated Water Management Plan **MYTHS & FACTS**

**MYTH #1** "... groundwater levels associated with the Sacramento Valley have remained steady, declining moderately during extended droughts and generally recovering to their pre-drought levels during subsequent wetter periods." NCWA, SVIRWMP

**FACT:** The 2007 Butte Basin Water Users' Groundwater Status Report discussed the failure of several key Butte County wells to recover in spite of above average rainfall. "Five wells (one located in Chico, one west of Chico, and one south of Durham, one east of Durham, and one east of Nelson) indicate declining groundwater levels ranging from less than 5 feet, to more than 20 feet, without significant recovery....if, over time, the amount of water removed from the aquifer exceeds amount of water recharged then groundwater levels will decline."

**MYTH #2:** "In summary, the conjunctive water management projects under the Sacramento Valley IRWMP are an ambitious effort to significantly and sustainably improve local, regional, and statewide water supply reliability

and will meet water supply reliability and protection of water rights objectives of the Sacramento Valley IRWMP." NCWA

**FACT:** NCWA's advocacy is dedicated to irrigation districts with surface water entitlements that have recently discovered that their land overlies the down-gradient, pressurized portion of the ground water system stemming from southern Tehama County and western Butte County. NCWA is working to protect the districts' right to sell surface water allotments and to develop down-gradient ground water rights. NCWA is not working to protect the water rights of existing up-gradient users of the ground water system.

**MYTH #3:** "Sacramento Valley water districts are in the best position to "manage the groundwater supplies, all for the benefit of Northern California." -NCWA

**FACT:** The bold claim that surface water purveyors are appropriate managers for ground water, that 85% of Butte County's population and orchardists depend on, is disingenuous.

The SVIRWMP includes plumbing that will link local ground water with the southern California water supply. During 1994 when water districts used ground water to replace transferred (sold) surface water entitlements, residential and agricultural wells in the Cherokee Strip ran dry. Durham had to shut down at least one municipal well. Residents had to string hoses between homes to assist each other as the ground water fluctuated. When environmental justice advocates campaigned to create an enforceable ground water management initiative, the purveyors created a counter proposal. The purveyors' toothless initiative won with a well financed political campaign.

**MYTH #4:** There is a water shortage in California.

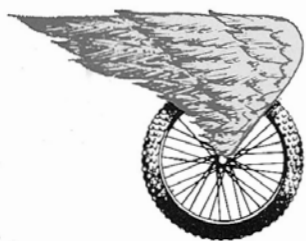
**FACT:** There is no shortage of water in California as claimed by NCWA's Joint Exercise of Powers, the applicant for the SVIRWM Implementation Proposal. The California Water Plan, released in 2005, indicates that water demand will decline with appropriate conservation activities in the next 25 years even with population increases (see link below).

Using the same model the state used for its projections, the Pacific Institute found that California could actually decrease water use by 20% over the next 25 years while maintaining a vibrant economy ([www.pacinst.org/reports/california\\_water\\_2030/index.htm](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/california_water_2030/index.htm))

**MYTH #5:** Sacramento Valley water must solve the water quality problems in the Delta.

**FACT:** The federal Bureau of Reclamation and the state Department of Water Resources have mismanaged their water supplies from Shasta and Oroville dams and given the reparations tasks to their water contractors (Phase 8). The Bureau and DWR are truly the responsible parties for the mismanagement of surface water leading to the Delta and must solve the devastating results of their decisions. In addition, the ground water that is crucial for the economy and environment of the Sacramento Valley should not be any part of the Phase 8 settlement and should not be considered as any part of the solution for the Bureau's and DWR's failures.

### PULLINS CYCLERY



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## State Water Pumping Shut Down to Save Nearly Extirpated Delta Smelt

On May 31, 2007, the State of California shut down the gigantic State Water Project pumps near Tracy, which provide drinking water to Silicon Valley, Los Angeles and two-thirds of California's residents. The cessation will stop 10,000 acre-feet of water a day from leaving the delta (one acre-foot is 325,900 gallons). The shutdown is intended to stop the voracious pumps from killing the remaining delta smelt, a silvery, 2-inch-long endangered fish, which has seen its numbers plummet in the last few years as Delta water extractions grew.

Wednesday, May 30th, the SWP pumps killed 46 delta smelt and the

Central Valley Project took 36 (total of 82), which brings the May take to 408. Keep in mind that only fish greater than 20 mm are identified. Smaller smelt go unrecorded. By far, the largest concentrations of smelt found in the Delta during May are dead smelt "taken" at the pumps.

What is urgently needed to preserve what little remains of the smelt population is to reverse the negative flows in the San Joaquin River (yes, folks, the river runs backwards), so there is sufficient water to push the remaining smelt into the Susin Bay/Marsh before Delta temperature reach 25 C. If not,

we may witness the extirpation of what was once among the most abundant species in the Delta.

According to the Contra Costa Times (May 26, 2007) "a federal judge ruled on May 26 that the permit that allows massive Delta water delivery projects to kill the tiny endangered fish is illegal. It is the second time in two months that a court has declared the state's water projects in violation of endangered species laws. The ruling comes the same week new information emerged showing the Delta smelt population has plunged yet again closer to extinction."



## River Partners Increases Access and Recreation on the Sacramento River Through Land Donation to California State Parks

By Julie Pokrandt, Development Director, River Partners

River Partners and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are near completion of the title transfer for two critically-located properties along the Sacramento River. This step will finalize River Partners' land donation to State Parks.

As a result of River Partners' donation of its Gaines and Gianella Landing properties to the California State Parks system, Glenn County community members and other Central Valley residents stand to benefit tremendously. These sites will potentially provide a new boat access point by the Hwy 162 bridge and 900-feet of river frontage access by the Hwy 32 bridge, thereby enhancing public safety and access along the river. Furthermore, these land gifts will add more than 58 acres of new state park lands along the Sacramento River corridor, which was identified as a priority for State Parks in its Central Valley Vision project.

### Advancing State Park's Plans for the Central Valley

As State Parks learned in an extensive planning process, access to rivers and public lands around river corridors are important to Central Valley residents.

According to the Central Valley Vision Summary Report (November 2006), State Parks perceived a "serious lack of available recreational opportunities in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys." In 2003 it embarked on a long range planning process for the Central Valley to address the impacts of a growing population and changing demographics. After many public meetings and planning surveys, the project team concluded that the

region's park and recreation service providers indeed were under-funded in relation to other California regions. Furthermore, based on public input, the planning team devised these priorities for the State Parks system in the Central Valley:

- Expand recreational facilities (i.e. fishing, camping, day-use facilities, etc), especially around river corridors and the Delta.
- Expand State Parks' presence and holdings, especially along river corridors
- Preserve and protect natural lands, especially threatened areas (such as native grass lands and Blue Oak and Sycamore woodlands).
- Provide educational and interpretive opportunities on California's diverse cultural history.

River Partners' gifts of the Gaines and Gianella landing properties effectively advance State Park's long term plan and priorities for the Central Valley. In addition to more park land, they offer additional holdings along the Sacramento River corridor.

### About Gianella Landing

The Gianella Landing property is located in Glenn County, where Hwy 32 crosses the Sacramento River. With 20 acres of land and 900 feet of river frontage, it is adjacent to the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park's Irvine Finch River Access, one of the busiest access points in the area. This flood-prone walnut orchard, once owned by the Beard family, was slated to become a residential trailer court. When the residential project went before the Glenn County Board of Supervisors,



*River frontage of the Gaines property. River partners will convert the walnut orchard into riparian habitat.*

River Partners was alerted that it had conservation potential.

River Partners initiated the acquisition process in 2002, with the support from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. It purchased the land with a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board in 2003.

River Partners plans to restore the area. Once restored, it will increase the Irvine Finch River Access area from five to 25 acres. This area is extremely popular with salmon fishermen, boaters, canoers, kayakers, and students from CSU Chico. This new public acquisition helps solve a major land use issue in the region – lack of adequate public access to the Sacramento River. Also, considering this flood-prone land could have become a residential area, Gianella Landing's conversion to park land seems the more appropriate alternative for public safety.

### About the Gaines Property

The Gaines property sits in the middle of 1,000 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife property, on the west side of the Sacramento River, under the Butte City Hwy 162 bridge. It contains 28 acres of walnut orchard and eight acres of habitat. The Sul Norte Unit of the SRNWR lies on its northern border, and the Packer and Codora Units lie on its southern border.

Due to its location at another major river crossing, River Partners felt the

Gaines property offered a public lands opportunity, especially for boating access. In addition to the Glenn County Board of Supervisors, the acquisition was supported by the Glenn County Sheriff because of its potential addition of a much needed access point to a 40 mile stretch of river. This stretch has no boat ramp when the Butte City launch area is out of service.

"River Partners wanted to use its land-deal knowledge, along with its restoration skills, to provide Glenn County with some public park land," recalls Barney Flynn, River Partners Board Member.

The Gaines Family Trust approved River Partners' proposal and vision for the property. River Partners completed the purchase in 2003, thanks to a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Once restored by River Partners, the Gaines property will add approximately 38 acres to the State Parks System. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place soon.

To learn more about the public access points within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (they now have a developed public access policy), visit: [www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges](http://www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges)

To learn more about recreational opportunities along the Sacramento River, visit: [www.sacramentoriver.org](http://www.sacramentoriver.org).

# TRANSPORTATION

## Acting Locally Your Get Around Town To Do List

By Donna Cook

- Encourage the city council to spend *transit* money on transit and bicycle or pedestrian projects rather than on streets and roads. During the past three years, more than \$2,000,000 (Transportation Development Act funds) that could have been spent in those poorly-funded areas was spent on streets and roads, which are already receiving the bulk of transportation money.

- Attend the Bicycle Advisory Committee meetings. Call Brian Mickelson, the Bicycle Coordinator, at 879-6940, and ask to be placed on the notification list for meeting information. The Bicycle Plan is being rewritten or readopted and now is a good time to participate.

- Call and ask for the new, more detailed bicycle map to be completed. According to one study, having a good map to find a route was the number one factor in whether people traveled by bicycle.

- 87% of all US trips are by car even though 40% are less than two miles. Those short trips would be the easiest for walking, biking, skateboarding, velomobiling, or skating. And one-half hour of moderate bike-riding burns about 300 calories.

- Reduce your own speed when driving around town to 25 or slower, especially in residential areas. You will be creating a safer environment for everyone but especially for those outside of vehicles. Plus, at this speed you can hear the birds sing if you roll down your window.

- Join a sustainability organization or attend meetings of the city's Sustainability Task Force to see what is being done and to encourage/partake in local actions.

- For more information or to become part of a group to advocate for sustainable transportation, email me at [djmac1010@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djmac1010@sbcglobal.net).

## GLOBAL THINKING: The Ethics of Travel

By Donna Cook

Biofuels: Are they the answer to global warming and oil depletion, or an ineffective and immoral diversion of money and energy?

Fidel Castro asks: "Where shall poor third world countries find the basic resources needed to survive?"

James Howard Kunstler quotes a mid-western farmer as saying, "We are going to use the last six inches of topsoil by burning it in our engines."

During George Bush's recent visit to Brazil, protesters displayed a banner reading: "For every liter of ethanol produced, four liters of fresh water are consumed. Monoculture is destroying the nation's greatest asset."

The Economist says, "If people want to drive they are going to drive, unless governments jack up petrol prices to levels that are *politically* unacceptable." The author's solution was more efficient biofuels, but these still come with consequences.

The Chico Enterprise-Record says, "It's not until we break the addiction [to our cars] that anything will change. Only when we leave our cars parked more often, will we have any influence on gas prices. We could do it. We just won't."

On a recent KZFR talk show, the host said a student in his class had said if he found out cell phones were responsible for destroying every bee in the world and that would result in the deaths of all people within four years (supposed quote by Einstein), this student would still use his cell phone. "Because four years is quite awhile and *they* would discover something before the four years was up." The host said he was impressed with the student's honesty. Is that what impresses you?

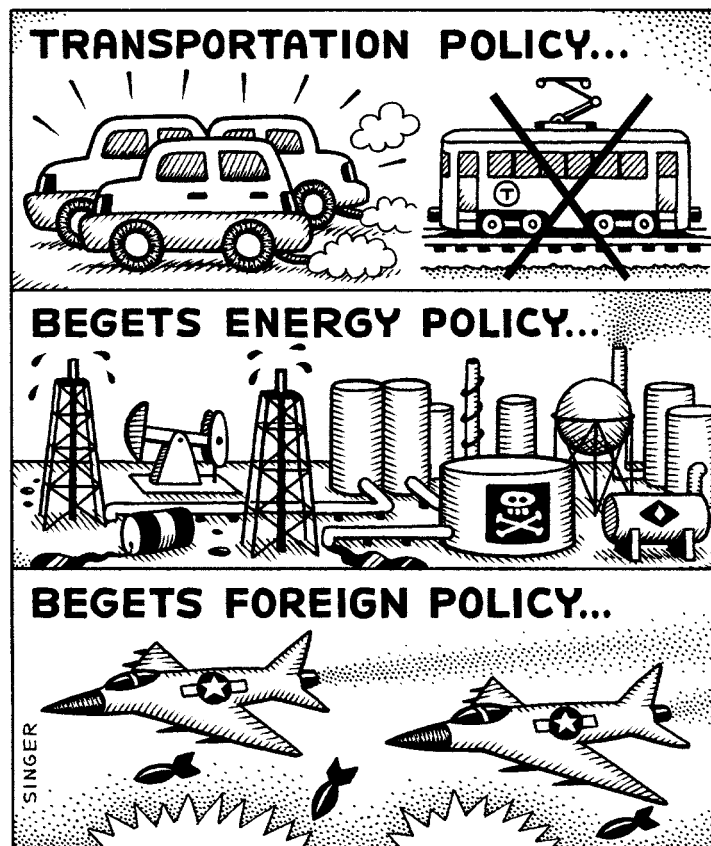
Have we in the United States become so divorced from reality and connection

with the natural world, including other people, that "the American way of life is not negotiable."

Pimentel and Patzek (Researchers from Cornell and UC Berkeley) show in their research that more energy is used in the growing, processing and transporting of biofuels and biodiesel than is gained by it. So

who would say that this is the solution that we should be embracing? The petroleum companies still make their profits (and greenhouse gases) by this method and agribusiness makes new profits with additional income from taxpayer subsidies.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to prevent the worst consequences of global warming, greenhouse gas emissions must be cut 80 percent by 2050 worldwide. But to feed the demand for palm oil for ethanol production, huge tracts of unprotected lowland forests—and even protected areas, such as the famous Tanjung Puting National Park, are now having their borders redrawn to make way for oil palms. Peat swamp forests are a significant carbon sink, with some swamps representing 5,000-10,000 years of carbon accumulation. When a deforested swamp is drained, oxidation of carbon begins. The global environmental benefits of preserving



© Andy Singer. Used with permission.

peat swamp forests far outweigh the carbon-savings that could be made from clearing the forests and growing oil palms. But one reason that some environmentalists have specifically not called for a boycott of palm oil, is that this kind of action would almost inevitably encourage companies to switch to other oils. In the case of soybeans, using a plantation model similar to oil palms—huge monocultures, often at the expense of tropical forests in South America.

It's a Catch 22: Do we save Southeast Asian rainforests or those in South America? And oil palms have greater yield per hectare than any other oil seed, including soy, so actually provide the most land-efficient source of biofuels.

Scientists are now looking at genetically engineered bacteria to solve the problem, but these "solutions" could unleash the scariest and worst world-wide catastrophe of all—and constitute a topic too big for this article (stay tuned).

These are not just economic decisions, but moral decisions. Just how addicted are we? Was Cheney

**Continued on next page.**



## And the Beat Goes On...

By Heather Schlaff, Chico Cares

In 2002, Wal-Mart planned to open 40 Supercenters in California by 2008. As of April 2007, they've opened only 22. So far, Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy (C.A.R.E.) along with our many patient, determined supporters have been successful in thwarting Wal-Mart's efforts to add two Supercenters in Chico.

Wal-Mart's initial plan to expand the existing store at the south end of the City into a Supercenter of over 240,000 square feet was delayed in February, 2004, when the Planning Commission voted to require completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prior to any expansion into a Supercenter. Almost immediately following that decision, Wal-Mart announced plans for a second Supercenter at the north end of town, at the current site of the Sunset Hills Golf Course. Wal-Mart agreed to completion of a second EIR for that site without bringing the issue before the Planning Commission.

A long three years later, draft EIRs on both proposed sites have been completed. The public comment period for both EIRs closed at the end of March, and the EIR consultants are now rewriting those EIRs to speak to issues raised during the public comment period. The Planning Dept. then will

prepare the final EIRs for public hearings before city decision-makers.

The best guess is that hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council will not take place until this fall. The hearing process is different for each site. Because the north site lies within the County, annexation of the land to the city must be approved first. If annexed, the Planning Commission will then hold hearings on the EIR. Land for the south site is already owned by Wal-Mart, so that EIR will go directly to the Planning Commission. We anticipate that the south site will be heard first.

As the time for hearings approaches, we will need the voices of everyone who is concerned about the impact of either one or two Supercenters on Chico. This has been a long and seemingly endless process. We will need your patience and your support both at the hearings and before, to reach out to Planning Commissioners and City Council members to voice your opposition to both proposed Supercenters.

For more information on this issue, on what you can do and when, please visit our website at [www.chicocares.org](http://www.chicocares.org). Contact us at [info@chicocares.org](mailto:info@chicocares.org), or at P.O. Box 7647, Chico CA 95927.

## The Ethics of Travel

Continued from previous page.

right? Is the American way of life not negotiable? Are we going to take that infamous bumper sticker, "I'm spending my children's inheritance" and extend it to "I'm spending the inheritance of both the living and future generations" of not just my family but of the plant and animal worlds as well?

If the survival of the rest of the earth is a price that we are willing to pay to continue our addiction, we are a plague upon the earth. But I don't believe that "if people want to drive, they are going

to drive" if we know the full price. I don't believe that "We just won't" leave our cars parked more often if we are clear about consequences. I believe that if there are Americans willing to die for their country, then there are Americans willing to change their personal lifestyles for their country. I believe that in a town as beautiful and full of community spirit as Chico is, that there are people who care enough to change.

## EcoBriefs

### M&T Gravel Mine Update

On May 22, the Butte County Board of Supervisors decided to continue the hearing and decision on the M&T Gravel Mine until Tuesday, November 6, at 1:30 (at the request of citizens, as an alternative to a proposed August date that would have made it difficult for community members to participate as that is the beginning of the harvest season and the new school year). In the

meantime, Baldwin Co. has launched an ad campaign that seeks to show that their proposed gravel mine is "green." If you would like to be involved in this issue or would like more information, please contact Maria Phillips at [mariaphillips05@comcast.net](mailto:mariaphillips05@comcast.net), and watch for future updates as the November date approaches.

### Weigh in on Natural History Museum

As you may know, there's a plan to build the Northern California Natural History Museum facility on the field directly north of Bidwell Mansion. If you'd like to read and comment on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (comments due by June 8th), you can see the documents at Meriam Library, 3rd floor (summer

hours M-Th 10-3) or view it on the web at [www.csuchico.edu/fcp/ncnhm/ncnhm.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fcp/ncnhm/ncnhm.shtml). If you haven't commented on a CEQA document before (or even if you have), here are a couple of articles about what to look for and how to write your comments: [www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/fremontia29-3-4p27-37low.pdf](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/fremontia29-3-4p27-37low.pdf)

## Bidwell Park

Continued from page 4.

- use as a model for other outdoor sports projects.
- Generate increased mainstream interest in ecological issues, by exposing citizens to nature in way that they can connect to it.
- Develop better social habits, sportsmanship and etiquette with those who may most need them.
- Expose youth to more mature influences. "Pack it in, pack it out." "Leave only footprints."
- Promote healthy lifestyle habits with low income and at risk groups.
- Offer relatively lower impact recreation alternative to other outdoor sports; hunting, dirt biking, four wheeling, etc.
- Give an incentive for more

community inclusion and stewardship of public lands.

- Encourage more civic participation and voice in the public process.
- Support the efforts and expense of years of hard work by progressive citizens, volunteers, councilors and commissioners.
- Invite environmental group oversight with project maintenance and improvements.
- Work with environmentalist players to insure City plans are followed properly.

Thanks to all who care about promoting better ecological awareness,

Jennifer Oman

# A Look Back at the 28TH ANNUAL ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIRE

The annual occurrence of the Endangered Species Faire is proof that our community is dedicated to its young people. It's an amazing event that takes on a life of its own, and while I was honored to coordinate it this year, the Faire is truly the result of the labor of many dedicated people, and no one person can ever take credit for it. As a matter of fact, I had to "share a brain," with our Administrative Assistant, Maggi Barry for about a month, in order to pull it off. In reality she was the Co-Coordinator of the Faire, and did many thankless tasks with the pure anticipatory joy of watching so many people enjoy themselves on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The institutional memory of past veteran Faire Coordinator, Tom Okerlund, was enormous...what seemed like little things turned out to be quite important. Tom was always kind and informative...and he was there every step of the way. Last year's Faire Coordinator, Cindy McCartney, answered about 1,000 questions patiently for months before, and gave her time once again the day

of the faire. She even inspired her son to coordinate some Boy Scouts to help at the Birdseed Feeder booth. Mary Muchowski, former BEC employee, spent her day running the food booth and supervising enthusiastic Chico State volunteers.

As the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Butte Environmental Council, I have been to many public events, festivals, workshops, etc., and I honestly don't think I'm biased in saying this, but the Endangered Species Faire has the most festive and celebratory, yet still educational atmosphere. Playfulness mixed with important lessons of life and nature is inspiring.

Many, many non-profit, government and school groups attend the faire, and they "go all out." By this I mean that they don't just set up a stack of brochures on their table and talk to a few people; they have beanbag toss games, face-painting, puppet skits, giant life-sized tic-tac-toe games, live lady bugs to take home for your garden, live reptiles to observe and touch, and a create-your-own birdseed feeder station. It's not your average educational faire.

The air of generosity, of energy and talent, is pervasive. Local, well-known musicians play gratis...people like renowned Banjologist, Gordy Ohliger, and Mark McKinnon's Ha'Penny Bridge Celtic band, and Mark Gailey's Molly's Favorite, and Local World. Our own local theater troupe, wowed the kids and adults with their incredibly riveting and meaningful performance of Dr. Seuss' story of the Lorax. It was pure fun to watch the sea of little and big faces glued to the stage as local performers, Tyana Maddock, Christine Fulton and many others in the troupe, drew

them in to heartache, joy and silly laughter. Only stories with that kind of duality can become a part of a person's consciousness. And nothing sticks with kids more than stories that they

sits in the sun and gives plants away at the faire EVERY YEAR. He doesn't ask for anything. He just watches with satisfaction and relief that the effort continues year after year.

Even the government values the faire. This year U.S. Fish and Wildlife gave a generous donation. It's obvious that they value environmental education. It only makes sense. And local companies, like SunGard Bi-Tech want to make sure that the faire happens. They have been sponsoring the faire for quite a few years now. The newspapers are supportive too. The Chico News & Review has consistently donated large quality ads for the faire, helping to get the word out.

Unlike the faire sponsors, many of the people who attended don't know about Dave

Cowen, from Sounds by Dave, who provided sound for us all day, for free; or Peter Hollingsworth and Karen Goodwin, who served up plate after plate of tostadas and gave all of their profit to help fund the faire; or Laurel Blankenship and Jim Brobeck who were once again the faire's MCs for no



**Wild Things presenter shows a baby Great horned owl to the crowd. Photo by Tom Barrett.**

can be a part of, like Kathy Faith's students' original story of "How the Snake Learned to Wiggle." At the end of the story, the audience was captivated by the scene of a giant garter snake wiggling all around the grove, with 20 pairs of little wobbling feet and legs sticking out beneath the snake's belly.

Having been involved in the faire for the two years previous to my co-coordination of it this year, I'm still astounded by the generosity of its sponsors. Some people may get used to seeing Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. fund all of the cool progressive community efforts, but I can't. I'm always so amazed and grateful. And it doesn't matter if they have the funds to donate. It wasn't always that way. They've been the major sponsor for the faire for well over 10 years. That's dedication to community. And every year that our local philanthropist of F.R.E.E. writes BEC a very generous check, I'm floored. He doesn't have to do that. He also comes and



**Dave Sutherland and Christine Fulton spin their storytelling magic in their performance of the Lorax, by Dr. Seuss. Photo by Tom Barrett.**



**Karen Goodwin dishes up some "soul food." Photo by Tom Barrett.**



# GERED SPECIES FAIRE

charge and with much love and care; or Gary Bergeron of In-Tents who paid his own crew to set up the stage canopy free of charge for the ESF, or Bobby Seals and Dan Bogan, who helped to provide the stage; or Mark Gailey, who has been helping to plan the faire for years and recruits quality musicians (a group of which he himself also belongs to); or Pullins Cyclery, which year-after-year gives a beautiful bike up for the faire's raffle; or hoards of volunteers who ask to be able to help; or crews of California Conservation Corps members, who politely help out with the back-breaking work and tell me that they are thankful to have been a part of the faire; or Ed Caldwell, who every single year, after staying up until midnight the night before printing the faire's programs, helps to take down the cumbersome back drops and heap them into piles.

The people who attend the faire don't

need to know the behind-the-scenes volunteers. Those volunteers do it because they love the Endangered Species Faire, and they just want to be a part of it. Maggi Barry said to me after the faire ended that she felt like the community "gave birth to the faire" again this year.

Someone said to me a couple of days ago that they thought it was amazing how the backdrops for the booths at the Endangered Species Faire, which create the feeling of a little city, pop up magically in Cedar Grove every year. I laughed because it's hard labor, and takes painstaking care, to get those all set-up. People like Charlie Guilbault show-up with a flat bed trailer



(above) Tyana Maddock "wows" the crowd in the performance of *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss. (below) Faire-goer makes playdough snakes at the CLIC booth. Photos by Tom Barrett.

**Major Sponsors of the Faire:** Sierra Nevada Brewery • Friends to Restore Earth's Environment  
**Sponsors:** Chico News & Review • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • Soroptimist International of Bidwell Rancho • SunGard Bi-Tech

**Business Friends of the Faire:** Ed's Printing • KZFR Radio 90.1 FM • Printed Image • R.W. Knudsen Family Juices • Chico Beat • Pullins Cyclery • Durham Electric • Waste Management

**Friends of the Faire:** Douglas & Kathleen Alexander • Helen Beall • Andy Holcombe • Jon Hooper • Lawrence Janeway • Robert & Sharon Johnson • Mona & Dom Lisa • Andrea & Gary Matthews • The Mills Family • Glen & Burnell Russell • Paul Smith

**Special Thanks:** Acorn Foundation • Tom Barrett • Barris Farms • Laurel Blakenship • Jim Brobeck • Nora Burnham • California Conservation Corps • Chico Natural Foods • Cotton Party • Dave Cowen and friends • Spice Creek • James & Ann Dempsey • Enrico's • Kathy Faith and Hearthstone School • Mark Gailey • Karen Goodwin & Peter Hollingsworth • Charlie Guilbault • Grilla Bites • Ha' Penny Bridge • Lisa Hill • Shirley Huneven • Jill Lacefield • Left Coast Pizza • Local World • Corie Lopez • Tyana Maddock • Cindy McCartney • Molly's Favorite • Moxie's • Mary Muchowski • Mountain Sports • Gordy Ohliger • Orene Owen • Tom Okerlund • Parkview Market & Deli • Raley's • Red Tavern • Ron's Reptiles • Safe Spray • S&S Produce • Shuberts Ice Cream & Candy • Sierra Club • Spice Creek Cafe & Gallery • Jane Taylor • Trader Joe's • Marcia Toruno • Victor & Lorraine Honig Fund of the Common Counsel • Matt Woods • Work Training Center • All the volunteers who helped with the 28th annual Endangered Species Faire!

unexpectedly and become the faire set-up hero, and Tom Okerlund directs the CCC crew patiently, with sweat dripping down his brow. Barbara Vlamis drives the huge Pentzke truck, helping load and unload carefully packed panels for 15 years, with just the right tool for repairs in hand, always. The crew works tirelessly and thanks us 20 times for the simple thank you of a pizza lunch. No, the backdrop panels and stage and garbage cans and porta-potties do not pop-up magically, but I'm glad that it appears that way to passersby. That's the way that it should be.

Most of the kids will never forget the day that they danced around in Cedar Grove, with their faces painted by the Eco Freakos, and got caught up in the story of the Lorax. They will always remember seeing an alligator, a lemur, a kissing Joey, and many exciting snakes. They will attach meaning to how important it is to protect our wetlands...so, that more kids can continue to see exciting snakes, possibly even the Giant, Gliding, Garter Snake.

Thank you Chico for a great faire this year!

**Jennifer Oman**

*Education and Outreach Coordinator, Butte Environmental Council*

(And a special thanks to my family, Gregg and Debra, who were there for the long-haul, doing anything and everything to help.)



# TOXICS

## Pesticides Impact You & Local Environment Choose Organic

By Corie Lopez, BEC Intern

Summer is here, and we are fortunate to have great fishing spots, fresh produce from local farms, and beautiful places to hike and cycle. Yet, we must also be aware of the choices we make and how they affect our health and the environment.

Our urban population and farmers rely heavily on water, yet they are also sources of toxins that pollute our waterways. Conventional agriculture is the leading, but least regulated source of water pollution in California. Over 400 different chemicals are available for conventional farmers to use, and produce is often sprayed several times with several different chemicals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits mixing different chemicals for disposal, yet there is little regulation over the multitude of pesticide residues on our food.

While pesticides allow farmers to increase crop yields and give us more choices of produce year around, they cause serious damage to our environment and health. Pesticides are found in our waterways, soil, and air. Some of the most commonly used chemicals in agriculture, such as diazinon, chlorpyrifos, PCB's and diuron, have made parts of the Sacramento River, Feather River,

and tributaries unsafe for fishing, swimming, and drinking. Additionally, pesticide run-off seriously damages riparian habitats, and reduces fish and wildlife populations.

Exposure to pesticides can affect the nervous system, interfere with child learning and development, cause cancer, damage the reproductive and neurological system, and cause other negative health affects. Pesticides are up to ten times more dangerous for children than adults, due to their inability to effectively flush toxins from their bodies. Pesticides and chemicals are also harmful to pregnant women because of potential harm to fetal development. Consequently, it is especially important for pregnant women and children to avoid high levels of toxins.

We can all continue to enjoy and benefit from our surroundings by responsibly thinking about how to preserve our environment and promote a healthy lifestyle. So, what can one do? First and foremost, as consumers, we can take advantage of the close proximity of farms and the abundance of produce available to us. Take a moment to talk with farmers at the farmers market or roadside fruit stands and ask them about what type of farming methods they use.

We can get to know our local farmers and support those who use organic farming methods. Although most people would like to buy organic foods all of the time, that can be expensive. If you cannot buy organically grown produce, remember to always wash fruit and vegetables before you eat them. Another solution is to be selective about which organically grown produce you choose to buy. Produce with the highest amounts of pesticide residue are the most important to buy organic. Fruit and vegetables with the highest amounts of pesticide residues are:

- Apples
- Carrots
- Bell peppers
- Grapes
- Peaches
- Strawberries
- Cherries
- Nectarines

We must also be cautious about the types of fish we eat. Eating fish which are high in mercury and other toxins should be avoided. If you are fishing in nearby rivers, such as the Sacramento or Feather River, it is best to eat fish that are lean, rather than fatty fish that absorb and retain toxins. Sunfish, Sacramento sucker, salmon, and tuna are the safest fish to eat. Avoid eating bigmouth fish, catfish, bass, swordfish, and shark. Eating a variety of "good" fish will help minimize any potentially adverse effects due to environmental pollutants. Additionally, limit your consumption of fish to one to two meals per week.

The influx of toxins in our environment is not always visible, but this does not necessarily mean they are not present. It's time to reduce pollution caused by pesticides and other toxins. The trade-offs from using pesticides for higher yields and a wider variety of crops are disproportionate to the environmental and health damages that occur. Our reliance on pesticides in farming will continue to be a burden on our environment and have negative affects on our health, unless we begin to promote alternatives to pesticides. In the meantime, it is important to make smart choices about what we eat and be aware of the changes that are occurring in our environment.

## Choose Alternatives to Toxics

**Fact:** The U.S. center for disease control reports that one of the main sources of pesticide exposure for children in the U.S. comes from the food they eat.

**What to do:** Always wash fruits and vegetables! You can also purchase produce that has been shown to have low amounts of pesticide residue. Here are some examples: Bananas, kiwi fruit, Pineapples, canned peaches, plums, tangerines, broccoli, sweet peas, cauliflower, asparagus, and sweet corn.

**Fact:** Standard chemicals are up to ten times more toxic to children than adults.

**What to do:** Common household cleaners are full of chemicals that make chores easier, but not safer. Household cleaners leave behind residues, so use cleaners that say "Non-toxic" or natural cleaners. Open windows or make sure the room is properly ventilated.

**Fact:** According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 95% of the pesticides used on lawns are classified as possible or probable carcinogens.

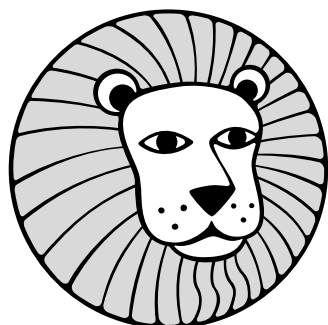
**What to do:** Avoid using pesticides, but if you do decide to use pesticides read the labels. Spot spray trouble spots instead of spraying the entire lawn. Keep children, toys, pregnant women, and pets off the lawn after applying pesticides to the lawn or garden. Read labels on products for recommended times.

### Helpful websites and Resources

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm>  
[www.NRDC.org/reference/kids.as](http://www.NRDC.org/reference/kids.as)  
[www.cehn.org/cehn/resourceguide/pec.html](http://www.cehn.org/cehn/resourceguide/pec.html)

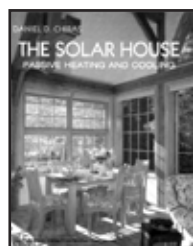
### Recipes for natural cleaning products

<http://mlmgorilla.com/naturalcleaningrecipe/>



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# EDUCATION

## Garden Friendly Critters Created by Chico Country Day School 3rd Graders

By Jennifer Oman, Education and Outreach Coordinator



**Mrs. Ely's & Mrs. Hardesty's 3rd grade classes at Chico Country Day School. Mrs. Ely is pictured with the students and their student teacher.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at Chico Country Day School (CCDS) have been learning how to prevent pesticides, fertilizers and other pollutants from entering our waterways. One way that they have learned is the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), or in other words introducing "friendly critters" into your garden that will eat the pests that eat your fruit, vegetables and flowers. It's a smart practice and is based on how the food chain works. IPM allows gardeners to cut down on, or eliminate, their use of toxic substances and still grow a beautiful garden.

Ms. Hardesty's and Ms. Ely's students have demonstrated how pesticides and fertilizers can runoff into our storm drain system, and into the creeks, with an interactive watershed

model. They have shown with the model how a healthy riparian zone (or plant & wild life buffer along the banks of the creek) which can protect our waterways. They created the beautiful banner displayed here in order to help educate others about what they have learned. All year they have been doing projects and learning lessons related to the theme that, "Life grows where water flows."

Special thanks to Corie Lopez, BEC intern; CCDS 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders, the artists; and Debbie Hardesty & Barbara Ely, CCDS 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teachers

Butte Environmental Council has worked with these classes as part of the Environmental Health Education and Outreach program.

## Recycling Tips

### Dealing with Those Pesky Six-Pack Rings and (for the cultured among us) Wine Corks

CSU's Associated Students is an excellent local recycling resource. Check out their website at: [www.aschico.com/?Page=750](http://www.aschico.com/?Page=750) for more information. We like that they accept six-pack rings so that they don't end up in landfills or ensnare wildlife. They send them to a company called Hi-Cone, which recycles them into new six-pack rings. (BEC actually helped to initiate six-pack ring recycling in Chico—based on a model in Arkansas—and was started community-wide here in 1986.)


The company Yemm & Hart is conducting an experiment by offering to accumulate the cork stoppers until there is enough to process (approximately 1,200 Lbs), which will then be reprocessed into a block that will be sliced into thin sheets that will be offered for sale. Yemm & Hart will also further process the thin sheets into tack boards, award plaques, coasters, etc. If the recycling experiment is successful, Yemm & Hart will produce recycled wine cork floor tiles. Initial contributors of cork stoppers will receive samples and preferential pricing on products made from the recycled cork.

Send your wine and Champagne cork stoppers prepaid (paid by sender) to Yemm & Hart via UPS or USPS: Wine Cork Recycling Yemm & Hart Ltd, 610 South Chamber Dr Fredericktown MO 63645. For more information, visit [www.yemmhart.com/news+/winecorkrecycling.htm](http://www.yemmhart.com/news+/winecorkrecycling.htm).

## CalWater Bill Insert Promotes Clean Water Businesses

The Chico USA Clean Water Business Partnership Program is taking off! We are pleased to add some General Contractors, Painters and local Nurseries to our list of businesses who have pledged to practice business in such a way as to keep our waterways clean. It is because of conscientious business owners like these that Chico is a beautiful, special place. Your support makes the difference

too! Watch for the Clean Water Business Partner insert in your CalWater bill this August.




**CLEAN WATER BUSINESS PARTNERS**  
are the SOLUTION TO POLLUTION


Stormdrains in Chico flow to the creek without water treatment. Clean Water Business Partners will help keep Chico's water clean.

Support your community!  
Keep Chico Creeks Clean!  
Call a Clean Water Business Partner  
for services at your home or business.

Insert Design by Page One  
contact BEC [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)



**CHICO USA**  
CLEAN WATER BUSINESS PARTNER



**Choose A Clean Water Business Partner**

**Carpet Cleaners**  
Chico Carpet Cleaning, 891-3636  
ServiceMaster Select, 342-7976  
Sunrise Carpet Cleaners, 891-4113  
SJS Carpet Cleaning, 898-0101  
Dean's Upholstery and Carpet Care, 345-0832  
Clean King by DeHart, 345-9907

**Landscape Contractors**  
Leslie Corsbie/Performance Design & Landscape, 879-0999  
KCL Custom Landscapes, 896-1211  
Sierra Landscape & Maintenance Inc., 895-0263  
Gary Wheeler/Ewing Irrigation, 894-5900  
GAIA Creations Ecological Landscaping, 342-2012  
Lawns-R-Us, 893-4450

**Nurseries**  
Floral Native Nursery, 892-2511

**General Contractors**  
Chico Remodel, 897-027  
Casey Swain Painting, 898-8217

**STORM DRAINS FLOW DIRECTLY TO OUR CREEKS**  
For information on clean creeks and Clean Water Business Partners call 879-6950 or 891-6424

# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

**Wednesday, June 13 - Bidwell Park Draft EIR Public Meeting.** 6 pm in City Council Chambers. Oral comments will be accepted at this meeting but should be accompanied by written comments. Individuals and agencies are invited to attend the meeting to discuss environmental concerns and questions associated with the project's environmental review.

**Friday, June 15 - Yahi Trail Maintenance.** Join the Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society in their Friday creekside trail maintenance project. For specific time and location, call Elizabeth at 345-5787.

**Saturday, June 16 - Yahi Trail Maintenance.** Join the Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society in their Saturday creekside trail maintenance project. For specific time and location, call Elizabeth at 345-5787.

**Sunday, June 17 - Chips Creek Trail Climb Up PCT.** Take a moderately strenuous hike up the Pacific Crest Trail in the Chips Creek canyon, but far from the creek. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8 AM or at Spring Valley School (near Highway 70 on Pentz Road) at 8:30 AM for carpooling. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391, Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789. Yahi Group, Sierra Club, members and friends.

**Friday-Sunday, June 22-24 - Yolla Bolly Wilderness Backpack.** A Yahi

Group members/friends weekend trip to the scenic and remote Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness 55 miles west of Corning. Call leader to sign up and get meeting time. Theresa 899-7331/ tmarcis@shastacollege.edu; Asst. Leader: Alan, 530-891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

**Saturday, June 23 - Canoe Tour with River Partners.** Sacramento River. 8-11. Bring your own canoe. For details, see ad on page 21, call 530.894.5401 ext. 22, or go to [www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org).

**Monday, June 25 - Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Meeting.** 7 pm in City Council Chambers. See City of Chico website for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

**Tuesday, June 26 - Bidwell Park Draft EIR.** This is the last day to submit written comments on the Bidwell Park draft EIR. You can view a copy of the document at the Butte County Library in Chico, borrow or buy a CD of the document at the Chico Planning Department desk, or download it from the city's website.

**Thursday, June 28 - Chico Sustainability Group Meeting.** 5 PM at Valley Oaks Village in the common room. The mission of the Chico Sustainability Group is to explore, support, and inspire practices and activities that ensure a prosperous, healthy community where people and nature thrive harmoniously, now and in the future. If you share these interests, please join us. For more information contact Elizabeth at [edevero@devglas.com](mailto:edevero@devglas.com).

**Saturday, June 30 - Colby Meadows Hike.** Members and friends are welcome to a new version of this popular 7 ½ mile round trip hike starting in the cool of the late afternoon and evening, featuring wildflowers, lush green meadows and a full moon. If interested in staying the night in the yurt call Theresa (899-7331). Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 2:45 PM and leave at 3PM

## Ongoing Events:

**Learn first hand about Bidwell Park's natural habitat** in various locations of the Park during Summer Volunteer Thursdays in the Park. The City Park Division will provide tools and water. Volunteers under 18 need a release form signed by a parent or guardian prior to beginning work. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 896-7831 or via email: [lspecters@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:lspecters@ci.chico.ca.us)

The **Park Division** is committed to helping ensure that volunteers have a meaningful, constructive experience during their volunteer work in the Park. For more information, or if you or your group are interested in proposing a special project in the Park, please contact Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, at 896-7831 or via email: [lspecters@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:lspecters@ci.chico.ca.us).

Throughout the summer, the **Sacramento River Preservation Trust** continues to offer hike and float outings. Call 530.345.1865 or go to [www.sacrivetrust.org](http://www.sacrivetrust.org) for more information.

**Tuesdays - Power Walk** (grade 2, class A). Meet at the Chico Park & Ride each Tuesday evening at 7PM for a 1 ½ hour brisk walk along the creek. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980. Yahi Group members and friends.

**Volunteer Thursdays in the Park (June 14, 21, July 5, July 12, 19, and 26.** (9:30 am to 11:30 am) One Mile Recreation Area, Bear Hole, Annie's Glen & Cedar Grove. Help take care of our Park! Volunteers will remove invasive plants, water native plants, and remove litter and more. Go to [www.friendsofbidwellpark.org](http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org) for more information and meeting locations.

sharp! Leader: Larry, 342-7998; Asst. Leader: Julian, 893-1994; Theresa, 899-7331.

**Friday-Sunday, July 6-8 - Point Reyes Canoe/Kayak, Bike and Hiking Weekend.** We will be exploring Tomales Bay by canoe/kayak starting from Heart's Desire Beach, staying at the Pt. Reyes Hostel; potluck dinner Friday; biking/hiking in the wilderness refuge. 530-899-9980; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 530-865-9491. Sierra Club.

**Saturday, July 7 - Castle Crags Hike.** A 6 mile round-trip hike with an elevation gain of 1950'. Enjoy breathtaking views of Castle Crags and Mt. Shasta on an excellent trail through pine/fir forest with a short side trip to lush Indian Springs. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or call leader to arrange meeting place in Red Bluff. Leader: Julian, 893-1994. Sierra Club, Yahi Group.

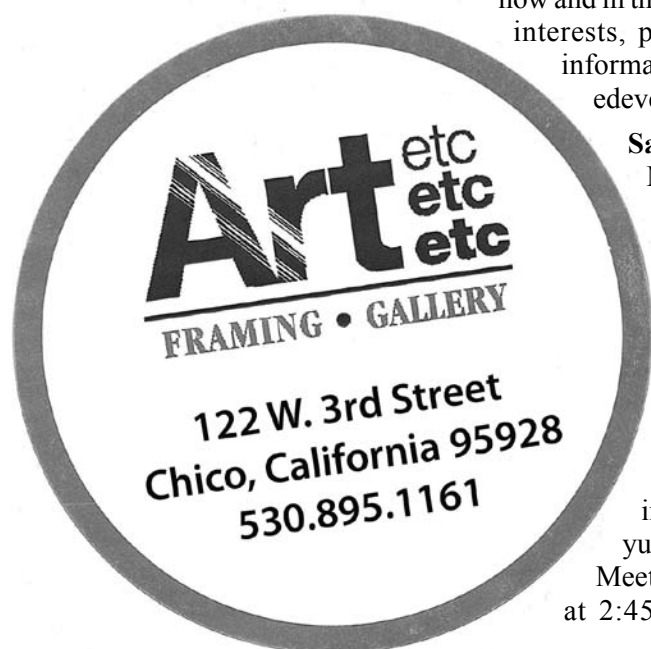
**Saturday, July 14 - Watershed Assessments in Big Chico Creek.** The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance is in their fourth season of citizen-based watershed monitoring. From 9 am to

noon, volunteers should meet at the south side of Five Mile Recreation Area. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620.

**Sunday, July 15 - Soda Creek Trail from Peacock Point to Sunflower Flat.** Members and Friends of Yahi Group, Sierra Club. Here's another chance to explore the northeast part of the Chips Creek Roadless area on this all day 7-mile hike, with a car-shuttle to avoid backtracking. We'll meet at Paradise Albertsons at 7:30 AM or Chico Park & Ride at 8 AM. Leader: Stephen, 876-1391 or [saferscapes@infostations.com](mailto:saferscapes@infostations.com).

**Wednesday - Sunday, July 18-22 - Yosemite Backpack.** A semi-loop backpack for Sierra Club members only in Yosemite National Park. Cost: \$15 for park entrance fee and permit plus \$\$ for carpooling. Limited space, call leader to reserve space. Leader: Alan, 539-891-8789 or [ajmendoza@prodigy.net](mailto:ajmendoza@prodigy.net).

**Saturday, July 21 - Brokeoff Mountain Day Hike.** Join us to enjoy Lassen Park's best kept secret, the strenuous and scenic 7-mile trail up to Brokeoff





# ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR

Mountain. Bring lunch, water and \$ for carpool and entrance fees. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30AM. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491. Sierra Club.

**Thursday, July 26 - Chico Sustainability Group Meeting.** 5 PM at Valley Oaks Village in the common room. The mission of the Chico Sustainability Group is to explore, support, and inspire practices and activities that ensure a prosperous, healthy community where people and nature thrive harmoniously, now and in the future. If you share these interests, please join us. Contact Elizabeth at edevero@devglas.com.

**Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29 - Alien Plant Eradication, Campout, Hike and Moonlight Stay at Colby Meadows Yurt.** We'll dig out Wooley Mullein in the morning, take a siesta in the heat of the day and take a late afternoon hike. On Sunday morning we'll work for a few hours before returning to Chico. Bring camping gear, food, water, boots, work clothes, camp chairs and \$\$ for drivers and yurt rental. One day workers are also welcome. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 7AM. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. Yahi Group, Sierra Club.

**Monday, July 30 - Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Meeting.** 7 pm in Council Chambers. See City of Chico website for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

**Friday - Saturday, August 3-4 - This Way to Sustainability Conference, III.** At Butte College main campus, 3536 Butte Campus Dr., Oroville. Designed for school facilities managers, design and construction professionals, public education administrators and contractors, and anyone interested in sustainable construction projects. Registration forms and information at [www.butte.edu/sustainability](http://www.butte.edu/sustainability)

**Friday-Sunday, August 3-5 - Juniper Lake Car Camp.** Spend a relaxing weekend away from the valley heat at gorgeous Juniper Lake, 7000 feet. Cost is \$10 park entrance fee and \$10 to \$15 for campsite, depending on number of happy people. Canoes, rafts, kayaks, and mountain bikes welcome. Call John to make reservations and for details, 872-

8258 or [hubhollister@yahoo.com](mailto:hubhollister@yahoo.com). Yahi Group, Sierra Club.

**Saturday, August 11 - Watershed Assessments in Big Chico Creek.** The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance is in their fourth season of citizen-based watershed monitoring. From 9 am to noon, volunteers should meet at the south side of Five Mile Recreation Area. For more Call Timmarie at 342-6620.

**Saturday-Sunday, August 11-12 - Clair Tappan Lodge and Day Hikes.** Join us for a wonderful weekend at the unique Clair Tappan Lodge (near Donner Summit, 2.4 miles off the Soda Springs/Norden I-80 exit). Saturday we'll hike to Castle Peak, Loch Leven Lakes or south on the Pacific Crest Trail depending on snow. Meet at 8AM at Chico Park & Ride or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:35AM. Please contact leader for lodge reservations at least 10 days before trip. Leader: Julian, 893-1994. Yahi Group, Sierra Club.

**Saturday, August 18 - Yahi Group Picnic at Paradise Lake.** Come join the Yahi Group for a relaxing day at beautiful Paradise Lake. Meet at noon at the Lake (\$3 entrance fee). Call leaders for more information. Leader: Gerda, 343-9277; Asst. Leader: Annette, 872-3557. Yahi Group, Sierra Club.

**Sunday, August 19 - Bidwell Park Day Hike.** Take a mostly flat 10 mile trek along the south side of Big Chico Creek. Meet at One Mile's Caper Acres parking lot at 10:00 AM. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977. Yahi Group, Sierra Club.

**Thursday, August 23 - Chico Sustainability Group Meeting.** 5 PM at Valley Oaks Village in the common room. The mission of the Chico Sustainability Group is to explore, support, and inspire practices and activities that ensure a prosperous, healthy community where people and nature thrive harmoniously, now and in the future. If you share these interests, please join us. For more information contact Elizabeth at edevero@devglas.com.

**Monday, August 27 - Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Meet-**

**ing.** 7 pm in Council Chambers. See City of Chico website for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

**Saturday, September 8 - Watershed Assessments in Big Chico Creek.** The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance is in their fourth season of citizen-based watershed monitoring. From 9 am to noon, volunteers should meet at the south side of Five Mile Recreation Area. For more information, call Timmarie at 342-6620. Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup/Pick up trash in Bidwell Park, Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Lindo Channel or Sycamore Creek during this major annual event. From 9 am to 1 pm, followed by a volunteer appreciation picnic. For more information, see Butte Environmental Council website.

**Saturday, September 15 - Annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Clean-up!** The biggest clean up event of the year! From 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join the Butte Environmental Council on this annual event to clean up our creeks and parks and reduce water pollution resulting from trash that is flowing into our creeks. We need your help! This is the only major clean up day of the year! See ad this page for details.

**Monday, September 24 - Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Meeting.** 7 pm in Council Chambers. See City of Chico website for agenda. The public is invited to attend.

## Bidwell Park & Creeks of Chico Cleanup September 15

The Fall Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Cleanup 2006 will be held Saturday, September 15th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Cleanup will focus on heavily impacted areas of Bidwell Park, Lindo Channel, Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, and Comanche Creek. This annual cleanup clears thousands of pounds of trash from Chico's park and creeks.

Please meet at 9 a.m. at the Hooker Oak Recreation Area overflow parking (off Manzanita) for park cleaning or at the corner of 9th Street and Broadway for the creeks cleaning (please call ahead in case of alternative meeting locations). Please bring sturdy gloves and shoes.

BEC hosts this event on California Coastal Cleanup Day, the premier volunteer event focused on state waters. The Guinness Book of Records hailed this event as "the largest garbage collection" (1993), and each year more than 40,000 volunteers turn out to over 400 cleanup sites statewide.

Refreshments will be available to start and end the day. There will also be a chance for all participants to win prizes from local merchants in a drawing that will occur at the picnic (volunteers need not be present to win). For more information please call BEC at 891-6424 or visit our web site at [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org).



## Lassen Forest Preservation Group Update

By Patricia Puterbaugh

Summer is nearly here and logging projects and planning will be in full swing on our surrounding private and public lands. Lassen Forest Preservation Group (LFPG) would like to invite anyone interested in forestry issues to contact us to become part of our team. We are a small, local, forest monitoring group, affiliated with the Yahi Group Sierra Club, BEC, and Sierra Forest Legacy. We follow US Forest Service (USFS) projects on the Lassen National Forest from the early planning stages, through the environmental review process, and implementation. We then follow up on these projects afterwards to observe the results and examine outcomes. Our favorite part of the work is our field trips into the mountains to “scope” the projects! We often go with FS personnel including biologists, ecologists, silviculturists, and fire experts. We have had an incredible education over the 10 years we have been doing the work and have seen USFS personnel and policies change significantly. Ten years ago the USFS was often cutting as much timber as possible on our National Forests; now the emphasis is often restoration, “forest health,” and aspen and oak regeneration. After almost 100 years of fire suppression, grazing and logging our National Forests are generally not healthy. There is a gradual movement away from simple resource extraction, to sustainable forests for the future.

However, there continues to be considerable lack of trust between the FS and the environmental community, and by no means are all the projects without significant negative impacts. We are working with the FS to change these harmful projects and have taken the USFS to court when necessary.

If you are up in the mountains this summer in the Plumas National Forest you will see one project we were not successful in changing. That is the Meadow Valley project near Quincy and Bucks Lake. The logging is significant and there are many group selections, or small clear cuts in this area, which is the

gateway to the Bucks Lake Wilderness. The Plumas National Forest is also in the planning stages for the large “Flea” project. This is a very widespread project including thinning near the communities of Magalia, Paradise, Concow and near Paradise Lake and the Magalia Reservoir. It also includes many acres of group selections, or small clear cuts. This project is in the early planning stages and there are public meetings planned for input.

LFPG is generally very supportive of thinning around communities for fire safety. However, this project seems to have many aspects that may be detrimental to our watershed, wildlife and recreational values.

For the last two years we have been following the Almanor Ranger District’s work on Oak, Pine and Aspen enhancement projects East of Philbrook.

Our discussions of the project design were open and wide ranging. We continue to have some concerns about the level of thinning they are proposing to “restore” the pine and oak woodlands, but these are smaller projects that have a vigorous follow-up study component. As fire has been excluded from the forest landscape, combined with heavy logging and grazing, the ecology of the forest has changed significantly. Large, old, shade intolerant and fire resistant ponderosa pine, sugar pine and black oak are being shaded out and replaced by shade tolerant, fire susceptible, white fir. The purpose of these projects is to somewhat mimic fire; to thin the white fir and restore the mixed conifer pine/oak forests, also making them more fire resistant. As the forests have become thicker and overgrown, the shrub and understory component (with its huge ecological benefits to birds, insects and wildlife), has been killed. These projects will attempt to restore this important

level of the forest structure. Studies indicate that aspen woodlands are some of the most important habitats in our Sierran mountains.

Another project in the planning stages is the Champs project on the Eagle Lake Ranger District. This is a



**Visiting the oak, pine, and aspen enhancement projects with the Almanor Ranger District, the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, and Forest Service biologists.**

larger project totaling approximately 6,000 acres of logging and thinning. There were 12 of us on our May 21<sup>st</sup> field trip to the project site. Eastside Sierra habitat is much drier, rockier and flatter than Westside, but there is also very valuable habitat. The Eastside has the flats and meadows for nesting sandhill cranes and antelope range in the region. On the mountains there is habitat for California spotted owl and Northern Goshawk. This project is also trying to “restore” historical conditions, by thinning the smaller trees that have grown up thickly with the exclusion of fire, heavy logging, and grazing. The FS has proposed an alternative that will decrease the cut and intensity of the logging in spotted owl and goshawk territories. We are hopeful this will be the “preferred alternative.”

We will be visiting the “Creeks” area of the Almanor Ranger District in July with FS personnel to try to come to an agreement on this extremely beautiful

region in the Butt, Yellow and Grizzly Creek watersheds. Our successful lawsuit against the original project has forced the FS to work with us to design a project that will both thin the forest and yet keep the essential habitat and connectivity in the region for old growth species, including American marten. We will also visit the North 49 region in the Hat Creek Ranger District, NW of Lassen National Park, to discuss plans for another contested project. We will travel with USFS staff to collaborate on a design for this area, also extremely important to connectivity and sensitive species in the Sierras.

This winter and spring we commented on almost a dozen private logging projects planned for the Deer, Butte and Chico Creek watersheds. Unfortunately we have not seen any positive

changes in the private land logging regime in California and in fact clear cuts have now become the alternative of choice. Clear cuts are not only ugly, they simply wipe out all habitat for years, necessitate the use of herbicides, and are changing the lower forests of the Sierras to monoculture. A group called Forest Watch is planning a public market campaign against Sierra Pacific Industries to try to expose these poor practices. We are hopeful for some kind of movement on this issue.

We want to sincerely thank the Rose Foundation for recognizing Jim Brobeck, one of our members, for his extensive volunteer work with the Lassen Forest Preservation Group. We were awarded a grant, which will help reimburse group funds for travel and monitoring. Please contact Patricia Puterbaugh at, Cohasset@shocking.com, if you would be interested in learning more about our work.



## TreeAction Promotes Extension of Tree Ordinance

By Alan and Francine Gair, TreeAction

Four years ago TreeAction, a group of tree-loving citizens, drafted and promoted passage of Chico's first Tree Ordinance.

We built on the Chico citizens' outrage about developers clearing-cutting their proposed building sites to simplify construction and the savage trimming of trees, and persuaded the Council that a Tree Ordinance was needed to protect Chico's urban canopy.

At that time, the precarious balance of the Council made it difficult to get what we proposed passed into law. The teeth were taken out of our proposal to get the votes required from the conservatives. So we got Chico's first Tree Ordinance, but it is weak and covers very few trees.

Now things are different, and many people think it's time to review the Tree Ordinance, and the Council has sent the matter to the Internal Affairs Committee where our proposals will need your support.

### Development

It is clear that most people support holding developers to the higher standards they feel are needed in this time of global warming, air pollution, habitat preservation and the general acknowledgement of the contribution which trees make to our environment and health.

Much of the detail required for tree protection during and after development is already in place, but needs to be applied more rigorously.

We think that it would be fairer to developers to make the rules clear and to align them with today's actual decision-making. Planning approval will then be a less frustrating process and so less expensive.

We also think that the trees saved in a carefully-worked-out planning effort should be protected after the property sells.

### Private Property

It is equally clear that there is strong community opposition to requiring homeowners to get a permit to remove a tree. So, we met with professional biologists, arborists, progressive developers and enthusiastic citizens to hammer out what is sensible and possible in an extended Tree Ordinance.

We are proposing to exempt trees on property with single-family homes. That would still extend protection to trees on city property, parks, developments, commercial sites, and multi-family dwellings – many more than the current ordinance protects.

### TreeAction Proposed Amendment

Extends protection to:

- trees of 12"+ in diameter (now 24"+)
- specified smaller species which never grow to that size (dogwood, etc.)
- trees saved in a development (by writing into the CC&Rs that such trees require a permit for removal)
- trees on property subject to planning approval
- trees on property in the Chico sphere of influence (to prevent any early action to avoid complying with the ordinance, e.g., transferring ownership, clearing land before filing development plans, etc.)

Bring all park and street trees into the scope of the ordinance.



**DON'T TOP TREES:** "Topping" or extreme pruning weakens trees and makes them more susceptible to insects and disease. Proper pruning can remove excess growth without creating problems.

Control topping and extreme pruning of trees.

Require mitigation for all trees removed.

Require that qualified arborists supervise tree work in the city. Require business licenses for tree workers.

Create approved site-specific lists of trees for street, commercial, multi-family dwelling and parking lots.

Exempt invasive species and weed trees from ordinance protection, and encourage planting and preservation of California native species.

**Apart from extending the ordinance, we also wish to include the following:**

- Creating a volunteer organization to raise awareness of the importance of trees, by education, volunteering to help those unable to deal with tree pruning costs or physical cleanup, etc., based on the model of existing organizations like the Bidwell Park Volunteer Committee and Park Watch.

- Establishing a trust fund to raise funds for planting and development of a tree nursery and the protection of our urban tree canopy.

- Encouraging the Urban Forester to monitor the work of arborists and develop a management system that measures progress.

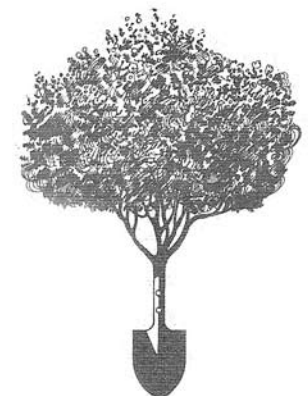
- Increase the funding and staffing of the Urban Forester's department to enable this ordinance to be enforced.

For more information, visit [www.treeaction.org](http://www.treeaction.org).

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## Many Fish Expected on Butte Creek—Will There Be Water?

By Friends of Butte Creek

The Friends of Butte Creek (FBC) have released their early predictions for the 2007 run of Spring Run Chinook Salmon (SRC) in Butte Creek. "Thanks to events set in motion three years ago, this year's run should be a record breaking one, probably 20,000 fish or more. So far it seems to be the case," says Allen Harthorn, Executive Director for FBC. After two years of research, in 1999 and 2000, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that increasing the minimum release from the Centerville Head Dam into the low flow section above Centerville

Powerhouse, "would greatly benefit spawning habitat for SRC." The report was not released until 2003, and in 2004 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Division requested that Pacific Gas and Electric (PGE) voluntarily reduce their diversion and put an additional 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water to increase the minimum flow to 60 cfs. The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) agreed, and PGE provided the water. In 2006, the minimum was increased to 75 cfs during the spawning season. "DFG counted a record number of juvenile salmon, nearly 900,000 in their

monitoring traps the following spring, and were able to tag 400,000," reported Harthorn. "This is several times more than any other year." Those fish are now coming back to spawn.

The situation is going to be closely watched by the state and federal agencies as well as PGE. "No one wants to see these fish dying before they spawn, so water management this year will be critical," Harthorn said. PGE has indicated that the Centerville Powerhouse may be shut down this summer as some of the parts are getting old and in need of repair. As part of the relicensing of the DeSablac Centerville hydroelectric project, PGE

has suggested the economic viability of the Centerville Powerhouse does not look good. It may be shut down and decommissioned. Temperature studies indicate the powerhouse provides little if any cooling of the creek while significantly reducing flow and increasing temperature in the low flow section. "At the very least, they should shut it down during the summer and give the fish full natural flows," said Harthorn, "you could replace the whole production of the plant if consumers switched 84,000 of the 100W incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent ones,"

Continued on next page.

## - Upcoming River Partners Events -

### Canoe Tour: June 23

**What:** Bring your own canoe or kayak and go down the Sacramento River with Dr. Tom Griggs, River Partners' Senior Restoration Ecologist. Explore the longest river in California! We'll enjoy bird watching and explore several of River Partners' ecological restoration sites along the way.

**When:** June 23, 2007, Saturday, 8 am to 11 am



*Canoeers on River Partners' 2006 canoe tour on the Sacramento River. Photo by Matthew Morgan.*

**Where:** Sacramento River. Put in at the Butte City Boat Launch. Take out at the Drumheller Unit (Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge)

**What You Need:** Your own canoe, life jackets, and relevant equipment, Sunscreen, Water, Snacks, Good Walking Shoes, A friend to help you paddle and car shuttle between sites

**Reservations:** Call 530.894.5401 ext 22, Email: [jpokrandt@riverpartners.org](mailto:jpokrandt@riverpartners.org)



### River Access Dedication: June 27

**What:** Celebrate the addition of Gianella Landing to the Irvine Finch River Access Area, part of the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park—a gift from River Partners to California State Parks.

**When:** June 27, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Irvine Finch River Access Parking Lot, west side of the Sacramento River-Hwy 32 bridge near Hamilton City, CA.

Enjoy the donation ceremony and refreshments. RSVP by June 22 to 530.894.5401 ext. 22 or [jpokrandt@riverpartners.org](mailto:jpokrandt@riverpartners.org)

For more information, see article on page 9, or go to [www.riverpartners.org](http://www.riverpartners.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

#### River Partners

*Our mission is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment.*

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## WATERWAYS Part three in a three-part series Little Chico and Butte Creeks By Rex Stromness

Big Chico Creek and Butte Creek are two of our area's major waterways, but they both have significant smaller sibling streams—Little Chico Creek and Little Butte Creek. Though smaller and sometimes intermittent, these are also important local drainages. In this installment of Waterways, we will explore the two "Littles."

Little Chico Creek begins as two springs on Platt Mountain above Forest Ranch at 3,200 feet. It carves out the canyon to the south of Highway 32 which becomes Stilson Canyon at lower elevation. During high water flow (usually eight to 10 months of the year) it flows along Humboldt Road through Chico and ends up in Angel Slough near the Llano Seco Ranch. Most years it eventually dries up and disappears into the gravels near Bruce Road.

Because of its location, Little Chico Creek has become an attractive home for the homeless during the dry season. According to Roger Cole of Streaminders, garbage and pollution are two problems that have arisen. "We remove a tremendous amount of garbage every year from the creek bed," Roger says. "And, obviously, occupants use the creek bed for a toilet, which doesn't help with the water quality when the creek is running." Little Chico Creek is always a major focus of the Butte Environmental Council's annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico clean ups. This year's clean up (the 16th Annual) is on September 15. Please see page 17 for information and how to volunteer.

Another problem is called *Arundo Donax*, an invasive, toxic Bamboo-like plant that chokes out the native species and blocks the flow of water. The plant, native to Southeast Asia, was introduced for erosion control. Like

other infamous species introduced for the same reason (think *Tamarisk*), it is now out of control and a problem in the area's creeks.

Occasionally, in high water years, salmon make it up Little Chico Creek. Salmon have been seen as high as Santos Ranch, but this is a rare occurrence.

Little Butte Creek rises four miles above Sterling City, weaves its way along Upper Skyway and Coutelink Road and into Paradise Reservoir. It then flows into Magalia Reservoir, carves the canyon adjacent to Butte Creek Canyon, flows along Honey Run Road and joins Butte Creek just above the Covered Bridge. Along the way it is joined by Middle Butte and Honey Run Creeks.

Little Butte Creek is the main drainage into Paradise and Magalia Reservoirs—Paradise's water sources. Magalia Reservoir was completed in 1918 and Paradise Reservoir was created in 1956 and then enlarged in 1976.

Even with the two reservoirs and the fact that Paradise averages more than 50 inches of rain per year, water storage is a major issue. Two or three dry years in a row could cause a severe water shortage in Paradise, which doesn't have the abundant groundwater of the valley floor.

According to George Barber, Manager of Paradise Irrigation District, only 12,000 to 18,000 acre feet of the districts water rights is being used, and they need to find a way to collect and store 6,000 more. While no final decision has been made, options include raising Paradise Reservoir's dam and capacity, and restructuring Magalia Reservoir which was required to draw down its capacity in 1997 for earthquake safety.

Another major project is installation of a bypass pipeline, a 36-inch pipe that would by-pass Magalia Reservoir, gravity feeding water directly to the water treatment plant.

"The pipeline has several very important benefits," explains Barber. "It can still deliver water in the case of an oil tanker going down or an accident of that nature on Magalia Dam that would normally shut us down. By-passing the Reservoir also solves the odor and taste problem we've had due to algae in the shallower water in the Reservoir since the draw down."

One-half a cubic centimeter per second (cfs) of water is released during the summer from Magalia Reservoir into Little Butte Creek which, according to Barber, would sometimes go dry in the late summer of a dry year. Like Little Chico Creek, Little Butte has a small salmon run.

Although smaller than their "Big" namesakes, Little Chico and Butte Creeks are important components of our collective watersheds and are beautiful natural environments for flora, fauna and humans in Butte County.


## Many Fish Expected on Butte Creek

**Continued from previous page.**

he added. The DeSabra and Toadtown powerhouses would remain operational and the inter-basin transfer of water from the west Branch Feather River to Butte Creek will likely remain. This additional water most likely has some benefit to this large population of salmon.

Friends of Butte Creek and a coalition of other conservation groups, with support from Earthjustice, have filed a 60 day notice of intent to sue if another fish die-off occurs in the critical sections of the creek affected by PGE diversions. "We're hoping for cool weather and cool heads; we believe PGE can do a better job of managing the water for the fish."

**Friends of Butte Creek** is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Spring Run Chinook salmon of Butte Creek and other tributaries. The hope is that Spring Run may some day be delisted from the Endangered Species act. Visit [www.buttetecreek.org](http://www.buttetecreek.org) for more information.



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530/894-1308; [www.bigchicocreek.org](http://www.bigchicocreek.org)

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

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[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

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916/447-2677; [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

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

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## **California Sportfishing Protection Alliance**

[users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html](http://users.rcn.com/ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html); 510/526-4049

## **California Wilderness Coalition**

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Chico, CA 95928  
530/879-0887  
www.sacrivetrust.org

## **Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

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

## **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

## **So. Campus Neighborhood Assn**

1405 West 3rd St., Chico, CA 95928  
898-2623, southcampusneighborhood.org

## **So. Chico Neighborhood Assn**

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

## **The Bidwell Conservancy**

49 Forest Creek Cir.  
Chico, CA 95928; 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

## **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 Ave. Neighborhood Assn.**

2096 Vallombrosa Ave. Chico, 95926

## **Young Life Woodleaf**

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

116 W. Second St., Suite 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424

www.becnet.org

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