

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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1. Wild and Scenic Designation

Have you ever spent a week or even a day on white water? What an experience, and each of us should have the opportunity to do just that. Cottonwood Creek however is not the same caliber of white water as the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Even the magnificent Sacramento River does not compare. The Friends of the River have inventoried of all the streams in California that are the "best of the best". The Friends of the River believe these streams should be designated as wild and scenic for the purpose of maintaining them for the future. In reviewing the inventory, the listing includes portions of all main tributaries of Cottonwood Creek, for a total of 24.3 miles.

According to the Friends of the River "Frequently asked Questions" publication.

Q: What does a National Wild and Scenic River designation mean?
A: A national wild and scenic river is a federally protected waterway, safeguarded from the construction of hydroelectric dams or major water diversions. Federal agencies are also barred from assisting in any water resource projects that may directly affect a designated river segment; "Wild and Scenic" typically means a quarter-mile corridor along both sides of a river. That stream area is then managed to preserve the outstanding scenery, recreation, and historical ecological and other resource values.

For more information, visit <http://www.friendsoftheriver.org>. The entire state inventory can be view at this site.

According to their publication, the need for wild and scenic (free-flowing) is necessary for our environmental protection, and that streamside development also poses a threat to free-flowing rivers and should be regulated to ensure the river's protection. The agency that the Friends of the River feel is best suited to manage these streams is the BLM, and currently the BLM is short staffed and having a difficult time of managing the lands they do have. In reviewing the criteria for a Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Summary, I noted: "No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially

designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status."

This federal designation, or study for a possible inclusion into the system would prohibit any stream bank protection measures to prevent erosion control. CCWG will continue to monitor this situation and keep the stakeholders informed.

2. Photos Still Needed and Other News!

News items and photos are always appreciated, especially if you have photos of the high water event of late December 2001. They need to be marked with location and date.

3. To Burn or not to Burn? Part 2

By Emily Nicholson, Evergreen Middle School

(A continuation of the story from the last newsletter)...By the end of the school year the students had completely eradicated the Klamath Weed. Or so they thought. How did you control burn the school campus? After talking with Fish & Game, students contacted Bowman Fire and CDF to see if they would be willing to do a control burn on the campus and if so how much would they charge and would we need a burn permit? They said that they would be happy to do it with no charge and there was no need for a burn permit. They would just use this burn as training for their fire crew. During Christmas Break the crew burned the school campus. After the burn a hand crew came out to the campus to pull the berry bushes and cut down an old dead tree. After the burn the field turned green. The Evergreen 8th Grade Environmental Committee sprinkled Shasta Mix that consisted of native grasses and did an experimental plot of native bunch grass. Because we sprinkled the seeds and planted the grasses at the end of last year the seeds only got a little bit of rain. The rain was not enough to allow the seeds to sprout. Due to the lack of water, about 35% of the native bunch grass survived.

Most of the Star Thistle is gone except for a few spots where the fire didn't burn as well as other spots. On the other hand, some of the Klamath Weed has returned. The fire helped the weed to grow. You can only get rid of this plant by pulling it up by the root. There are a few patches left and the Environmental Committee will go out and pull them up. With all this hard work Evergreen Middle School continues to have a beautiful campus.

4. News from the past

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

1852: The first ferry. Clanton's Ferry began operation across Cottonwood Creek and hauled people, horses, wagons and animals of all kinds. The Ferry was located near the present day Interstate 5 Bridge. Marcus Clanton was the proprietor.

Cottonwood's major industries at this time were:

- #1 Gold Mining
- #2 Lumbering-logs were floated down the Sacramento River to major cities
- #3 Farming

5. Questions and Answers

Please provide Vieva the following info:

What types of subjects/speakers do you want to hear?

What goals would YOU like to see accomplished in the watershed?

6. The Need for Access

One important factor to consider in implementing grants: They will require access into the creek at various sites and will require the cooperation of willing landowners.

The Board is currently reviewing several landowner agreements from other watershed groups, to determine one that best suits our area landowners. If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the directors or the coordinator.

CCWG is currently preparing grants for submittal to the Forest Service for fuel reduction projects in both Tehama and Shasta Counties. Both of these projects are for the removal of hazardous fuels on non-industrial private property. In both cases, if the grants are awarded, we will need willing landowners to participate. Please contact the office if you would like to have your name and address added to the list for fuels reduction.

7. Channel Erosion

Due to the high water in Cottonwood Creek in late December, channel erosion is a major concern to property owners. CCWG will facilitate the following: 1) fact-finding tours with private landowners and agency personnel. 2) Technical Advisory Committee meetings to discuss the tour, problems and possible solutions and 3) have various agency personnel participate in stakeholder meetings to hear landowner concerns, and present possible solutions.

An excellent web site to monitor the flow events in Cottonwood Creek is: <http://water.usgs.gov.ca/nwis.rt> and the site you want for Cottonwood Creek is 1137600.

8. Fire Safe Council

CCWG has established a fire safe council (FSC) for the communities (including subdivisions) within the watershed. The purpose of this FSC is to establish a fire plan, hazardous fuels reduction, evacuation planning, etc. The FSC committee includes members from Shasta and Tehama County CDF, Shasta-Trinity Forest

Service, County planning department, private industry, PG & E, Pac Bell and concerned citizens. The meetings are held monthly, on the second Wednesday of each month. Please call the office for more information. Currently, two West Valley High School students have volunteered to take on the evacuation plan as a senior project.

To follow the FSC activities, please check the website: www.firesafecouncil. This site covers all the councils in the state.

Upcoming Events

CCWG 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

February 26th -Army Corp of Engineers

March 26th Carl Harrel, DF&G-Permitting Requirements

April 18th: Earth Day @ Evergreen School-9a.m. to 2 p.m @ Nolen Park Area

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Thank you to the following authors for their article and/or input: Emily Nicholson and Dottie Smith.

