

Cottonwood Creek and You

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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 and education.

CCWG 10/27/99

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Thank you to the following authors for their article and/or input: Jarrod Gregory and Dustin Siperek, and Dottie Smith.

1. Secured Grants and Those on the Horizon

The results are finally in!! On April 11th, the CALFED Ecological Restoration Program announced which proposals it would fund. Three proposals were submitted by CCWG last October, and one of them was funded—the “Kids for our Creek” Environmental Education Grant. The project was funded in total: \$164,579! The project is geared towards providing the following FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN THE WATERSHED: Developing environmental educational materials; providing outreach; and purchasing sampling tools and materials for use by all students. To obtain a copy of the grant, contact Vieva or visit <http://calfed.ca.gov/>

In 1997 Graham Matthews and Associates received a grant to implement a geomorphic study and restoration project design on lower Cottonwood Creek. Monies were left from the project because the property owner implemented an “emergency” project prior to completion of phase 1 of the CALFED project (the study). An amendment request made to CALFED would expand the scope of the geomorphic study into the next reach (upstream) where property owners and the CCWG desire to evaluate geomorphological conditions and implement erosion control and restoration activities. After consulting with CALFED and various TAC, we requested that that grant be extended to continue the work upstream on the mainstem That request was granted by CALFED on Tuesday, March 26, 2001.

Fire grants: Six have been submitted this spring. Two to Shasta-Trinity National Forest and four to Sacramento Regional Foundation. The out come for these grants should be announced by June 1st and August 1st.

NOAA grants: Currently under development. Must be mailed by April 15, 2002. This is for channel restoration.

NFWF: a grant was sent to NFWF for the continuation of the organization, and that response is due by the first of June.

. Stay tuned!!

2. Legislation to Watch

SB 2070, SB1710 and SB1653 are all in the works for the November

election. They are water bond issues. Of particular interest is SB 2070, which is being presented by M. Johannessen. In its current form (3/22/02), it has little to offer organizations such as ours and will only provide assistance to agencies/groups such as Resource Conservation Districts and County watershed agencies.

AB 1983 is a Wildland Fire bill that was introduced by Dick Dickerson and could use your review. This bill proposes a Fuel Hazard Reduction Fund; require an applicant to submit a fuel hazard management plan to the director prior to beginning a project.

To have access to these bills, log onto <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

Wild and Scenic: The Tehama County Board of Supervisors passed the following resolution on Tuesday, March 19th.

The resolution of the Tehama County Board of supervisors was in support of Tehama County's local watershed groups and in opposition to the inclusion of Tehama county streams or stream segments into the national wild & scenic rivers system.

In summary, the Tehama County Board of Supervisors is of the opinion that (1) the collaborative watershed approach is the best method to meet our vital resource needs for today and for the future; and (2) any inclusion of Tehama County streams or stream segments into the National Wild & Scenic River System, is neither necessary nor in the best interest of the county or the county's vital resources; and (3) the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of Tehama County is authorized to transmit this resolution to the U.S. Department of Interior and to the Resources Agency of California for distribution to federal and state agencies under their direction.

The resolution was adopted by a 4 (ayes) to one (nay) vote.

3. Volunteers Needed

CCWG is looking for volunteers who like to work on scrapbooks. We have acquired some nice photos and excellent newspaper coverage—it would be nice to have them put into scrapbooks!



4. News from the past

Excerpts from Dottie Smith's book, History of Cottonwood, Now and Then. Enjoy!!

1903: The largest landowner in the area was the Diamond Ranch originally owned by Riley and Hardin of Red Bluff who acquired over 52,000 acres stretching from Red Bluff to Cottonwood, all located on the west side of Cottonwood. Most of the land was acquired by purchase from homesteaders who stayed only long enough to gain title to the land in order to sell to Riley & Hardin for a pre-arranged price.

5. Native Bunch Grass Project

Jarrod Gregory and Dustin Siperek Evergreen MS Environmental Club

On March 21, 2002 several members of the Evergreen Middle School environmental committee met with Viera and took a trip to Chico to pick up native grasses. What was the purpose of this trip?

In the beginning of the school year two members of the environmental committee wrote a Green Works! Grant for \$400.00 to purchase native grasses to plant around the school campus. As you may recall from the last newsletter, in the 2000-01 school year, CDF and the school Environmental Committee did a control burn to get rid of nonnative grasses. The committee was granted the money to purchase several types of grasses. Several months later we received e-mail from a consultant in Chico who had been growing some various native grasses at the Chico State University farm. This is the place we decided to purchase native deer grass.

Viera and several members of the Committee a CSUC research scientist, who showed us the type grasses that we were purchasing. One of the grasses that we were purchasing was

called deer grass. He also showed us several of the grasses that we were not purchasing. Since they had no use for their remaining stock, they offered to give us their remaining native grass!

After purchasing the grass, we brought the grass plugs back our school Greenhouse. The following day, we planted the native grass around classrooms and on the environmental trail where the control burn had occurred the previous year. We also started a native grass garden to help provide native grass for future projects. We are hoping the native grasses will naturalize the soil and bring other native plants to our area. By doing this it will help reestablish native plants. If anyone is interested in having these native plants planted please call Viera; the Environmental Committee would be happy to plant them for you.

6. Fire Safe Council and Fuels Management Updates

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District was awarded a grant to do the fuel inventory and management plan for CCWG via a grant we received from the forest service. The document is currently 80% completed in the rough draft and plans are to present it to the Board for review in May. The Fire Safe Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCWG office at 6:30 p.m. Attending are fire personnel, including CDF, Forest Service and volunteer departments, other agency personnel, and homeowner and property owner association individuals. The group has selected a mission statement and prioritized a list of concerns. When the fire management plan is completed, this group will help with project planning for fire safe projects. *You are welcome to attend and participate!!* To follow the activities of this or any other fire safe council in the state, please check the web site: www.firesafecouncil

7. Funding Opportunity for California Ag Land Acquisition

The California Farmland Conservancy Program is accepting grant applications to protect agricultural land from development.

The program makes money available to purchase farmland and ensure, through an agricultural conservation easement, that practices normally interfering with the agricultural use of the land are prohibited. The benefits to landowners include a one-time payment for retiring future development potential, continued ownership of the land and control of farming operations and a potential reduction in property taxes. Cities, counties and qualified nonprofit groups, such as a land trust or resource conservation district, can apply for grants. Individuals are not eligible to apply directly, but the program can point landowners to an appropriate local group. For more information visit <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/CFCP/funding.htm> or call (916) 324-0850. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Upcoming Events

CCWG Stake holder's Meeting Schedule:

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

Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

April 23rd -Graham Matthews, Hydrologist-C study

May 28th Evergreen School Environmental Club -Controlled Burn, native grasses and other items of interest

June 25th David Smith-Department of Fish & Game Biologist, who will discuss fire and wildlife

