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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Butte Environmental Council Needs Help Turning Acorns to Oak Trees in Bidwell Park

Chico, California – The Butte Environmental Council is looking for volunteers to help plant 200 acorn plots in Middle and Upper Bidwell Park for their Oak Restoration Project. This project is grant funded by the California Wildlife Foundation for BEC to work with the community to restore endangered oak woodlands in Bidwell Park.

In each plot, volunteers will plant three acorn seedlings in hopes that one or more of these seedlings will sprout. There will be four planting days in November and December in various locations of Upper Park.

The upcoming planting days are:

- Sunday, November 15, 2015
- Saturday, November 21, 2015
- Sunday, December 13, 2015
- Saturday, December 19, 2015

Volunteers will plant 170 blue oak plots and 30 valley oak plots over the duration of these four work days from 1-4pm in Bidwell. Materials will be provided for volunteers, but they are welcome to bring their own gloves and shovels. To register for this event, visit <http://www.becnet.org/oak-restoration>. After registering online for their desired planting day(s), volunteers will receive an email informing them of their meeting location and further details for the day of the event.

Oak woodlands are valuable wildlife habitat and a major draw for community recreation. Unfortunately, only about a third of California's oak woodlands remain. In some areas of Butte County, like Upper Bidwell Park, both Valley and Blue Oaks are not regenerating adequately to ensure ecological survival. Intensive agriculture, woodcutting, and development are the main causes for this loss, and browsing and invasive plant species have been identified as inhibitors to regeneration.

In 2014, BEC planted 100 acorn plots in Upper Park for this project with a commendable 80% survival rate, which would not have been possible without some outstanding volunteers. Community members will be instrumental in helping BEC

plant double the amount of plots this year. Acorn planting is a great activity for children and families of all sizes, as well as groups and clubs. For more information and to register as a volunteer for this event, please visit <http://www.becnet.org/oak-restoration> or call BEC's office at (530) 891-6424 to speak with their Oak Restoration Coordinator, Danielle.

For additional information, contact:
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[530-891-6424](tel:530-891-6424), BEC Office

On the days of this event, media may contact Danielle at 530-570-6528.

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The Butte Environmental Council is a non-profit environmental organization based in Chico, California. BEC's mission is to protect and defend the land, air and water of Butte County and the surrounding region through action, advocacy and education. Since 1975, BEC has played a significant part in shaping the environment and policies of Butte County and surrounding areas.

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