



# BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL

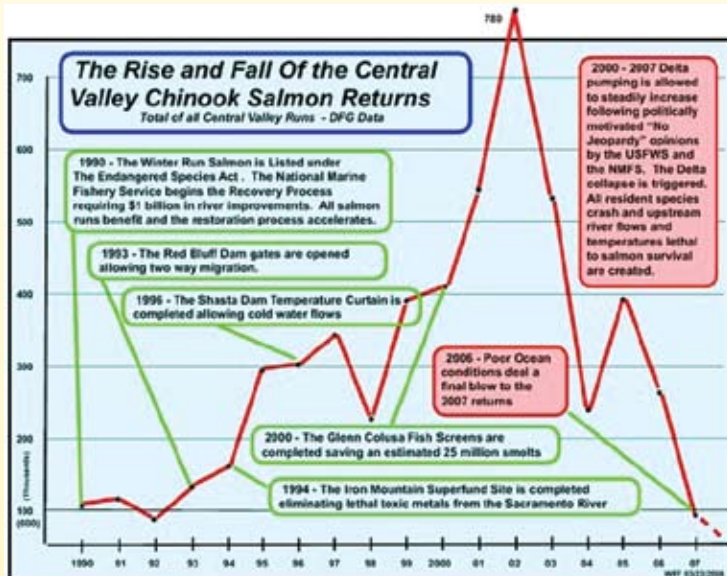
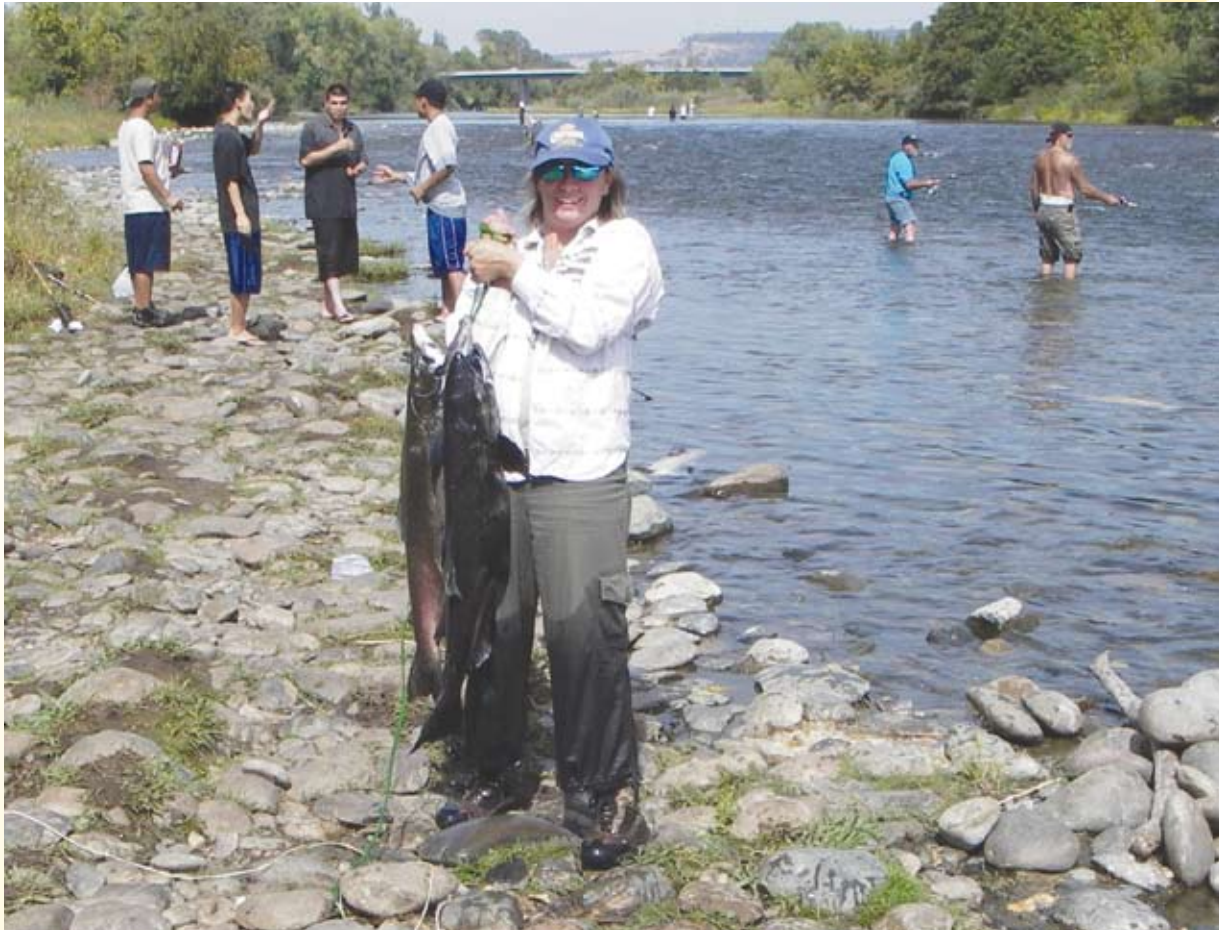
SPRING 2009

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1

# News

## Fish, creeks and farms in jeopardy

Sacramento Valley groundwater targeted – See story on page 9



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Fish chart courtesy of Dick Pool. Agriculture inset photo courtesy of Hennigan Farms.

*Environmental News*, a quarterly published paper, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental News and Calendar, e-mail [marym@becnet.org](mailto:marym@becnet.org). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC.

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#### About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC protects the land, air, and water of Butte County through advocacy, environmental education, and information and referral services.

BEC  
116 W. Second St, #3, Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.6424, [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)  
Office Hours  
Monday through Thursday  
9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

#### How to Join BEC

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

#### BEC Board of Directors

Lynn Barris, *Chair*  
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Karen Phillips, *Newsletter Designer*  
James Brobeck, *Forestry, Ground Water*  
Donna Cook, *Transportation*  
Chuck Lundgren, *Computers, Website*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Oh, we are a busy BEC. Maybe we've never had so much at stake. Protecting the local water supply, communities and streams has been challenging, remains challenging. Now that we've had some good rain and snow in the North, it's hard to remember that soon, very soon, the San Joaquin folks will be making deals for our water. There's plenty of water for people, cities. They use very little water compared to those who farm in the deserts of California. What we are pushing at BEC is the idea of using the water in your own watershed. BEC has been on the forefront of protecting our groundwater for the last 15 years. If you haven't donated to BEC or to BEC's water program now is the time. [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

Under our education banner we have been putting on educational meetings about water. Unlike the county water education meetings that only present one side, the side of the water districts and the Department of Water Resources, BEC is bringing in unbiased scientists and experts from other areas to educate us on water. We call this series CODE BLUE (see page 8). In April USGS will be presenting a groundwater model they have done of our area and in May we will have an expert in climate change. [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

May 2 is our 30th annual Endangered Species Faire in Bidwell Park. Please go to our website and check out the picture of the giant puppets. They will be here again this year. Kids LOVE these puppets. The fair is free. [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

BEC is an organization that gets things done. It's an exciting Board to serve on. We have new Board members, long time Board members, and returning Board members. I'd like to welcome our two newest Board members, Robin Huffman and Mike McLaughlin. We are delighted to add them to the team. Also, I'd like to thank a recently retired Board member, Chuck Lundgren. Chuck had been a tireless Board member for many years. He was our tech guru in the beginning and has spent hundreds of volunteer hours cleaning Chico creeks, working on the Endangered Species Faire, and protecting our environment.

It's easy and it's rewarding to work with BEC. We always need volunteers. Volunteer to do something for BEC that you like to do. We need photography work. We need our streams throughout the area photographed. We can use help in ways that will suit you and your time. And of course, if you are able, please donate. Go to our website. Familiarize yourself with our work. Volunteer. Donate. Come visit us at the Endangered Species Faire. [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

Lynn Barris  
BEC Board Chairperson

## BEC Donations

Come from many people, far and near  
*Have You Made a Donation?*

BEC's Angel program gives the organization sustained, regular income to pay staff and purchase materials that enable us to protect the environment. BEC Angels commit to donating regularly on a monthly or quarterly basis. These Angels are not just local, but some are as far away as Alexandria, Virginia and Santa Monica, California.

During the year, BEC will receive one-time donations that give us a much-needed boost in financial crunches, helping us to pay attorney fees and for additional staff. One such donation came in early August from an unlikely source: a car donation from the Bay Area. The San Jose couple, Cleo and Cadja, donated their Prius to CARS-4-US x 1865, and after looking extensively on the Web to find which organization should receive the car sale profits, chose BEC. From the \$15,000 sale of the car, BEC received \$12,000! We'd like to thank Cleo and Cadja for their extremely generous donation.

BEC continues to incur costs in its multiple lawsuits, its participation with multiple government meetings, and its commentary on multiple projects and legal actions for groundwater pumping, general plans, land use, and so on. If Cleo and Cadja can make a donation, can you make a donation? If you're a BEC Angel, can you increase your Angel amount, and if you're not an Angel, can you become one? BEC desperately needs more resources to help an overworked and dedicated staff. Please join with others, far and near, and donate today!

## Leave a Legacy

For the land, air, water, and future generations

A legacy gift to the Butte Environmental Council will not only ensure that some of our most beautiful and important resources in the northern Sacramento Valley and foothills are protected and preserved, but could also provide you with income for life, a reduction in capital gains taxes, and other benefits.

There are many ways that you can be a part of our environmental legacy:

- Remember BEC in your will or living trust
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

If you currently have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a bequest (a gift in your will) to BEC. An example of appropriate language for inclusion in your will or living trust is:

"I give, devise and bequeath to Butte Environmental Council, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the mailing address of 116 West Second Street, Suite 3, Chico, California, 95928, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ dollars [or otherwise describe the gift or asset] for its general purposes and use at the discretion of Butte Environmental Council's Board of Directors."

If you are interested, please contact your personal financial planner or attorney. For basic information, please contact Butte Environmental Council at 530.891.6424.



# Formalizing *a Trail*

A group of concerned citizens began meeting in Paradise in 2002 because of a new fence put up across a popular Magalia trailway which stretches along a public easement, a remnant of the Southern Pacific Railroad line between Chico and Stirling City. Soon afterward the group put together a feasibility study entitled the Historic Sawmill Trail Public Access Project and presented the study to the Paradise Town Council and to the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The introduction to the study describes the project as follows:

The Historic Sawmill Trail stretches from the Magalia train depot (now a restaurant), through breathtaking scenery, past a turnoff for Paradise Lake, along the Feather River Canyon, in the vicinity of old mining and logging camps, finally ending at Clotilde Merlo Park in Stirling City. The distance is 13.1 miles and rises from about 2300 feet to just over 3500 feet in elevation with grades no more than 3½ percent along its course. The historic nature of the area, the natural beauty of the landscape, and ideal grade make this a gem of a trail for cyclists, hikers, and equestrians. If nothing is done in the near future this local treasure will rapidly fall into disrepair and grow increasingly inaccessible. The time is right to develop the potential of the Historic Sawmill Trail for the benefit of all.

After many discussions and e-mails between various individuals and agencies, meetings between the town and county, resolutions, newspaper articles, coordination with the Butte County Association of Governments, and a public meeting in Magalia in 2007, the Historic Sawmill Trail finally has a public appearance on official county and BCAG master plans. The trailway is still at risk of disappearing; nevertheless, an important first step has been accomplished with BCAG's recent acceptance of the 2008-2035 Regional Transportation Plan. The chapter on non-motorized transportation has a new section, "Multi Use Trails and Routes". The RTP describes the Historic Sawmill Trail as,

a non-paved multi use trail from Skyway at Coutolenc Road to Paradise Lake. In essence, this trail would simply define the route with signs and ensure access for non-motorized transportation such as mountain biking, horseback riding or hiking. This project would require extensive research on land ownership and route alignment consensus on or near the old railroad grade. Portions of this trail are in the Lassen National Forest. The purpose of identifying this trail in the RTP and Countywide Bikeway Plan is to highlight recreation destinations and connectivity to the Paradise Memorial Trail. (page 8-16)

Unfortunately the entire stretch of the trail to Stirling City is not included in the RTP. The section included is identified in the feasibility study as Phase 1. Having that section in the RTP is, nevertheless, an accomplishment. Now that section of the public easement has the necessary local government support to take the next step in forming an official trail.

There are some hurdles to jump; yet, preserving this trail for Butte County is worth the effort, no matter how long it takes. The writer Robin Huffman can be reached by e-mail [rafh@comcast.net](mailto:rafh@comcast.net) and by phone 877-0672.



## CALIFORNIA PASSES COMPLETE STREETS ACT OF 2008

*Assembly Bill 1358 authored by Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco*

The Complete Streets Act of 2008, which passed on September 30th, requires cities and counties to include complete streets policies as part of their general plans so that roadways are designed to safely accommodate all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists. "Getting people out of their cars and riding bicycles or the bus improves public health, air quality, eases congestion and reduces greenhouse emissions," said Assemblyman Leno.

The new law complements the existing Caltrans policy to "fully consider the needs of non-motorized travelers (including pedestrians, bicyclists and persons with disabilities) in all programming, planning, maintenance, construction, operations and project development activities and products."

Beginning January 2011, any substantive revision of the circulation element in the general plan of a California local government will need to include complete streets provisions.

Groups supporting complete streets have formed the National Complete Streets Coalition, with active participation from groups representing older persons, transit users, pedestrians, bicyclists, and disabled people, as well as smart growth proponents and professional organizations such as the American Planning Association and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. For more information, visit [completestreets.org](http://completestreets.org) or call 202-207-3355.

Federal complete streets legislation was introduced in both the House and Senate during 2008 for the first time.

## Economic stimulus to transportation or digging a deeper hole?

by Donna Cook

Are you happy with Chico's potholes? Do you want to drive a car everywhere you go? If so, this article is not for you. If you would like to see current roads repaired and all travelers considered when spending tax dollars, please read on.

Butte County is expecting \$20-30 million for transportation under the federal stimulus bill. Anticipating this, jurisdictions within Butte County have submitted prioritized lists of projects to the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), the agency that administers transportation money received from the State and Federal Governments. This list is on p. 27 of the February agenda of the BCAG Board Meeting. (Available at [www.bcag.org](http://www.bcag.org))

### Pothole repair postponed

The first two priorities on Chico's stimulus list are new infrastructure projects. If the ninth (widening Route 32) and tenth items are included, the expanded infrastructure projects are over \$24 million. Rehabilitation projects total less than \$6 million, only a fraction of Chico's overdue road maintenance and repair.

Maintenance and repair are "shovel-ready" projects, one requirement for stimulus items. Ordinarily, federal funds cannot be used for maintenance and repair of local roads. The stimulus package is a unique opportunity to repair roads. Maintenance of roads is also labor-intensive, producing more jobs than larger projects that expand infrastructure, such as the ones being proposed.

Any transit money not spent on transit each year has been used for road maintenance in Chico. State Transit Assistance was recently eliminated for the next five years. This source of maintenance funds has just dried up.

Why wouldn't local bureaucrats want road repair as the top priority? Local people often complain about the condition of local roads. Could public outcry over potholes be a built-in stimulus for future money for roads?

### What do transportation activists recommend?

Advocacy organizations representing pedestrians, bicyclists, disabled people and school children are recommending that highway funds be spent in the following ways:

1. Prioritize repair and maintenance of existing roads;
2. Road projects should make local streets "complete." See Complete Streets Act; and
3. Build bicycle and pedestrian projects with at least 3% of highway funds. No bicycle and pedestrian projects are on the current stimulus list for Butte County.

If you agree with the above recommendations, please contact your local city council members expressing your concerns, or contact Donna Cook through the BEC office (891-6424) to help plan ways to influence these decisions.



## The Last Commute

By Karen Laslo

*Commute: to travel regularly from one place to another, especially between home and work; or to have sentencing set aside as for a crime committed.*

Like water wells in an endless drought,  
one by one the gas stations,  
went dry.  
And when they no longer  
served a purpose, they stood  
like marks upon the landscape  
pointless and painful to sight.  
Now what good was a gas station to us?  
What good all those drive-thru Starbucks,  
McDonalds, Burger Kings, bank ATM's ?  
What good the countless twisting miles of freeway,  
the shopping mall parking lots  
the public and private garages?

Already abandoned cars had begun to litter  
the familiar morning commutes  
jam downtown roads and intersections  
where meters ticked away  
the last few seconds of legal parking  
for cars that would never again be driven.  
The object of our 100-year worship  
of oil and automobiles revealed now  
as a pointless and empty homage  
to shrines of useless metal and plastic.  
And for what good reason  
had we chanced  
upon such a religion?  
What good now a faith  
that junked the Earth  
and dealt injury beyond repair.  
What now could be done  
to salvage something of this waste and harm?

The day we finally ran out of oil,  
some of us,  
nursing a last few ounces of fuel,  
drove our cars:  
the comfortable,  
opulent  
SUVs,  
armored Humvees,  
politically correct hybrids,  
scrunchie little Hondas,  
big old clunkers,  
spiffy, sexy sports cars,  
mini vans and pickup trucks  
to the Wal Mart  
parking lot,  
not to shop  
but to leave our cars there,  
unlocked,  
in the hope  
that the homeless,  
(of which there were more of us each day)  
might find in the upholstered back seat  
of one of our donated cars,  
a warm, sheltered place to sleep the night.

It was a last gesture,  
a bit of comfort  
to take with us  
on the long walk back home.

## A New Eco-Nomy is Possible

Stephen Tchudi

A year ago, the Butte Environmental Council participated in the Chico Peace and Justice Center's observation of the 5th anniversary of the War in Iraq: a giant puppet parade demonstrating "Alternatives to a Trillion War Dollars." The BEC puppet, 10-foot-tall Blue Heron, lamented the loss of as much as 50% of the wetlands in the U.S. and observed that a trillion war dollars could better be used to place 500 million acres of wetland under protection.

The 6th anniversary of the war passed on March 19, 2009, and estimates of the total cost of the Iraq war have now doubled and even tripled. While there are some positive signs in President Obama's pledge to remove all "combat" troops by from Iraq in 2010, he still plans to leave 50,000 "supervisory" troops on the ground and even now is sending 17,000 new troops to Afghanistan. His proposed overall 2010 military budget is \$763.7 million, showing an increase in day-to-day expenditures of 4%.

Although President Obama has pledged to create green jobs and to invest in renewable energy, the fact is that environmental concerns receive a pittance compared to the military. The National Priorities Project estimates that the real cost of the military machine in 2008—including items like drug wars and aid to foreign military units that show up else where in the budget—was \$1.169 trillion. NPP calculates that total expenditure for "Environment, Energy and Science" came to about 2% (\$54.6 billion) of that spent on the military, and this is a mixed bag of "spending on the government-defined function areas of natural resources and the environment (\$29.9 billion), energy (\$860 million), and general science, space and technology (\$25.6 billion)." [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)

A new movement is underway to rein in military spending and to redirect the budget to more vital areas. "Beyond War: A New Economy is Possible" has been launched by United for Peace and Justice <[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)> and is being implemented locally through the Peace and Justice Center, which has helped create a Chico Beyond War Coalition. The Coalition conducted a community forum on demilitarizing the budget as part of the 6th Iraq anniversary observance. It will be participating in a national petition drive to demand budget changes, and it will hold an April 15 tax day demonstration to remind citizens that over 50% of the money they send to Washington winds up in military operations.

The Beyond War Coalition is a nonpartisan group that welcomes individual and group members of widely varying opinions—the common denominator is that the national budget needs to be spent for social, environmental, and economic justice, not military excess and destruction.

You can learn more about the Beyond War Coalition by visiting the Chico Peace and Justice Center website [www.chico-peace.org](http://www.chico-peace.org). Environmentalists welcome.

Stephen Tchudi co-hosts the weekly environmental program, "Ecotopia," Tuesdays, 6-7 pm, on KZFR radio, and works with the Chico Peace and Justice Center and the Beyond War Coalition.





## Theresa M. Marcis

Theresa M. Marcis was born in Orange County, California on February 25, 1963. She grew up in both Orange County and New Hampshire where she lived from the age of 8 until she was 15. She moved to Chico, CA in 1981 to attend college, and graduated with an undergraduate degree in English, and later a Masters Degree in Creative Writing.

She was a member of the Chico Peace and Justice Board of Directors, the Butte Environmental Council Board of Directors and taught English and Creative Writing at Butte and Shasta Community Colleges. She was a frequent leader of Sierra Club hiking and backpacking trips. She lived in Japan for almost four years teaching English. She spoke Japanese and still has friends in that country. She recently founded a Chico women's hiking group.

She enjoyed foreign travel, bicycling, yoga, and backpacking in the California Coast Range and in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Her passions were all things that would fairly and justly benefit this earth and her people. She shared a beautiful home with her mother and was a proud Chapmantown home owner.

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer six years ago, and maintained a hope-filled, spiritually focused response to the disease the second time around. She helped lead women's writing groups for breast cancer support.

She is survived by her mother, Laura Brent Marcis; her aunts, Josephine Brent, Susy Drissel, and Marie Guerrero; her uncles, Agustin Brent, Bill Brent and Wilburt Brent; her brother, Christopher Marcis; and many cousins. She was preceded into death by her father, Edward Marcis. She is also survived by her life-time best friend, Beth Griffin of New Hampshire, and many other friends.

A group of approximately 40 people helped to care for Theresa since early December, and may the dedication of Ann and Ken Logan and Hugh Kern stand to represent the love and hope of the group of her caregivers.

Theresa's body succumbed to cancer on March 21, 2009. Donations in her honor can be made to the Chico Peace and Justice Center.

Visitation will be held in the Chapel of the Brusie Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2009, followed by a Rosary at 7 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 12 Noon at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Chico.

<http://www.legacy.com/ChicoER/Obituaries.asp?Page=SearchResults>

## PARADISE GATEWAY REVISITED

For eight years the "gateway", just west of the town boundaries of Paradise has been the site of turmoil between Paradise Town officials, a developer, and a significant segment of residents headed by the Save Our Gateway committee.

In 2000, Fred Katz, the managing partner of FHK Development, appeared at the edge of town and after stripping clean 59 plus acres on the Skyway, announced plans to build a 386,000 square foot shopping center, more than likely anchored by a Wal-Mart. Opposition quickly arose, and organized. For the next several years, Save Our Gateway fought the development, ultimately with a measure of success. In 2007, after a series of court battles, it was determined that the Environmental Impact report was flawed, requiring a new one. This would have led to another year of public hearings, reviews and a council vote. It was apparently one year too long for the developer, and he backed out, but not before announcing that his company and Wal-Mart agreed to the sale of the 59 acres. The one condition was that its own application would have to be approved by the town of Paradise. That never happened. In October of 2007 Wal-Mart submitted the application. It was turned down. Normally in this instance, the applicant makes the necessary changes and resubmits. Wal-Mart did not do this and for the next year remained silent; until this year. In early February, the Paradise Post reported that, notwithstanding an incomplete application, the company had purchased the land from FHK.

One can only speculate on Wal-Mart's ultimate intentions. Have they purchased the land as a fall back if they do not succeed with the Chico expansion? Will they reapply later? It is likely they will regardless of the outcome in Chico. Then the process begins again and will take years to complete. This is the only thing we know without question: next time we will be opposing Wal-Mart itself, not some fuzzy fantasy, promoted by a development company, minus any specifics, like "who is the anchor?"

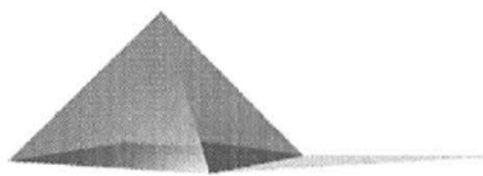
## Regional Water Board Releases 2008 Draft 303(d) List

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act or the Clean Water Act (CWA) aims to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Section 303(d) of the CWA requires each state to develop, update, and submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a list of waterbody segments that are "impaired or threatened" (not meeting, or not expected to meet, water quality standards). Impaired waterbody segments on the 303(d) list must be addressed through the development of TMDLs. CWA Section 305(b) requires each state to report biennially to the USEPA on the water quality condition of its waters.

The public draft TMDL and 303(d) List is available for review. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has released their recommendations for changes to the State's list of impaired waterbodies and provides a draft report on the water quality condition of waters within the Central Valley Region. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWB) developed over 2,000 fact sheets, each assessing a unique waterbody-pollutant combination, with over 3,800 lines of evidence, to identify 441 proposed new 303(d) listings. The RWB indicates the large number of new listings is likely due to the large volume of new water quality data available since the 2006 Report.

Butte Environmental Council has created a simplified list of waterbodies in Butte County (or impaired tributaries outside of our county) that have made it to the draft list. BEC urges you to review this list and consider the pros and cons of the inclusion of your watershed. See [www.becnet.org/water](http://www.becnet.org/water). In order to be included in the written response to comments, comments must be submitted by 5 PM on 16 March 2009. For further information and in-depth data sheets, go to [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/tmdl/impaired\\_waters\\_list/303d\\_list.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/tmdl/impaired_waters_list/303d_list.shtml).

319(h) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Implementation Grant Program, (one potential benefit of 303(d) inclusion). The purpose of the program is to provide funds to restore and protect the beneficial uses of water throughout the State through the control of NPS pollution consistent with completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or TMDLs under substantial development.



## Woodwrighte Construction, Inc

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CA LIC. # 755794

Bill Yoskowitz  
Owner

E-mail: [billyoskowitz@gmail.com](mailto:billyoskowitz@gmail.com)





Koppers image. Signs warn residents of toxic substances. It may be too late for many.

# Koppers' Superfund Site

by Chloe Alexander  
edited and additional information by Julia Murphy

## History

In 1963, Koppers, Inc., a wood treatment plant in Oroville, California was impacted by a fire that contaminated a large area of South Oroville. In 1987, there was a second Koppers fire resulting in additional contamination. Due to the many chemicals used in the factory, the surrounding areas were contaminated with PCP (Pentachlorophenol), arsenic, dioxins, furans, other heavy metals, and PAH's (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons.)

In 1973, PCP was found in nearby residential areas and was contaminating wells that supplied drinking water to residents. Groundwater, surface water, and soils on- and off-site were contaminated with pentachlorophenol and other hazardous substances used in Koppers' wood-treatment plant. In 2004 and 2005, the Oroville area had double the number of expected cases of pancreatic cancer.

The Koppers Superfund Site is located at the plant site in South Oroville. Although the toxic plume has diminished over the years, it was still present when tested in 2007. The plant itself lay in the floodplain about 3000 feet east of the Feather River, on the fringe of an area where gold mining dredge operations occurred in the early 1900s.

## Site Contaminants

**Dioxins** and **furans** are some of the most potent toxins on earth. In September 1994, a draft report released for public comment by the US Environmental Protection Agency clearly describes dioxin as a serious public health threat. Dioxin is formed by burning chlorine-based chemical compounds with hydrocarbons; it is a human carcinogen and has been related to increased incidence of breast cancer.

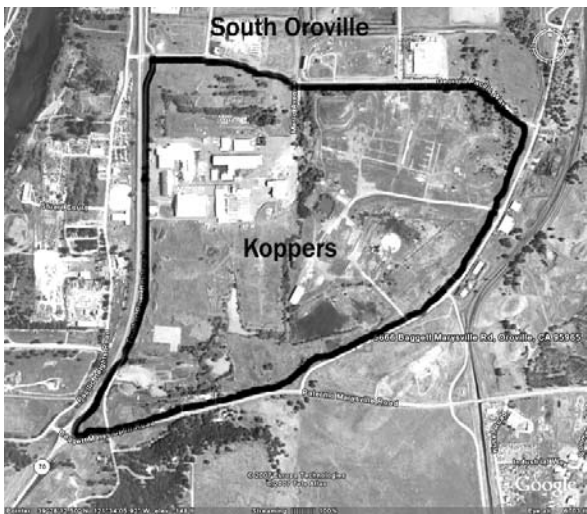
Dioxin exposure has been linked to:

- birth defects,
- inability to maintain pregnancy,
- reduced sperm counts,
- endometriosis,
- diabetes,
- learning disabilities,
- immune system suppression,
- lung problems,
- skin disorders,
- lowered testosterone levels,
- and other health problems.

**Pentachlorophenol (PCP)** was used primarily as a wood preservative (fungicide) at the Koppers wood treatment plant. Though once widely used as an herbicide, it was banned in 1987 for these and other uses, as well as for any over-the-counter sales. Health impacts from PCP include:

**Short-term:** EPA has found pentachlorophenol to potentially cause damage to the central nervous system when people are exposed at levels above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for relatively short periods of time.

**Long-term:** Pentachlorophenol has the potential to cause reproductive effects, damage to liver and kidneys, and cancer from lifetime exposure at levels above the MCL.



© Google Earth

**Arsenic** is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless, tasteless, and enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth, or from agricultural and industrial practices. Long term effects of arsenic poisoning can include:

- thickening and discoloration of the skin,
- stomach pain,
- nausea,
- vomiting;
- diarrhea;
- numbness in hands and feet;
- partial paralysis;
- and blindness.

Arsenic has also been linked to cancer of the bladder, lungs, skin, kidney, nasal passages, liver, and prostate.

Various agencies searched for information to try to determine if the area is a cancer cluster. Hospital records were investigated as well as other public records. Information was obtained from government websites and phone contacts, the Butte Environmental Council, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.ejnet.org/dioxin/>.

## Current Information

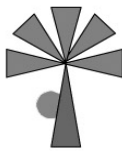
As of March 13, 2009, the CA Department of Public Health has finished their investigation into the 'cancer cluster', and concluded that the spike in pancreatic cancer of '04-'05 is statistically insignificant until the data from successive years is analyzed. 2006 saw ten cases of pancreatic cancer—a significant reduction, but still higher than the six that would be statistically expected.

Dr. Mark Lundberg, the Butte County Health Officer, expects to see further reductions in pancreatic cancer rates. He notes that cancer in general is an issue in Oroville, where annual cancer deaths number around 450. If pancreatic cancer rates remain elevated, Lundberg says, further study is indicated (C. Dahlberg, *State Sees No Common Cause in Oroville's Pancreatic Cancer Surge*, Sacramento Bee, 3/13/09).

If readers have any further information, please contact Mary Muchowski at the Butte Environmental Council of fice, [marym@becnet.org](mailto:marym@becnet.org), 891-6424.

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# The California Water Wars:

## Not A Conflict Between Fish and People

by Dan Bacher

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California Department of Water Resources and corporate agribusiness have continually tried to frame the battle over restoring the California Delta and Central Valley rivers as one of "fish versus people." This false dichotomy was exemplified by an article published in the Sacramento Bee, "Delta cutbacks put Valley farm town on edge," by Susan Ferris on Monday, March 2.

The reporter interviewed people in the agricultural industry in Mendota on the San Joaquin Valley's west side discussing their fears over unemployment, due to cuts in irrigation water deliveries from the Delta that are being blamed on court ordered reductions in water exports to save salmon and Delta smelt. These fears are real, due to poor planning by the state and federal governments, who drained Shasta, Oroville and Folsom reservoirs to record low levels over the past two below-normal water years rather than conserving water like they should have.

"They're worrying about the fish but not about the humans' life," said Jose Ruiz, 42, a foreman at a vegetable firm in Mendota, as quoted by Ferris.

Unfortunately, this characterization of the battle to save the Delta as a one of "people versus fish" couldn't be further from the truth. Because of massive exports of water to the Westlands Water District and Kern County and the Governor's plan to build a peripheral canal to divert even more water, thousands of jobs are threatened as they never have been before! These include thousands of jobs in the recreational and commercial fishing industries, the tourist industries of coastal and Sacramento Valley communities, and on Delta and Sacramento Valley farms.

This is not an issue of "fish versus people versus fish" nor "fish versus jobs." The battle to save the Delta, the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas, really comes down to a conflict between a future based on sustainable fishing, farming and recreation or a future based on corporate agribusiness irrigating toxic, drainage impaired land that should have never been farmed at the expense of Delta and Sacramento Valley farms and healthy fisheries.

Recreational and commercial fishing in California are largely dependent upon the health of the California Delta since the Central Valley Chinook salmon run, the driver of West Coast salmon fisheries, migrates through the estuary both as juveniles going out to the ocean and as adults coming back to the rivers to spawn. The Bay-Delta estuary also supports an array of species, including native species such as California halibut, herring, Dungeness crab, delta smelt, long-fin smelt, Sacramento splittail, white sturgeon, green sturgeon and starry flounder, as well as introduced fish including striped bass, black bass, and white catfish.

### Another Year of Salmon Fishing Closures Loom

The recent biological opinion by the National Marine Fisheries Service stated that Delta pumping and Central Valley dam operations pose "jeopardy" to the continued existence of Central Valley salmon, green

sturgeon and the southern resident population of killer whales.

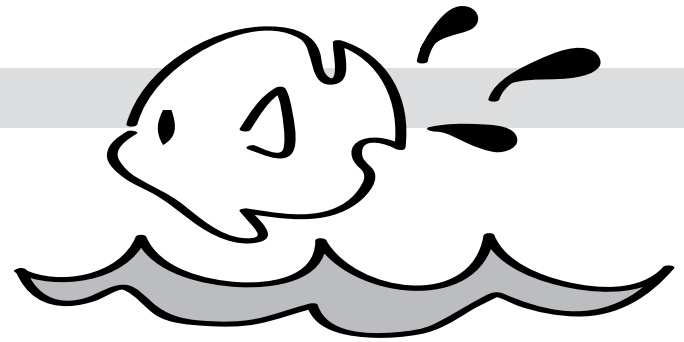
The closure of salmon fishing in ocean waters off California and Oregon in 2009 was economically devastating to coastal communities. The shutdown of recreational salmon fishing on Central Valley rivers, with the exception of a two-month season on a short stretch of the Sacramento, was equally devastating to Sacramento Valley communities.

The states of Washington, Oregon and California estimated damages to the fishing industry to total \$290 million last year because of the ocean and river salmon closures. This prompted the Governors of California, Oregon and Washington to request a federal disaster declaration that then Secretary Carlos Gutierrez issued in May. Congress allocated \$170 million in disaster relief to fishermen and fishing related businesses so that they could make boat payments, insurance payments, mortgage payments and keep food on the table. The forecast this year is for another very poor return of Sacramento fall Chinook but a healthy return of Klamath River fall Chinook, according to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), the federal body that crafts West Coast salmon and groundfish seasons every year. Only 66,264 adult fall Chinooks returned to the Sacramento River basin in 2008, the lowest spawning escapement on record. It is expected that commercial and recreational salmon fishing in the ocean off California and Oregon will be closed again this year.

The 2009 forecast for Sacramento River Fall Chinook is 122,196 absent any fishing. "This is at the bottom end of the spawning escapement goal range of 122,000-180,000 adult natural spawning and hatchery fish," according to a statement from the PFMC. "The 2009 forecast compares to the 2008 forecast of 54,600. While roughly twice the abundance of last year's unprecedented low, this would be the third lowest return since 1992-3." "This is grim news for the State of California," emphasized Council Chairman Don Hansen. "We won't be able to talk about this without using the word 'disaster.' There has been a tremendous appeal from people in Fort Bragg, California for at least some sort of Chinook season to target the healthy Klamath runs in 2009, and people on the central Oregon coast have been asking for a fishery on just hatchery-origin coho. But that was before this forecast was released."

He said the Council process will consider the pros and cons of this issue "thoroughly" at their meetings in March and April. Klamath River fall Chinook are forecast to be at a level of 81,000 fish prior to any fishing, compared to a natural spawner floor of 35,000 and a goal of 41,700 to produce the maximum sustainable number of fish.

**California - Number One In Commercial Fishing and**



### Number Three in Recreational Fishing

The ridiculousness of portraying the California Water Wars as a conflict between "fish and jobs" becomes even more apparent when one considers the data released in a new economic report released by the National Marine Fisheries Service that lists California as the number one state for commercial fishing jobs and income and number three state for recreational fishing. The report says U.S. commercial and recreational fishing generated more than \$185 billion in sales and supported more than two million jobs in 2006. The commercial fishing industry generated \$103 billion in sales, \$44 billion in income and supported 1.5 million jobs in 2006, the most recent year included in the report, "Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006," which covers 1997 to 2006. Recreational fishing generated \$82 billion in sales, \$24 billion in income, and supported 534,000 jobs in 2006. The highest amount of sales generated by the commercial fishing industry were in California (\$9.8 billion), Florida (\$5.2 billion), Massachusetts (\$4.4 billion), Washington (\$3.8 billion), and Alaska (\$3 billion). The most jobs were generated in California (179,000), Florida (103,000), Massachusetts (83,000), Washington (75,000) and Texas (47,000).

Recreational fishing generated its highest economic effect in total sales and jobs generated in Florida (\$7.6 billion sales, 131,000 jobs); Texas (\$2.2 billion sales, 34,000 jobs); California (\$1.9 billion sales, 23,000 jobs); North Carolina (\$1.2 billion sales, 24,000 jobs); and Louisiana (\$1.2 billion sales, 27,000 jobs). Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006 is available online at: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/index.html>. Is the cost of destroying the thousands of jobs provided to the economy by California and Oregon fisheries, the tourist industry, and Delta and Sacramento Valley farms worth providing subsidized water to corporate agribusiness to irrigate toxic, drainage impaired land on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley? South Delta farmer Alex Hildebrand put the current Delta fish and water quality declines and the effort to build a peripheral canal into the historical perspective of the rise and collapse of civilizations in his recent speech at the recent Restore the Delta symposium in Lodi.

"Societies rise, flourish and eventually crash because they misuse their water," said Hildebrand. "As those ancient civilizations fell, they trashed their environment."

**For more information about what you can do to save Central valley salmon, southern resident killer whales and the Delta, go to <http://www.calsport.org>, <http://www.water4fish.org> and <http://www.restorethedelta.org>.**

# Code Blue

BEC Water Series

Thursday, April 9 – 5:30-7:30pm  
*The USGS and Sacramento Valley Water Issues*

Presented by:  
**Steve Phillips, USGS Hydrologist**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will present a new hydrologic model of the Central Valley. USGS has long collected data related to the quality and availability of groundwater and surface water in the Sacramento Valley as well as many other types of information, including land use, climate, sub-surface geology, well construction, soil types, irrigation methods, native plant or crop characteristics, water sources, and regulatory requirements. Hydrologic modeling is an effective way to incorporate all of this information into a tool for use in gaining a basic understanding of how the aquifers and streams have interacted under historic conditions, and how they are likely to interact under various future scenarios.

Monday, May 11 – 5:30-7:30pm  
*Climate Change Adaptation*

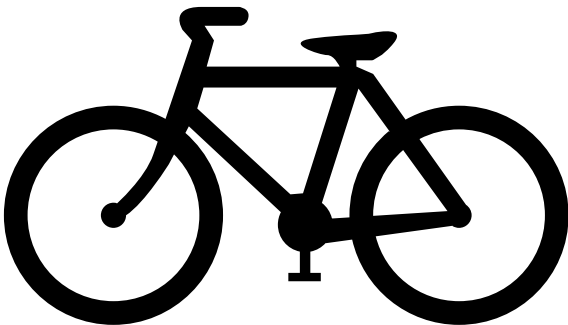
Presented by:  
**Robert Collier – Sierra Nevada Alliance**

Currently, there are hundreds of resource planning processes at work that will affect the future of the Sierra but almost none are taking climate change into account. Planning how to adapt to climate change now will be easier and cheaper than waiting for a crisis and will allow us to come up with win-win solutions that protect our natural resources and our local economies. Even under the best emission reduction scenarios, very significant changes in climate are predicted, such as the reduction of the Sierra snowpack by 25% to as much as 40% by mid-century. The presentation, focuses on adaptation rather than mitigation, and outlines important information regarding climate change impacts on the global, national and Sierra level and seven guiding principles that resource planners can incorporate into their resource management to address and adapt to climate change.

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# Muddy WATERS

by Ed Alleyne-Johnson

In January, Butte Environmental Council (BEC) and Dry Creek Coalition (DCC) won a resounding victory in a Sacramento Superior Courtroom. To generate a smoke screen surrounding activities at the New Era Mine, North Continent Land and Timber (NCLT) filed a Preliminary Injunction against BEC, DCC, and many others. NCLT's SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit was an intimidation to silence our constitutionally guaranteed petitioning of government agencies. Judge Lonke ruled that North Continent's allegations of Trespass and Trade Secret dissemination were simply "smoke."

Intimidation? You Bet...Throughout 2008 Robert Speer, a Chico News & Review reporter, followed the unsettled fallout surrounding the New Era Mine. NCLT was seeking county approval to re-operate the mine under a 1982 permit. Robert's articles uncovered evidence that Butte County officials found permit noncompliance, Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) violations, and misconduct that could lead the county to pursue the mine as a public nuisance. However, NCLT's attorney Blair Will pointed out that the county was also guilty of "deficient procedures" that were "actionable."

Was this enough to charge Supervisor support to swing toward favoring operation of the mine under the 1982 permit? Is it possible the three BOS votes NCLT won, were really in support of conservatism and the tax benefits the mine might bring to our county? They knew the mine couldn't hang with the more stringent regulations of the 21st century, but believed they could hold the mine operators to higher standards. When in fact, the legality of additional conditions under the old permit was in question. Possibly, the three BOS votes were cast to win the county indemnification, given the likelihood of future problems.

"If someone doesn't file a lawsuit over this, I'll give up my faith that people care about this county." – Jane Dolan, June 2008

Now that the dust has settled... Our Supervisors need to recognize the SLAPP suit was just another illustration of NCLT's character. They cannot be held to higher standards. They will do whatever they think they may get away with in the furtherance of the project they have undertaken on Dry Creek. To allow them to continue to operate under the 1982 permit will end up costing county government in the long run. BEC and DCC have already brought a CEQA Writ of Mandate against the county for their flawed approval of this project. One of the results when we win this Writ is the award of Attorney's fees to us from the county. The State Mining and Geology Board is considering Butte County's enforcement of SMARA, and may move forward on taking "Lead Agency" status from the county in relation to mines in Butte County. This has been brought about in a large part because of the decision in this project and its history of non-compliance.

The record of this project has now been "certified," the first in a long and costly CEQA Writ of Mandate process. County council should look at the record and advise the Board that their position is tenuous at best and a compromise settlement to "get out while the gettin' is good" may be in the best interest of the county. Council might also advise that the chance of losing the CEQA case and the chance of losing local control as the Lead Agency for SMARA oversight, far outweigh any settlement costs that may be incurred if the Board does choose to reconsider this permitting process.

And the smoke has cleared... DCC and BEC stepped to the plate to restore faith, and have just come through a stressful, illegal \$1 million lawsuit to show our concern for this county. It is now time for the Board of Supervisors to step up to their responsibility and reconsider their decision. The Butte County Department of Development Services and Butte County Planning Commissioners did their part with respect to the New Era Mine when they stood to revoke the 1982 permit. They have since revised the county mining ordinance. Now would be a good time for our new Supervisor to show his reasoning skills and un-biased decision-making bent to reconsider this decision.



# Desperately seeking water

## Desert Thirst Never Ends

*"Fish, creeks and farms in jeopardy" story from page 1*

The two agencies that create water for agriculture and cities are the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). They operate Oroville and Shasta dams. Unfortunately, they have made commitments for water they don't have. There are rights, permits, and licenses that seek more than 10 times the amount of water that could be shared—in other words, too many expectations and commitments for hydrologic reality.

Like drunken sailors on a binge, speculators acquired land and then sought promises from the agencies that they can't possibly keep. Even after abusing their own water supply, some speculators planted permanent crops even when their contracts clearly articulate that there will be years that water transfers may drop to zero. In a panic, the desert speculators are crying foul this year and looking to the public trough and healthy watersheds to bail them out (sounds like Wall Street).

The agencies have been salivating over the upper Sacramento Valley groundwater basins for decades: the last large, relatively intact watershed. Their multiple plans will cause the complete collapse of the hydrologic system in the heart of the Sacramento Valley, and there is no local protection to stop it.

This method was used previously in California's Owens Valley, San Fernando Valley, and more recently with the Cosumnes River basin. The first local experiment to place the big straw in the aquifer was during the 1994 drought and resulted in serious harm to farmers and residents in and south of Durham (Scalm- anini 1995, Thomas 2001, Msangi 2006).

Now, in 2009, the state and federal governments are back to their drought planning, seeking water for the desert speculators' addictive behavior. This time they want to affirm the right to take enough Sacramento Valley surface water for more than 1 million homes or thousands of acres of agriculture in the arid San Joaquin Valley (600,000 acre-feet) and allow more than half of that to come from groundwater to continue rice production here.

If these water transfers are permitted, our orchards, creeks, salmon, and wells will be marooned. To paraphrase the internationally acclaimed Maude Barlow, when you move water from a healthy watershed to a desert, you only create two deserts.

Fifteen years of experience and analysis demonstrate that county government will not protect the public trust, despite their assertions to the contrary (see sidebar). If you want to protect local surface and groundwater for our fish, farms, and faucets, I encourage you to join or volunteer with Butte Environmental Council ([www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)) and the Butte-Sutter Area Groundwater Users Association (<http://buttegroundwater.org>).



Butte County claims publicly to have a strong water record, yet has denied the harm that was caused in 1994 until very recently. Since 1994, farmers and activists tried to create some protection for ground- water users, and every step of the way, Butte County government opposed them or diverted the efforts and continued to solidify its relationship with wa- ter sellers and DWR, the state agency that seeks our groundwater. For example:

A grassroots ballot initiative measure F was under- mined by a competing measure placed on the 1996 ballot by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

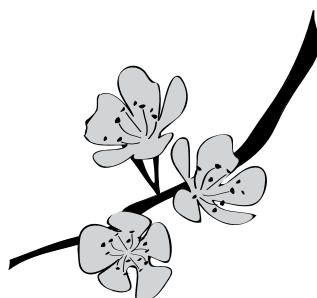
- The Board of Supervisors (BOS) filled the first water commission (1997) with water districts (sellers) and minions with only one independent representative.
- A General Plan Water Element was created be- tween 1995-1996, fought over by the advocates of both sides, agreed upon, and then shelved by the BOS.
- On Feb 27, 2001 the board approved on the con- sent agenda a resolution hat spells out responsi- bilities for meeting Delta water quality. According to the staff report timeline, this laid the foundation for Butte County's responsibilities to meet Delta water quality standards and opened the door to water transfers facilitated by double dipping: selling surface water while pumping previously unneeded groundwater.
- A representative group created County resolutions to further groundwater protection, but the effort was abandoned when the implementation of protection was on the table (2000-2002).
- The BOS approved support for the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2007). This support allows them to seek funding from DWR. Water transfers are the domi- nant strategy within the Plan (53% of the activities fall under these sections) and many more activities will prop up a destructive transfer policy.

*In the park today*

*pear blossoms bloom in the rain.*

*Worms seek higher ground.*

Laslo 2/05



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# The Battle to Save the ESA

*Finally, We Can Breathe a Sigh of Relief*

Many of us have been fully aware that under the last administration in Washington, natural resources and the fish and wildlife that use them have not been the priority. In fact, many would say efforts were made to undermine our natural environment, and to reduce protections for the natural residents in those places. Hence, we saw reductions in critical habitat protections for vernal pools, Red Legged Frogs, Tiger Salamanders, and many other species here in California. We also saw a general disregard for the Endangered Species Act, as witnessed by the passage in the House of Representatives of legislation by Congressman Richard Pombo of Tracy to weaken the law. The Endangered Species Coalition (ESC), along with our partners like Butte Environmental Council (BEC) worked hard for all the past 4 years to defeat these attacks. We were successful in stalling the Pombo legislation in committee in the Senate, and thanks to a moderate Republican, Lincoln Chaffe, the bill died at the end of the 109th Congress (January 2007). One person truly does make a difference!

In the 110th Congress, attacks moved from legislative efforts to change the law, to executive office administrative attacks. The new Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, introduced the concept of a national tour of the Interior Department to talk with America about changes, and they proposed the changes – again weakening the way the law would be enforced. Again, the ESC and our member organizations around the country mobilized the public to speak out against these new policies and rules, and attended every meeting around the country (10) where testimony and comments were given. In the end, over 85% of the comments were to hold the ESA strong, don't weaken it, and if anything, strengthen it to protect wildlife and habitats. In California, we had two meetings, Redding and Riverside, and over 200 people attended to speak on behalf of protections. In the end, the administration had to pull their changes because of lack of public support.

Finally, this last year, the administration decided to do a last ditch effort with "midnight regulations",

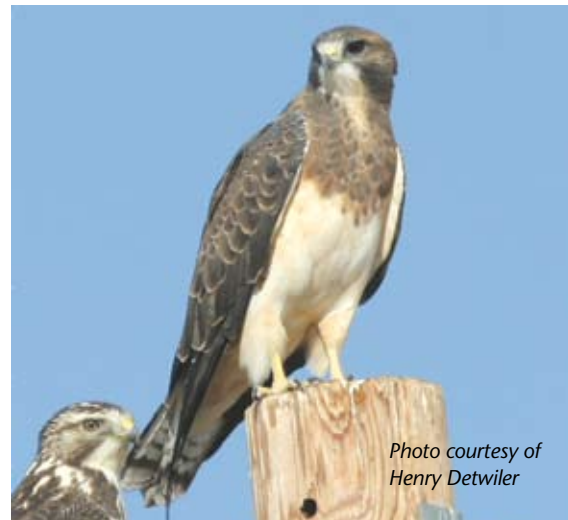


administrative policies done behind the back of Congress, but with necessary public comments. In spite of more than 200,000 comments, 95% of which were against the regulation changes, they were finalized anyway. Again, we have been fighting these regulations for the past 5 months, and finally, this month, with both a Presidential memorandum, and a "rider" in the omnibus budget bill, we have succeeded in beating back this final try. So, after 8 years of efforts to get our strongest environmental law out of the way of developers and resource extraction companies, the law has prevailed as Congress intended.

In a speech at the Dept. of Interior in Washington last week, President Obama spoke about the need to protect America's parks, refuges, open lands and wildlife, and that it would be a priority of his administration. He also said it was time to stop trying to weaken the endangered species act, and to actually strengthen it. We are truly in a new era, and it is wonderful to have the federal government working with us for a change.

Dr. Mark Rockwell, D.C.  
California State Representative  
Endangered Species Coalition  
[www.stopextinction.org](http://www.stopextinction.org)  
[summerhillfarmvp@aol.com](mailto:summerhillfarmvp@aol.com)

*The Endangered Species Coalition is a national organization of more than 400 organizations, business, environmental, religious, scientific, humane, education and community groups. Through education, scientific information and citizen participation, we work to protect our nation's wildlife and wild places.*



*Photo courtesy of  
Henry Detwiler*





Butte Environmental Council's

# Endangered Species Faire

30th  
Annual

*Saturday*

May 2nd  
2009

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*Featuring the  
One Heart  
Ceremony!*

(see page 12)



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# A survey of remaining Coast Horned Lizard populations within the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley of California

## Background information:

The Coast Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii* [=coronatum]) is a State listed Species of Special Concern and is on the decline throughout California. Reasons for decline are attributed to conversion of habitat to housing, golf courses, agriculture, extensive oil drilling, as well as the introduction of the invasive Argentine Ant, which the horned lizard won't eat and eliminates native ant species. Introduced European grasses and other annuals such as star-thistle also appear to have choked this species out from many undeveloped grassland areas where native grasses were much shorter and sparse.

## Where in the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley:

The Coast Horned Lizard occurs on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada from the Central Valley up to around 2,500 ft in the northern Sierra and to around 6,200 ft in the southern Sierra. Historically this species occurred

throughout much of the Sacramento Valley south throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Both Sierra Nevada and Central Valley populations are now few and isolated. Like most horned lizards, this species has specific habitat and dietary requirements. Found in grassland, chaparral, and open pine, oak, and pinyon-juniper woodlands, the Coast Horned Lizard is dependent on open ground situations where areas of loose soil allow for burial during periods of inactivity (i.e. daytime heat or hibernation). Such soil types include alkali, basalt, gabbro, and decomposed granite. Harvester ants, a main prey item, are also typically present. This is the only horned lizard within the region of focus and should be readily identifiable by its flattened, spiny body; stocky appearance; and horns adorning the head. Coloration varies with soil type.

## Sightings:

The relatively few historical vouchers and records for the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley are typically old, lack useful locality data, and

very often represent extirpated populations. More information is needed to better understand Coast Horned Lizard abundance in the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley. Both recent sightings and older sightings from remaining natural areas are encouraged.

Please include as much data as possible. The information gathered during this survey is not for public use. Coast Horned Lizards are protected by State law and should be left at the site of discovery.

**\*Please report your sightings and locality information to Jackson Shedd:**  
**[jackson\\_shedd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jackson_shedd@sbcglobal.net).**

Useful information includes the following:

- Name of observer(s)
- Date and time
- Locality (include county, elevation, GPS coordinates if available)
- Land use at time of observation
- Photo voucher



## The One Heart Ceremony,

created by Rosamond Crowder, is a modern day cross-cultural earth renewal ceremony. It is a chance to recognize, celebrate and honor the natural forces that create and sustain our lives. All people have their own understanding of the creative force, yet it is with these same elements of the physical world: air, earth, water, fire, that we dance every day. Taking the time to embody the forces as we see them is a way of recognizing and showing our gratitude to the natural world on which we all depend. Humans have always strengthened their connection with the natural world / creative force with ceremony. Everyone benefits from the performance whether they are present to witness it or not. Everyone who puts energy into making it happen is directly giving to this spiritual connection. Whether you participate by giving time or money, it is important that we create a culture that recognizes, celebrates and honors the larger forces of which we all are a part.



# Wellness Update:

Work continues on the grant from The California Wellness Foundation to increase awareness of toxic issues in our daily lives, our homes and our environment.

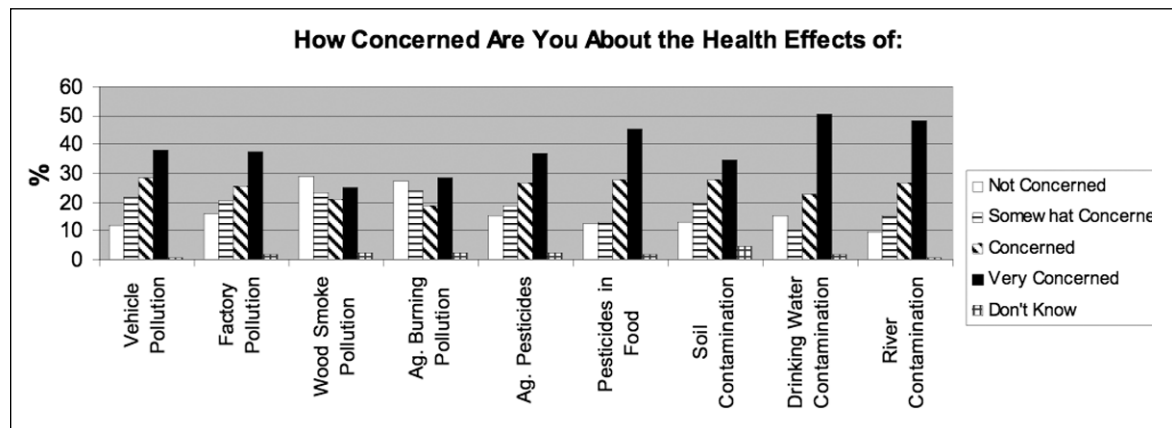
This spring semester we are lucky enough to have three Chico State interns and some hard-working volunteers. Our interns, Marina Hammon Adams, Whitney Moyer and Emily Alexander have been helping us with our Toxic Awareness campaign as well as with organizing the Endangered Species Faire. We also appreciate our volunteers such as Julia Murphy who has also been helping us with the wellness grant. Jason Coldiron has been helping out around the office and is currently catching up on all the water issues, which has become an interest of his. Derek Vickers has created a PowerPoint presentation on Organic Yard & Garden Care and has been extremely helpful with translating many of our pamphlets and brochures into Spanish.

We are trying to keep up with the Alternatives to Toxics section of the BEC webpage, so check back often as we add more material. The Alternatives to Toxics recipe cards are up in pdf format, and will soon be added in Spanish.

Maggi, Mary and Julia held the first Alternative Cleaning Solutions Workshop in Gridley on March 11. People were very interested in the topic, and had a great time making their own cleaning products with ingredients provided by the Butte Environmental Council.

## Toxic Awareness Survey – Summer 2008

Butte Environmental Council conducted a telephone survey of 485 Butte County residents to find out their level of toxic awareness and concern. As evidenced by the chart below, Butte County residents have high levels of concern about the health effects of Pesticides in their Food, with the highest concerns over Drinking Water Contamination and River Contamination. This follows a country-wide Harris Poll survey (#77, October 13, 2005), where water pollution was rated as the highest priority out of seven environmental problems.



When asked whether compact fluorescent light bulbs contained mercury or not, just over 65% of the respondents answered "YES", however, less than 25% of the people knew that they needed to be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (not in the garbage and not in your personal recycling bin). BEC has been working with several groups and businesses to develop a wider range of places for people to recycle their CFLs, which now the Neal Road Landfill, Applied Computer Technologies (Gridley), all Home Depots, OSH (Chico), Park Village True Value (Chico), Better Deal Exchange Ace Hardware (Oroville), Butte County Firestation #64 (Kellly Ridge, Oroville), and Thomas Ace Hardware (Paradise). For more information visit the BEC website [www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org) and click on the Recycle CFLs logo on the right side.

Respondents were also asked a series of questions regarding reading ingredient and instruction labels on household cleaning products and pesticides and non-toxic alternative products. The results show that most respondents do not read either the ingredient labels or instruction labels on cleaning products and pesticide products. Respondents who said they do look for alternative/safer products, said the top reasons were family health and the environment. Those who did not seek out non-toxic alternative products, said they either lack information about alternatives or believe that the effectiveness of such products is low.

For the complete survey analysis and report written by Dr. Diane Schmidt, please visit our webpage and click on Alternatives to Toxics on the Navigation Bar. This section also includes information on toxic sites in Butte County, free alternative cleaning/pesticide recipes, and organic yard and garden care.

*65% of respondents knew that CFLs contain mercury, yet only 25% knew how to properly dispose of them.*

## NEW ERA MINE

# Update

After a flurry of activity that the Chico News and Review called "lawsuits flying like paper airplanes" late last year and early 2009, BEC and Dry Creek Coalition came out the winner in a side light to the original CEQA Motion we filed in September. The operator of the New Era Mine, North Continent Land and Timber, made an attempt to silence us in our attempts to get numerous public agencies to address the issue of the mine operating with an outdated and inconsistent permit and reclamation plan. North Continent filed an Injunction and followed that up with a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction alleging that we had disseminated "Trade Secrets" and Trespassed to obtain these "secrets". We countered with a "Special Motion to Strike" on the grounds that their lawsuits were "SLAPP" (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suits. Two Sacramento judges agreed with us and found that they were SLAPP suits.

In his ruling on the TRO the judge said: "issuance of the (very broad) TRO may curtail Defendants' legitimate petitioning activity and prejudice their ability to prosecute the related CEQA petition."

In the hearing for the SLAPP Motion Judge Lonke called North Continent's allegations so much "smoke" to hide their intent to intimidate us in our constitutionally guaranteed right to petition our public agencies.

In February the State Mining and Geology Board held a hearing about Butte County's ongoing implementation of their SMARA (State Mining and Reclamation Act) lead agency duties. This hearing was the first step in the possible take over of Butte County's "Lead Agency" status in regard to SMARA. The Board charged their Executive Officer to "make a thorough review" of all the mining permits in Butte County and report back for further consideration of the issuance of a "45-Day Notice" of take over of Lead Agency Duties from Butte County.

In January the Butte County Air Quality Management District found that North Continent was operating 2 pieces of equipment on site that were out of compliance with the current regulations. North Continent shut down the mine and has yet to restart.

There recently was a case management conference on the CEQA Motion and it is moving forward towards possibly being heard in approximately 3 months.

Keep up with all the current events on this issue by visiting [www.saveourcreek.com](http://www.saveourcreek.com)

*Thank You, Rich Meyers*

## Volunteering for a new era

My name is Jason. I recently started volunteering my time at the Butte Environmental Council. I had an idea in my mind. I wanted to do something important, but I didn't know how or what to do.

In January the country welcomed a new President. This new president had many important things to talk about as he explained the problems we face. But he didn't just talk about them. He had some ideas about how we can change things.

He talked about the importance of personal service, of giving of ourselves to help everyone, to change the way our story goes. This struck me so deeply that it finally drove me to action.

Soon after this I found my local environmental office. I simply walked in and said, "I want to help." A month later and I'm going strong. I come into the office a few days a week and help out however I can.

The work I do here would seem monotonous or pointless to many. "Busy work" is what some of my friends have called it. But to me, it makes me feel good. It gives me something to look forward to.

I love being around others of a like mind. I believe that what I am doing here is important, that I am helping to change the world in any way I can.

Many people mistakenly believe that change happens with major events, but this is not accurate. The truth is that change occurs one person at a time. It happens when people believe that their actions can be important.

By myself I am just one person. I know I can't do it all myself. I also know that my actions affect those around me. I know that the will of one person can affect the will of others. Most importantly, I know that with enough people we can do anything. We can change the world for the better.

This is how we can cause change. This is how we can change the way our story goes, one person at a time. *Jason Coldiron has been a valuable volunteer for BEC for about two months now.*



Butte Environmental Council  
116 West Second Street Suite # 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424  
(530) 891-6426 (fax)

# Become a BEC Volunteer!

*We need YOUR help!*

We need help – lots of help! With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the Creek Cleanups – our small staff and Board of Directors have their hands full. Any assistance is always very much appreciated.

If you can volunteer your time (no matter how much or how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you have volunteered in the past but are not sure if we still have your name and current phone on file please submit an updated form.

We will keep your name on file and give you a call when our needs coincide with your offer.  
**THANK YOU!**

Please mail or fax this form to the BEC office (see address above)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Weekday mornings | Weekday afternoons |
| Weekday evenings | Weekends           |

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

- Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- Creek Cleanups
- Endangered Species Faire (1st Saturday in May)
  - ☐ Publicity
  - ☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations
  - ☐ Booth Construction & set-up (Friday before the faire)
  - ☐ Tear down & clean-up
- Environmental News articles, BEC's quarterly newspaper
- Fundraising
- Office Work
  - ☐ Mailings
  - ☐ Phones
  - ☐ Research
  - ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)
- Photography (taking photo's of BEC events & activities; nature photography)
- Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies
- Environmental Health/Toxic Awareness
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Donate Your Used Vehicles

To Butte Environmental Council!  
Running or not, and get a tax deduction...

Call toll free (have title with you)

**(877) CARS-4-US**  
**Ext. 1865**

Cars, boats, trucks, RVs,  
motorcycles, snowmobiles, vans, jet-  
skis, motor homes, and even buses.



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

◆ Accepts recyclables listed

\$ Cash paid for recyclables listed

F Fee charged to accept recyclables listed

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

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

- 2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641  
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30, www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm
- 11) Joe Verni Recycling**  
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402  
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1
- 12) Neal Road Landfill**  
879.2350, Toll-free # 866.369.DUMP, http://www.  
buttecounty.net/publicworks/divisions/solidwaste/  
landfill.html
- 13) NorCal Waste Curbside Recycling** 342-4444  
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Recycling Center  
M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste F 1-6  
Free to City of Oroville residents.
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley House-  
hold Hazardous Waste Recycling**  
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Station  
Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of month,  
Gridley residents only 9-4
- 16) Paradise Elementary School**  
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise; Drop boxes open 24 hrs.

- 17) Recycle Paradise**  
951 American Way, Paradise  
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia  
(CRV, newspapers only); Stratton's Mkt.  
5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers  
only) 877-2777, M-Sat 10-4
- 18) TOMRA Pacific**  
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville  
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville  
(916) 381-6861, Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
- 19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal**  
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs, Dur-  
ham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)  
www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products**  
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4
- 21) Earthworm Soil Factory**  
704 Neal Rd., 895-9676 (accepts yard waste)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.recyclebutte.net

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

**Yahi Group Cross Country Ski List** - Join our more than 75 cross-country ski enthusiasts as we explore the backcountry of Colby Meadows and Lassen Park and enjoy the groomed trails of Mt. Shasta, Royal Gorge and Tahoe-Donner. If you'd like to be added to (or updated on) our list, please contact Yahi Group Leaders: Jeanne, 899-9980 or Larry, 342-7998. All ability levels welcome. For information about upcoming cross-country ski trips, please check the new chicoxcski website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chicoxcski/>

**2nd Saturday, May through October - Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance Watershed Monitoring Program.** 9AM-12PM. (Volunteers can receive training for this program on April 11th --- see calendar item). May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, August 8th, September 12th, October 10th. Meet @ Five Mile Picnic Area, Centennial Way parking lot. For more information contact Timmarie Hamill, Watershed Monitoring Program Coordinator, at 342-6620.

**Sunday, April 5 - CCNC Wildflower Hike** 9 AM - 10:30 AM. Walkers meet at parking Lot E, Horseshoe Lake, Upper Bidwell Park. Join naturalist Jon Aull for a short, family friendly hike that will cover some of the basics of wildflower ecology and the pollinators on which they depend. Bring your magnifying glass. Meets at Parking Lot E on the east side of Horseshoe Lake. Space is limited, so call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to register.

**Tuesday, April 7 - Chico State Arboretum Walk** 10:00 AM. California State University, Chico and Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park are jointly offering four tours of their remarkable collection of native and exotic trees and shrubs this spring. Each tour will cover a different group of 20-30 plants on the mansion and university grounds and will be led by horticulturists and botanists from CSU, Chico. Included will be the magnificent southern magnolia located in front of the mansion, planted by General Bidwell in 1863. South of the mansion, along Sowilleno Avenue, the Bidwells planted American chestnuts, some of which remain and still produce delicious nuts. Other noteworthy specimens are monkey puzzle tree (from Chile), bunya bunya (from Australia), dawn redwood (from China), and water oak (southern U.S.). Leaders of the tours will be Durbin Sayers, Manager of Grounds, and Wes Dempsey, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences. Meet at the Bidwell Mansion. Contact Info: 895-6144

**Wednesday, April 8 - Chico Grange Farming Roundtable:** Economical Farming on Small Parcels Waste options, community supported agriculture, food distribution infrastructure, marketing. 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 "Old" Nord Ave. Contact nanibay@hotmail.com for more information.

**Thursday, April 9 - Code Blue Water Series** 5:30-7:30 PM. Kim and Steve from the USGS's California Water Science Center will give an update on water and related issues like salmon tracking that the USGS monitors and records. The floor will open for questions from the audience, so if you want to know more about critical water issues, this is the place to find out. At the Chico Grange, 2775 "Old Nord" Ave. For more information, call the Butte Environ-

mental Council at 891-6424.

**Saturday, April 11 - Sierra Club Yahi Group, Deer Creek Hike** (grade 2, class B). Experience the full spring beauty of the Deer Creek trail in a 5-6 mile round-trip hike. Deer Creek in spring offers several small waterfalls as we pass through the newly green buds of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and incense cedar. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$ and a camera. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9AM. Leader: Julian, 893-1994.

**Saturday, April 11 - 6th Annual Big Chico Creek Watershed Monitoring Training Workshop** .This event will provide refresher training and a new T-shirt for those that have participated in the past, and for new volunteers instruction will be provided on the proper use of monitoring equipment and sampling protocols. Team leaders will be selected, and a brief overview of the monitoring program and data results, as well as snacks and refreshments will be provided. Meet @ Five Mile Picnic Area, Centennial Way parking lot. For more information contact Timmarie Hamill, Watershed Monitoring Program Coordinator, at 342-6620.

**Sunday, April 12 - Chico Peace & Justice Center's Pancakes for Peace.** 8:00am to 1:00pm. C.A.R.D. Center (545 Vallombrosa) All-you-can-eat organic pancakes with real maple syrup, fresh fruit salad. Also silent auction and Easter egg hunt. For more information visit their website at <http://chico-peace.org>

**Wednesday, April 15 - Chico Grange Farming Roundtable:** Funding Opportunities to Protect Local Food Production Loans, easements, taxes, grants.... for land, education, programs, transitioning to organic. 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 "Old" Nord Ave. Contact nanibay@hotmail.com for more information.

**Wednesday, April 15 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Sierra Club** member, Mary Ann Pella-Donnelly, science teacher at Chico Jr. HS, will give an in-depth slide show and explain what is now known about the largest turtle in the world. Meetings are held in the Conference Room of the Chico Public Library at East 1st Avenue and Sherman. Programs start at 7 p.m. and refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to the public. For further information call 343-9277.

**Saturday, April 16 - Altacal Audabon Kayak Trip through the Oroville Wilderness** Trip Leader: Gaylord Grams For more information check the Altacal web site [www.altacal.org](http://www.altacal.org) or contact Gaylord at [gg2canoe@yahoo.com](mailto:gg2canoe@yahoo.com) or 530 872-0739.

**Thursday, April 16 - Sacramento Valley Water Awareness Workshop** 8:30 AM-4:15 PM Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 West East Ave. Registration begins at 8:00am & 8:30am and is required for a lunch ticket. Sponsored by: Butte Basin Water Users Association & Butte County Water & Resource Conservation Calif. DWR, Norther

**Saturday, April 18 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Feather Falls Hike** (grade 2, class B) Come enjoy the 6th highest waterfall in the U.S. and the beautifully flowered and shaded, 8-9 mile round trip trail to it. Please wear boots or sturdy hiking shoes and bring lunch, water and carpool \$\$\$. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8AM or at the NW corner of the Oroville Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:35AM . Leader: Julian: 893-1994; Asst. Leader: Michelle, 865-9491.

**Saturday, April 18 - Yahi Group Trail Maintenance Committee Meeting** (Conservation) In an ongoing effort to make our decision-making more democratic, this will be a repeat and continuance of the Trail Maintenance Committee meeting of March 22, this time at the Paradise branch of the Butte County Library (5922 Clark Rd, just south of Elliot Rd.), from 6 to 9 PM, to finalize summer service outings and confirm leaders. Other organization coordinators may also be invited. Please email Stephen Sayre, [stephensayre@att.net](mailto:stephensayre@att.net), to confirm attendance, for more information, to share your ideas or help with this effort, and to get on our contact list for future projects.

**Wednesday, April 22 - Chico Creek Nature Center Preschool Program:** Beautiful Butterflies Spring in Bidwell Park means a profusion of butterflies and caterpillars. We'll learn about the amazing life cycle of the butterfly and go for a walk to look for residents like the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly and their caterpillars. We'll meet an animal friend and make our very own butterfly to take home.

**Saturday, April 25-Upper Yahi Trail Hike** 9 AM to 10:30 AM Take a hike with naturalist Jon Aull and learn about the flora, fauna, and geology of the Iron Canyon area of Upper Park. We will meet at Bear Hole at 9AM. From there we will walk through the most spectacular part of Bidwell Park, on the rim of Iron Canyon to Salmon Hole. Water seeps from the meeting of the Tuscan and Lovejoy Basalt formations, creating a wet habitat that hosts interesting plant and animal life. Total hike length is about 2 miles, on mostly level, but rocky, ground. In case of road closure, we will meet at Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E for an alternate hike. Rain cancels. (This hike is designed for adults, although children are welcome.) Space is limited, so call to register. Contact: Chico Creek Nature Center 891-4671

**Saturday, April 25 - PG&E Flume Trail Maintenance** TBA (Conservation) (grade 1, class A). Pending confirmation with PG&E & coordination with the Stewardship Council, we hope to do some trail maintenance, and assess the need for more, along one of these popular hiking routes. Please email or call Stephen Sayre [stephensayre@att.net](mailto:stephensayre@att.net), 876-1391, for location & time, questions or suggestions, or with information and assistance.

**Sunday, April 26 - CCNC Upper Yahi Trail Hike** 9 AM -10:30 AM. Walkers meet at parking Lot E, Horseshoe Lake, Upper Bidwell Park. Take a hike with naturalist Jon Aull and learn about the flora, fauna, and geology of the Iron Canyon area of Upper Park. We will meet at Bear Hole at 9AM. Total hike length is about 2 miles. In case of road closure, we will meet at Horseshoe Lake Parking Lot E for an alternate hike. Rain cancels. (This hike is designed for adults, although children are welcome.) Space is limited, so call the Chico Creek Nature Center at 891-4671 to register.

**Friday-Sunday, May 1-3 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Castle Crags Camping and Hiking** (grade 2, class A) Day one, we'll hike along the crystal clear water of the Sacramento River - an easy 3-mile round trip stroll, enjoy a potluck dinner and campfire. On Saturday, we'll join the Shasta Group for a strenuous (grade 2, class C) 6-mile round trip hike up a steep (2200'), but very scenic trail to Castle Dome. On Sunday, we'll take an easy 3-mile roundtrip hike to beautiful, Hawaiian-like Mossbrae Falls . For more info and to sign up, call leader. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leaders: John, 872-8258 or Bill, 527-8203.

**Saturday, May 2 - Endangered Species Faire** 10:00-5:00. The theme of this year's Endangered Species Faire is



**DIVERSITY: THE SPICE OF LIFE.** Come celebrate biodiversity with a wonderful crew of educators, agencies, businesses, schools, and groups, all trying to have the best booth with the most fun games and the best prizes. Learn why biodiversity is so important in our world while you listen to music and eat delicious food! See native and exotic animals and learn what you can do to protect them and their habitat! This is an event you won't want to miss! For more information, call the Butte Environmental Council at 891-6424.

**Wednesday, May 6 – Chico Grange Farming**

**Roundtable:** Buffering the Urban-Agricultural Interface Zoning, buffers – why and width, preferred activities at the interface. 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 “Old” Nord Ave. Contact nanibay@hotmail.com for more information.

**Saturday, May 9 - Yahi Group Fundraiser** \$17 Donation (Educational). Support our local Sierra Club Group and enjoy a marvelous dinner and moonlight paddle. Feast on grilled chicken Cesar salad with garlic bread followed by a guided sunset paddle on the cool, calm waters of the North Forebay. Reserve your spot early for this popular paddle. You must have your own kayak, PFD, flashlight and warm non-cotton clothing to participate. Limited to the first 12 sign-ups by calling Dave Garcia or email rangerdave@mynw.com. Leader: Dave: 533-2357.

**Sunday, May 10 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Chambers Creek Trail Exploration & Maintenance** (Conservation) (grade 2, class C). Bring long-handled loppers or a pulaski, lunch, & water for the 1920' climb, on good trail, to the bridge & falls, then a 3360' climb through fire-ravaged terrain to the top of the North Fork Feather River canyon, and perhaps also an off-trail exploratory loop over to Oliver Lake and Murphy Lake. Please bring \$ for drivers and meet for carpooling at Chico Park & Ride at 8:00 AM or Spring Valley School (Hwy 70 and Pentz Rd.) at 8:30 for the pretty drive up Hwy 70 to trailhead opposite the Injun Jim campground at 2160' elevation. Leader: Stephen, stephensayre@att.net, or 876-1391; Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

**Monday, May 11 - Code Blue Water Series** 5:30-7:30 PM. Robert Collier is the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Water and Climate Change Program Assistant, and will be talking about the issues facing the Sierra Nevada's watersheds and, by extension, our own water picture. The floor will open for questions from the audience, so if you want to know more about critical water issues, this is the place to find out. At the Chico Grange, 2775 “Old Nord” Ave. For more information, call the Butte Environmental Council at 891-6424.

**Wednesday, May 13 - Chico Grange Farming**

**Roundtable:** Development Patterns that Support Local Food Systems Clustered development, cooperative farming, developments with community garden space. 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 “Old” Nord Ave. Contact nanibay@hotmail.com for more information.

**Saturday, May 16 - CSU Chico Herbarium Botanical Illustration Workshop** 10:00-4:00 room 129, Holt Hall, CSU Chico. Want to draw plants and flowers? Here's your chance! Local illustrator and teacher Judy McCrary will lead this one-day workshop on botanical illustration. Registration is \$40; please register in advance. For registration information please contact the Herbarium at 530-898-5381; for information about workshop content, please contact Judy McCrary at jmmccrary@digitalpath.net

**Saturday, May 16 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Lower Deer Creek** (grade 1, class A) A fairly easy stroll down a section of Deer Creek rarely visited. Hopefully we'll catch a glimpse of Spring Run Chinook Salmon. You will see swimming holes you'll want to return to in the dog days of summer. Meet at Chico Park-N-Ride at 9:00 A.M. and return there by 4:00 P.M. Bring lunch, water, carpool \$, and your cameras or imagination to capture the north state's spring beauty. Leader John 872-8258 or hubhol-lister@yahoo.com

Wednesday, May 20 – Chico Grange Farming Roundtable: Public Spaces for Growing Food Community gardens and orchards, school gardens, liability, leasing, water access. 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Chico Grange Hall at 2775 “Old” Nord Ave. Contact nanibay@hotmail.com for more information.

**Wednesday, May 20 - Chico Creek Nature Center Preschool Program:** Babes in the Woods Why are baby animals so cute? How are animal kids' lives different from ours and how are they the same? We'll explore these questions and go for a hike through the Park to look for new animal families. We'll also meet our favorite furry friend, Blackberry the rabbit, and make our own baby animal craft.

**Thursday-Monday, May 21-25, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Princeton, Oregon.**

Field Trip - Make plans to join us for a long Memorial Day weekend in Oregon at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, one of the premier birding hot spots of the west. Malheur is well-known as a stopover for eastern migrants in spring and fall. There is also a great variety of resident breeding birds in the spring and summer. Mammals such as pronghorn and mule deer are easily seen. We will visit marshy Malheur Lake, one of the finest waterfowl refuges in the United States, as well as other hot-spots within the refuge. We will camp at one of the campgrounds outside of the refuge. If you are considering going, please call or e-mail one of the field trip leaders for more information and to coordinate camping and driving arrangements. Mike Fisher 530-624-4777, fisherm1@pacbell.net or Jennifer Patten 530-345-9356, jpchico@sbcglobal.net

**Saturday, May 23 - Sierra Club Yahi Group Sacramento River Loop Bike Ride** (grade 2, class A)

A flat, leisurely 15 mile round trip past orchards along Sacramento Avenue to the Sacramento River and return to Chico on River Road. After lunch at Indian Fisheries, we'll take the Nature Trail there. Bring lunch and water. Helmet required. Meet at Subway Restaurant, corner of W. Sacramento Ave. and Nord Avenue at 10AM. Leader: Gene, 873-1552; Asst. Leader: Carla, 891-6977.

**Sunday, May 24 - Sierra Club Yahi Group, Green Gate to Five Mile** (grade 2, class A)

A mostly downhill (except the last mile) trip through lovely Upper Bidwell Park. This is a shuttle trip, leaving some cars at 5 mile to ferry drivers back to the green gate. The trip is for intermediate hikers as the distance and last mile are challenging to those who have spent most of their time resting through the winter and early spring. Meet at 5 Mile on the side with the paved parking lot at 9:00 A.M. We should return between 4 and 5:00 P.M. Bring lunch, water for the day, and minimal carpool \$. Leader John 872-8258 or hubhollister@yahoo.com.

**Friday-Sunday, June 5-7 - Outings Leader Training at Claire Tappan**

Interested in becoming a Yahi Group Leader or better developing your outdoor leadership skills? This is the opportunity for you. For only \$45 you get two nights at the Lodge (near Donner Summit), all meals and the best training available from top-notch National Sierra Club leaders on how to lead outings for the Sierra Club. The training will give you certification for leading both day trips and overnight backpacks. Sierra Club membership required. Sign up early as it will fill up by going to the website: [http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2009\\_California.asp](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2009_California.asp)

**Friday-Sunday, June 5-7 - Burney Falls Campout**

(grade 2, class A) Enjoy the beautiful campground at Burney Falls State Park, with its 129' spring-fed spectacular waterfall, several miles of easy hiking trails and large Lake Britton for canoeing/kayaking. To sign up and get more info call leader. Leader: Jeanne, 899-9980; Asst. Leader: Annette, 872-3557.

**Saturday, September 19 - Bidwell Park and Chico Creek Clean Up**

9:00AM-1:00 PM Meet at Hooker Oak Recreation Area or Chico Country Day School Parking Lot. Contact Mary Muchowski marym@becnet.org



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mikiel@ecst.csuchico.edu

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530.898.5033, Fax: 530.898.6782  
www.aschico.com/recycle  
asrecycle@csuchico.edu

**A.S. Environmental Affairs Council**  
BMU 203, CSU Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
530.898.5701 or 530.218.5820  
Fax: 530.898.6014  
www.csuchico.edu/eac  
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

**Barber Neighborhood Association**  
(Southwest Chico neighborhood)  
barberneighbors@yahoo.com

**Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation**  
P.O. Box 841, Durham, CA 95938  
530.345.1700  
www.kirshner.org

**Bidwell Park Endowment Fund**  
PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223  
530.345.7265  
ptombarrett@sbcglobal.net

**Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**  
PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)

**Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance**  
PO Box 461, Chico, CA 95927  
530.892.2196  
www.bigchicocreek.org  
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org

**Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy**  
PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927  
530.893.5399, Fax: 530.893.0694  
www.buttecreekwatershed.org  
creek@buttecreekwatershed.org

**Butte Environmental Council, Inc.**  
116 W. 2nd St. Ste 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.891.6424, Fax: 530.891.6426  
www.becnet.org, staff@becnet.org

**Butte Humane Society**

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.343.7917, Fax: 530.343.3734  
www.buttehumane.org  
shelter@buttehumane.org

**California Conservation Corps**  
2725 Hwy 32, Ste F Chico, CA 95973  
530.894.0495, www.ccc.ca.gov

**California Native Plant Society**  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.447.2677, Fax: 916.447.2727  
cnps@cnps.org, www.cnps.org

**California Native Plant Society  
Mt Lassen Chapter**  
PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927  
530.343.8240  
wyethia@earthlink.net

**California Oak Foundation**  
1212 Broadway, Ste 842  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.763.0282, Fax: 510.208.4435  
www.californiaoaks.org  
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org

**California Park Association**  
1750 Humboldt Rd., Chico, CA 95928  
530.343.4161, Fax: 530.894.6984  
www.calipark.com

**California Sportfishing Protection Alliance**  
1316 Neilson St., Berkeley, CA 94702  
510.526.4049; jbeuttler@aol.com  
www.calsport.org

**California Wilderness Coalition**  
1212 Broadway, Ste. 1700  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.451.1450, Fax: 510.451.1445  
www.calwild.org, info@calwild.org

**Chapman-Mulberry Neighborhood Organization**  
C/O Supervisor Jane Dolan  
District 2, Butte County  
196 Memorial Way, Chico, CA 95926  
530.891.2830, F: 530.879.2479  
Jdolan@buttecounty.net

**Cherokee Preservation Society**  
530.534.0400, Fax: 530.534.0400

**Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association**  
PO Box 4510, Chico, CA 95927  
www.chicoavenues.org  
chicoavenues@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Certified Farmer's Market**  
305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928  
530.893.3276, Karrottalk@aol.com  
Terry Givens, Market Manager

**Chico Community Environmental Gardens**  
151 Silver Dollar Way  
Chico, CA 95928  
530.680.5291, Fax: 530.899.9190  
www.ccegardens.org

**Chico Creek Nature Center**

1968 E. 8th St.  
Chico, California 95928  
530.891.4671, Fax: 530.891.0837  
www.chico.com/naturecenter  
naturecenter@chico.com

**ChicoEco**  
www.chicoeco.org  
379 E 10th Ave, Chico  
530.892.1227  
nanibay@hotmail.com

**Chico Food Not Bombs**  
Email: zrogers@sunset.net  
(530) 893-5772

**Chico Grange**  
2775 Nord Ave., Chico, CA 95926  
530.895.1817  
www.chicogrange.org

**Chico Greenline Coalition**  
PO Box 3524, Chico, CA 95927  
www.chicogreenline.com  
info@chicogreenline.com

**Chico Natural Foods Coop**  
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530.891.1713, www.chiconatural.com

**Chico Peace and Justice Center**  
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chico-peace@sbcglobal.net

**Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program**  
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
530.895.0866  
roger@streaminders.org

**Chico Velo Cycling Club**  
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**Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE)**  
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**Community Legal Information Center, CSUC  
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**Environmental Action & Resource Center**  
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530.898.5676, Fax: 530.898.6782  
www.csuchico.edu/earc  
earc@csuchico.edu

**Environmental Water Caucus (EWC)**  
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Fax: 510.893.1331; www.ewccalifornia.org  
enesmith@ewccalifornia.org



**Farm Sanctuary**

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**Flying Mammal Rescue of California**

916.838.7002  
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**Friends of Bidwell Park**

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www.friendsofbidwellpark.org  
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org

**Friends of Butte Creek**

PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927  
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friends@buttecreek.org  
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**Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium**

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ljaneway@csuchico.edu  
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**Friends of Plumas Wilderness**

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530.283.6649

**Friends of the River**

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www.friendsoftheriver.org  
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**Habitat for Humanity**

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530.343.7423, www.buttehabitat.org  
tritter@buttehabitat.org

**Institute for Sustainable Development**

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530.898.3333, Fax: 898.3336  
sustainability@csuchico.edu  
http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/

**Kids & Creeks**

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530.895.1749  
contact@kidsandcreeks.org  
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www.kzfr.org, G.M.: jill@kzfr.org

**Lassen Forest Preservation Group**

1540 Vilas Road  
Cohasset, CA 95973  
530.342.1641

**Little Chico Creek Watershed Group**

379 E 10th Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
530.892.1227; nanibay@hotmail.com

**Middle Mountain Foundation**

PO Box 3359  
Yuba City, CA 95992-3359  
530.671.6116  
www.middlemountain.org  
middlemountain@yahoo.com

**Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy**

40652 Hwy 36 East  
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Phone & Fax: 530.595.4470  
milcrk1@aol.com

**Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility (NEFR)**

PO Box 4512, Chico, CA 95927-4512  
530.345.6125

**Northern California Regional Land Trust**

167 E. Third Ave, Chico, CA 95926  
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Fax: 530.894.7738  
www.landconservation.org  
ncrlt@landconservation.org

**Plumas Forest Project**

PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103  
530.836.0461  
John Preschutti  
always@psln.com

**River Partners**

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www.riverpartners.org  
info@riverpartners.org

**Sacramento River Preservation Trust**

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Fax: 530.899.5105  
www.sacrivetrust.org  
jmerz@sacrivetrust.org

**Sacramento River Watershed Program**

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Sacramento, CA 95818  
916.549.4017, www.sacrivetrust.org  
marylee@sacrivetrust.org

**Shady Creek Outdoor School**

(formerly known as Woodleaf Outdoor School)  
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georges@sutter.k12.ca.us  
www.shadycreek.org

**Sierra Club, Yahi Group**

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**Sierra Forest Legacy**

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craig@sierraforestlegacy.org

**South Chico Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 3582, Chico, CA 95927  
guzzettidavid@yahoo.com

**Southwest Chico Neighborhood Association**

www.swchicoe.org  
swcna@swchicoe.org

**South Campus Neighborhood Council**

Attn: Charlie Pruesser  
1405 W 3rd St, Chico, CA 95928

**Streaminders**

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roger@streaminders.org  
www.streaminders.org

**The Cause**

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www.be-the-cause.org

**The Bidwell Ranch Conservancy**

Chico, CA, 530.345.7205

**The Esplanade League**

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www.esplanadeleague.org  
eleague@shocking.com

**The Nature Conservancy, Northern Central Valley**

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530.897.6370, Fax: 530.342.0257  
www.nature.org

**TreeAction**

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www.treeaction.org  
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**Trout Unlimited**

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510.528.4164, www.tu.org

**Upper Ridge Areas, Inc**

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ridgebird2@comcast.net

**Valley Water Protection Association**

7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965  
530.343.0916  
colewaterinfo@yahoo.com

**Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association**

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