

**For immediate release:  
April 24, 2013**

**BEC Hosts 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Endangered Species Faire**

Celebrating environmental triumphs and education, Butte Environmental Council will be holding its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Endangered Species Faire in Cedar Grove in Lower Bidwell Park on Saturday, May 4. The free event, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature fun, food and activities for all ages.

Partnering with various Butte County schools, other non-profits and government agencies, the Endangered Species Faire, undoubtedly the longest-running environmental fair in California, has through the years enjoyed a large turnout and produced fond memories.

“This faire has now impacted multiple generations of people in the Chico area. Adults remember attending this event as kids and are now bringing their own children,” BEC Executive Director Robyn DiFalco said. “We are proud to be able to carry on the tradition, providing this fun and educational event to the community after so many years.”

Among the festivities will be live animal shows, live music, local food vendors and a multitude of groups gathered to put on demonstrations and host activities.

The main event of the Faire takes place at noon with the “Procession of the Species,” a parade that winds around Cedar Grove displaying a menagerie of handmade puppets. The puppets, ranging in size and shape from small puppets made by children to elaborate 15-foot-tall creations, are mostly fashioned after animals such as salmon, polar bears and sea turtles.

A 15-foot- tall heron puppet represents BEC’s mascot, the heron. Children view the tall heron in awe and enjoy touching his long beak.

As easy as it is to get wrapped up in the lightheartedness of this family event, Robyn DiFalco said it is also important to keep in mind the main messages of encouraging environmental stewardship and protecting sensitive habitat and threatened species.

“Butte Environmental Council has worked for nearly 40 years to protect habitat and natural resources in Butte County and the surrounding region. This event is an opportunity to celebrate these efforts and to raise awareness of the importance of protecting natural treasures locally and globally.”

With these values in mind, BEC urges Faire-goers to seek alternate transportation to attend the event, such as walking, riding bikes or taking the bus to the Cedar Grove celebration.

###

For more information, contact:  
Butte Environmental Council  
530-891-6424