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Baby Bird Season

This month you will see wild animals nesting in peculiar places and the appearance of wild baby animals. Many people trim their trees and mow this time of year. They are horrified to find they have cut down nests in the branches or killed parent animals that are nesting on the ground. Please check for nests in the branches before you cut or better still, trim those trees before nesting season when the trees are dormant. It prevents disease in the tree and prevents injury to wildlife. Take a dog or two and walk through the area you are going to mow. That will flush the parent bird or mammal. You might be able to mark the nesting area and protect that one little patch until after the babies have left the nest. Remember, it is a felony to touch an occupied nest or eggs, to disturb it or the parents in any way, or possess wildlife native to California. You must have permission of UD\S Fish and Wildlife Service and /or California DFG to possess or disturb native wildlife. Leave the healthy wild animal alone or return it to its nest. If the animal is in distress, please call Tehama Wild Care, 347-1687.

Sincerely,
Karen Scheuermann,
Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator
www.shastarootsnshoots.com/Tehama_Wild_Care.htm

COASTAL CLEANUP DAYS

Karen is in charge of Coastal Cleanup Day held this year on Sept. 15, 2007 from 9-12 Noon.

She is looking for:

- team captains,
- willing workers, and
- locations for dumpster sites.

CCWG is planning support for her project by providing a BBQ for the workers following the completion of the project. We are accepting donations of food and workers on the BBQ efforts. Call the office 347-6637.

THANKS!!

Cash donations: Bill Williams and Mike McGuire

Trees: Sierra Pacific Industries gets BIG thanks for their donation for both the reforestation project on private property near Platina which suffered a wildland fire, and to the Evergreen School Arbor Day presentation. Over 1500 trees of various types were donated for the two projects.

Smoke detectors: Thanks to Home Depot for their donation of a dozen smoke alarms which were presented at the March stakeholder meeting.

Board Members: For both current and past directors, CCWG stakeholders owe a tremendous **Thank You** to the board members who give generously of their time to keep the organization moving forward. These folks serve the group without any remuneration, solving issues as they appear. With new and exciting things on the horizon, CCWG would like to encourage additional stakeholders to volunteer for various committees.

TAC: In the beginning we had a very active group of individuals who assisted in the success of CCWG. As I make my exit from this position and welcome in a new coordinator I would like very much to see those of you interested in the future success of the organization step up and work with a new coordinator. Many of those TAC members I worked with have retired or moved on, however there are many dynamic new faces that would benefit our organization. To all of you, I personally say THANKS, we needed 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. CCWG 10/27/99

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

Milestone, a New Herbicide for Yellow Starthistle

By Glenn Nader and Guy Kyser

Milestone,* (aminopyralid) is a new herbicide for use in rangeland, pasture, wildlands, and rights-of-way to control broadleaf plants, especially thistles. It controls some important Sacramento valley weeds such as yellow starthistle, Italian thistle, and artichoke thistle. The label rate for the control of most thistles with Milestone is 3 to 5 ounces per acre. The very low amount of material required per acre and the limited movement of the product from the application point has allowed it to be registered under the Reduced Risk Pesticide Initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Research trials conducted from 2000 to 2006 on rangeland sites in California by UC Weed Specialist Joe DeTomaso found that as low as 2 ounces per acre controlled yellow starthistle.

It is made by Dow Agrosiences, the same company that makes Transline. Milestone is expected to replace Transline for starthistle control because of its lower costs (estimated \$9 to \$10 per acre for the product at the 3 ounce per acre rate and \$6 for the 2 ounce rate), and the fact that it has a broader control spectrum which includes fiddleneck.

Milestone* gives three to four months of pre-emergence control of starthistle in addition to post-emergence control. Starthistle can germinate in the Sacramento valley from October to May. Thus, treatments of Milestone are best applied from December to March. March applications may require a higher rate to be effective. Applications should be made before starthistle bolts or before annual grasses exceed four to six inches in height. Research has shown that the earlier the application, the more grass that is produced on the site.

Thanks to UC Davis Cooperative Extension, Glenn Nader and Guy Kyser for providing this new information to CCWG and allowing us to share it with our stakeholders.

* **Milestone** is a registered trademark for the product *aminopyralid* manufactured by Dow Agrosiences.

See what's on the flip side!

Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group and how it affects you??

Since its inception, Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group has contributed nearly \$2,000,000.00 to the counties of Shasta and Tehama and the community of Cottonwood through their grant writing for benefits to the watershed.

These funds have paid for the plans for the assessment, management strategy and planning as well as fuels reduction 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 West 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, the Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for the CA red-legged frog, surveys for the frog and for invasive weed species along and in the channel 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 surveys, management plans for Non-native Invasive species and rangelands, continued education for both students and adults alike.

In March the board reorganized electing the following new officers and board members:

Lon Currey, President; **Jan Lopez**, Vice President; **Julia Knight**, Secretary and **Jennifer Williams**, CFO. **Carole Ryan**, **Jim Busher** and **Bill Williams** complete the board.

The Bowman Biomass project is wrapping up. CCWG has been successful in removing hazardous fuels from a total of 285 acres in the populated area south of Bowman Road.

The R Wild Horse ranch fuel break has been also been completed this spring.

CCWG is pleased to announce we will be working with the Cottonwood Community Center on many of the community needs. First, starting on June 27, 2007 we will be hosting our monthly stakeholder meetings at the Community Center on the south end of the building. The regular stakeholder meetings will be held in the smaller room and then the January Annual Meeting will be held in the larger room.

Second, we agree that since Cottonwood is a small community, working together on projects would get more done with less people. Examples of our cooperative efforts include; cleaning the Community Park area, assisting with the library completion and setting up, trash removal along

the waterways, establishing walking trails and other recreational uses of our natural resources.

This is just the start of what we hope is a beneficial partnership with the community center and other groups such as the library, the Enrichment Center, Schools and garden club.

Cottonwood is a small unincorporated community looking at massive growth on both sides of the creek. CCWG wants to work with all the various community groups to make both the watershed and the community a safe, healthy and prosperous place to live and grow.

We invite all members of the community to stop by the office located at 3233 Brush Street (the cul de sac area south of Front, between the old depot and livery stable and next door to Northwest Propane).

The Board of directors is planning to set some working committees and would appreciate anyone in the watershed interested in the mission statement to participate. The committees being planned are: Sustainability, Grant Oversight and Education & Outreach.

News from the Past

An excerpt from Dottie Smiths book, [History of Cottonwood Now and Then.](#)

1856

Wilhelm Ludwig finished building his toll bridge across Cottonwood Creek in the spring and charged the following tolls:

	<u>EMPTY</u>	<u>FULL</u>
2 horses & wagon	25 cents	50 cents
4 horses & wagon	37 ½ cents	75 cents
6 horses & wagon	50 cents	\$1.00
8 horses & wagon	75 cents	\$1.25
1 horse & buggy		25 cents
2 horses & buggy		37 ½ cents
1 man & horse		12 ½ cents
Pack animal		4 cents
Cattle & stock		5 cents
Sheep & hogs		3 cents
Footman		10 cents

The bridge stood at approximately the spot where Hooker Creek Road would run into Cottonwood Creek.

Tehama County was created in 1856 and set Cottonwood Creek as its northern boundary line. (Shasta County formed in 1850 with the Pierson Reading residence as the official county seat until 1851 when it moved to the town of Shasta.)