

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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CCWG Planning Continues...

The contract for the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) grant has been signed. This WMP will continue the process of developing a conceptual Management plan that will outline a vision for the watershed, continue funding the coordinator position and keeping the office open, as well as the development of a conceptual water monitoring plan. This conceptual WMP will address the issues that surfaced in the development of the Assessment (Phase I) and continued through the strategy process (Phase II), such as erosion and sedimentation; flooding, rangelands and timber, green belt/riparian corridors, aquatic habitats, terrestrial habitats, groundwater and water quality. Social and cultural issues will also be addressed throughout the document as well. The focus of this grant is to hold meetings with landowners, directors and technical advisors, establish a consensus and develop a cooperative WMP that outlines the desired watershed conditions.

CCWG needs your participation and input! This is your opportunity to set in motion the direction CCWG will take in the future. If you are interested in participating we encourage you to contact the office to get your name & address on the list to be contacted when the meetings are set. Call Vieva @ 347-6637 or email ccwg@shasta.com.

"Funding for this project has been provided full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to Proposition 50 and CALFED and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program."
This work is starting in early 2005 and will continue for approximately 36 months.

GATES AT THE CREEK

Evergreen Bridge Gate:

The gate posts at Evergreen Bridge are being placed as this newsletter goes to print. On Saturday, April 23rd, Chuck Lema dug the holes and Dee Swearingen hauled the concrete for the placement of the posts. Once the concrete has had an opportunity to set up, Jim Tomasini will weld the gate in place.

Thank you's go to: the Sullivan Family and Kath Surbaugh for cash donations, JF Shea for the k-rails, ACID for the hauling and placing of them, Chuck Lema for digging the post holes, Dee Swearingen for hauling the concrete, and together with Chuck Lema placed them into the holes, and to Jim Tomasini for the welding. We thank you for all your support.

Farquhar Road Gates are still waiting funding. It will cost approximately \$2,500 per gate, and two are needed, to properly gate the creek off from motorized trespassers. Also needed are the k-rails, which we may be able to get donated and the concrete to hold the gate posts in place.

The two fourteen foot gates will be placed at Farquhar Road along the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek to prevent 4X4 vehicles and ATV's from entering the creek channel disrupting aquatic and riparian habitat, disposing of trash, and trespassing on private property.

CCWG continues to search for grant funding to cover the cost of these gates and landowner participation is always appreciated, both in kind service or cash donations.

CCWG is IRS-recognized as a non-profit 501C3, meaning donations can be used as tax deductions!

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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."



Changes at CCWG

At the annual meeting, which was held on January 25, 2005, several directors, who had served on the board for many years, chose not to run again, resulting in the following directors elected to the Board and appointed to the offices as stated?

Tom Harrington, Chairman	347-0543
Roy Richards, Vice Chairman	347-3152
Julia Arnold, Secretary	347-9439
Jenny Coelho, CFO	347-4710
Bruce Alexander	347-5773
Don Edwards	
Lon Currey -recently appointed	347-9003
Vieva Swearingen, Coordinator	347-6637
Susan Williams, Education Coordinator	347-6637

Irrigated Lands Waiver in Shasta and Tehama Counties

The Shasta Tehama Water Education Coalition met on April 21 for their first Annual Meeting, at which time five area landowners were elected to two year terms for the Board of Directors. Over 1500 irrigated landowners have signed up representing over 60,000 acres in Tehama and Shasta Counties.

Members of the STWEC are recognized by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as taking the appropriate steps to comply with the new regulation.

See what's on the flip side!

News from the Past

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

In 1931, the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Department organized. Hayden Saunders served as the first chief. A fire truck was desperately needed and to raise money, the Women's Improvement Club held card games and the Fire Department began holding dances on top of the now unused old Highway 99 Bridge. The dances were huge successes and enough money was raised to purchase a new fire engine (Engine No. 1) plus a home to store every thing in. The storage shed was located behind present-day Holiday Market (now Steve's A-Z Appliances) and faced Main Street. Old Engine No. 1 still huffs and puffs and chugs along at special events and in local parades.

Many people still remember the good times had at these dances which were so popular they became annual events and continued to be held for a decade. "Home brew" was sold at the dance, drunks fell off the bridge into Cottonwood Creek, and police officers were known to "never come around."

WATER TANK

The long awaited water tank has been placed in the Quail Ridge Subdivision on the corner of Quail Ridge and Golden Arrow. The tank, which belongs to CCWG, has been placed on private property for the sole purpose of assisting CDF in fighting fires in that area. Should a fire occur, CDF would have access to the 5,000 gallons of water the tank contains to fill their trucks and be ready to get back to their work without traveling many miles to find water.



Water Monitoring

147 4th grade students from West Cottonwood School participated in a water monitoring demonstration on their school campus, using the Crowley Gulch stream. They were instructed by personnel from California Department of Fish and Game: Tricia Bratcher, Eda Eggman and Jane Vorpapel. The project was coordinated by Susan Williams, Education Coordinator and paid for by a grant (Kids for our creek) from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Other upcoming projects from the KIDS grant include a tour of the SPI facilities for the 8th grade students at Evergreen School and a return to West Cottonwood for a second water monitoring lesson, with the students doing the work this time. They will learn both hands on and the differences that have occurred in the past month. They will be testing for: dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, PH balance and micro invertebrates.

Plans are being made to work with the teachers for the home schooled students, and providing them some hands on science programs.

Fire Grants

Seven fuel reduction projects were submitted to the Firesafe Clearing House for consideration. Of the seven, three were approved for full to partial funding. We have submitted the additional information requested and still waiting the results. Two projects were submitted to the Shasta County RAC, with a presentation being made on May 4th. The Hammer Loop Grant award from Tehama County RAC in 2004 is still waiting approval from BLM. If the approval is not received soon, lose that project may be canceled by the grant funder.

Stakeholder'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

Upcoming meeting dates:

April: 26 Non-Native Species

May 24: Watershed Management Strategy

June 28: KIDS for our Creek update

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