

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

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NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP



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Watershed Management Plan

The draft document is due to the watershed group early in 2007. At that time, it will be sent to the TAC for one final review and to the Board of Directors, who will review and approve it. CCWG will have copies in both hard and CD and will be available to those interested. We also have plans to have this on our website.

The water monitoring has started and 11 sites are being visited each month to download the data for water quality, temperature, and turbidity. Macro invertebrate monitoring will be done next year.

Annual Meeting - Mark your Calendar Wednesday - January 24, 2007

The Cottonwood Creek Watershed's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24th at the Lions Building, 1858 Locust Street in Cottonwood, and we are planning Pot Luck again this year. If your LAST name begins with A to M bring a salad, N to Z bring a dessert. CCWG will provide a main dish, drinks and bread & butter.

The Annual Meeting is the time to elect Board Members. Currently we have to replace two Board members, one resigned due to her husband's health, and Director Roy Richards who passed away on November 17. Tom Harrington, Board Chairman is also up for re-election, and at this time we only have two individuals that have filled out a nomination application.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? Please contact the CCWG office at (530) 347-6637 so we can get a nomination form to you.

Also we will have an overview of Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group's accomplishments for the 2006-year. We will also be selecting programs and speakers for the upcoming 2007 Stakeholders Meetings. If you have any requests or would like to gain more knowledge on a topic, please come and share your ideas.

One idea that was recently sent to me was to have an attorney come to speak about property ownership, especially as it affects those owners along the creek.

News from the Past

An excerpt from Dottie Smith's book, History of Cottonwood Now and Then.

Some Firsts!!!

1844: First tree Fallers... Samuel Hensley was also employed by John Sutter. Hensley and his crew of woodcutters fell trees along the Sacramento River in the vicinity of Bloody Island, the mouth of Cottonwood Creek, what is now Ball's Ferry, and rafted the logs down river to Sutter's Fort.

1850: First Gold Prospecting.....Cottonwood Creek and its tributaries were prospected for gold in February of – with excellent prospects.

1852: The first Hotel and Feed Stable.....Marcus Clanton built and operated a hotel in conjunction with his ferry business at the same location (south side of Cottonwood Creek near the present Interstate 5 bridge).

1854: The first election.....114 votes were cast at Cottonwood in the election.

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Mission Statement: "The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education. CCWG 10/27/99

Thank You!

CCWG would like to again thank Chuck Lema, Sunflower CRMP, Dee Swearingen, Tom Harrington, Bob Braithwaite and J Williams for their donations to our fall raffle.

CCWG is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, and donations are tax deductible.

RAFFLE*****

Winners of the 1st Annual Autumn Raffle were: Doug Reid won the butcher lamb; Julia Arnold won the goat; Stephanie Gregory won the firewood, Hal Crain won the taxidermy work and Dee Swearingen won the long horned heifer. The metal work by Chuck Lema from horse shoes was won by Henry and Jan Lopez, Jennifer Williams, Mike Neal and Bob Kohn...Thank you all for participating!

WEST CARB CO2

Throughout the state, country and globally, population is growing along with energy use per household. This leads to a great need for carbon sequestration in an effort to reduce climate impacts. Carbon sequestration, simply put is the capture and storage of carbon dioxide. After careful analysis by nationally acclaimed scientists, Shasta County was identified as having a great potential for cost effective sequestration projects which may be useful in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases over time.

Your local Conservation District, the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD), is working with the non-profit organization Winrock International, to implement pilot projects in the county now through 2009. Sequestration options being investigated for Shasta County include conversion of marginal rangelands to forests (afforestation), improved management of hazardous fuels to reduce wildfires and their emissions, biomass energy, and forest management. The projects will benefit agriculture, ranching and timber management and provide safety to local communities.

WSRCD Watershed Coordinator Leslie Bryan is scheduling appointments with landowners to determine their interest in participating in pilot projects. If you or someone you know are interested in more information and possibly participating, please contact Leslie at 365-7332 ext 215 or leslie@westernshastarc.org.

See what's on the flip side!

Salmon Survey 2006

CCWG had worked with willing landowners, for access permission and agency personnel that know how to do a redd survey in the mainstem. We were scheduled for Saturday December 2. Due to circumstances beyond our control, i.e. rain and turbidity of the stream, we were unable to complete this project.

First I would like to thank the landowners who gave permission to be on their property, and letters of appreciation will be sent to them.

Second, several fishery biologist from the Department of Fish and Game out of Red Bluff spent several hours kayaking down the main stem on October 19, 2006 and provided CCWG with this information.

- 57 male live salmon estimated
- 68 female live salmon estimated
- 75 redds new and used
- 7 carcasses encountered and none had clips.

There were still many live fish that were not yet building redds and these fish were mostly in a school of about 50 salmon near the lower end of the section. The reach surveyed estimated 7 miles, and took from 11 AM to 3:30 PM were they took out at the Sacramento River Barge Hole.

South Fork was not utilized due to the condition of the water.

Third plans will get underway earlier in the fall of 2007 and perhaps get this survey done and make it an annual event.

Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

When: 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:15 pm

Where: 3233 Brush Street, south of Front St.
Cottonwood, CA 96022

Meeting dates for 2007

January 24	June 27
February 28	July 25
March 28	August 22
April 25	September 26
May 23	October 24
November and December canceled due to the holidays	

Watch for the newsletter online at our new website at:
www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org

This newsletter was brought to you by the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group. If you would like to participate in the group or have questions, please contact us. We'd also appreciate any volunteer help you can provide. We look forward to hearing from you! 347-6637

Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group and how it affects you??

Since its inception, Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group has contributed over \$1,970,000.00 to the community of Cottonwood and the counties of Shasta and Tehama through their grant writing for benefits to the watershed. This funding has paid for the watershed assessment, the strategy and the management plan as well as the fuels reduction and management plan.

We have completed several fuel projects, the placement of a water tank in the quail ridge area for fire suppression, a gate along the South Fork at the Evergreen Bridge; trees were planted at the Evergreen Middle School campus and have provided 27 trees to be planted at the new North Cottonwood School. Creek site cleanup and surrounding area, aerial photographs of the watershed, hands on education to the students from K-8 grade in the area schools, ongoing education to the stakeholders who attend our regular monthly meetings on such subjects as fire safety, trespass, fish in the watershed, the slide in the wilderness area, finalization of the Safe Harbor Agreement, and the list continues to grow.

Several project types that come to the surface in our plan are bank stabilization to assist in the prevention of sediment in the stream as well as loss of riparian habitat. Fish survey, Non-native Invasive species management plan, rangeland management plans and continued education for both students and adults alike.

We invite YOU to participate with us, to assist in selecting various projects as we move forward.

Conservation Planning Workshop for Agricultural Landowners

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Redding Field Office will be holding a Conservation Planning Workshop for Agricultural Landowners this winter. The purpose of the workshop is to assist private agricultural landowners prepare a conservation plan on their property to address resource conservation needs such as soil erosion, water conservation or water quality impacts. Landowners who develop a conservation plan by attending this workshop and working with NRCS planners will be in a stronger position to qualify for NRCS cost-sharing during the 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program signup according to District Conservationist, Bob Bailey. The workshop will be held on two evenings this winter, time and location to be announced in a future newsletter. For more information or to sign up for the planning workshop please contact NRCS at the USDA Service Center in Redding at 226-2577 or drop by the NRCS offices at 3644 AvTech Parkway, Suite C.