

Cottonwood Creek and You

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Inside this Issue

- 1** Project & Funding Opportunities
- 2** Kids On Our Creek
- 3** New Board Members and Upcoming Elections
- 4** Fire! Fire! Fire!
- 5** News from the Past
- 6** Wild and Scenic River Information

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,

CCWG 10/27/99

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1. Project & Funding Opportunities

WE NEED YOUR HELP, AND WE'D ALSO LIKE TO HELP YOU!! Do you have a road or property that has erosion problems? Do you have a pond and would like to improve it as a water site for fire use or for wildlife? Is the vegetation on your property making you nervous because of the threat of fire? Would you like to improve the productivity of your rangeland? Federal and state agencies such as U S Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and Calfed are starting to send out their requests for proposals (RFP). Some of these RFP's are requesting grant proposals that will influence and benefit special species and conservation in general, as well as provide a means by which restoration can also improve your property.

The recently completed Watershed Assessment lists the following as some recommendations for the stakeholders to consider:

- *Mapping of various habitats
- *Habitat Restoration projects
- *Landowner education of special species needs and requirements
- *Inventory for a variety of species, including migratory birds, fish, amphibians, and noxious/invasive plants

Some other suggestions by stakeholders include:

- * Inventory stock ponds, road crossings, and/or culverts
- * Fencing portions of stock ponds
- * Inventory for weirs and diversions on the streams
- * Providing alternative watering sources for livestock

Some projects could serve several purposes, for instance:

- * Stock pond inventories could prove beneficial for both fire protection and for habitats of sensitive species.
- * Habitat restoration projects would also prove beneficial for fuel reduction or range condition.

These grant opportunities are fast approaching the need for commitment by interested landowners. The process requires that interested landowners be indicated in the submittal of the grant request. **IF** the grant is

awarded: The next step is drafting and signing of contracts and memorandum of understanding, and finally the project starts. This process can take up to a couple of years from the submittal of the proposal until the work can start.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? We need to hear from you if you have a potential project. We are more than willing to come out and see what project you may have. In many cases, **THERE MAY BE NO COST TO YOU** to implement a project; your only commitment may be to sign an agreement to leave the improvement in place for a period of time, plus provide permission to access your property. **WE ALSO LOOKING FOR PERMISSION FOR ACCESS TO IMPLEMENT SURVEYS, PARTICULARLY ALONG STREAMCOURSES.** If you are interested in knowing more about these programs, the request for proposals and landowners participation, **PLEASE call the office and talk with Vieva, 347-6637.** You can also learn a lot by attending the monthly stakeholder meetings (see dates at the back).

2. Kids on Our Creek—A Historical Perspective

By Kelly Kratzer & Stephanie Meda

Many people have lived on Cottonwood Creek and enjoyed life here. One resident has lived there for 46 years, Claudia (Baker) Knerr. She has lived by the creek on Evergreen Road all her life. As a child she remembers swimming in the creek on hot summer days. She would go by the sandbars and play all day long. She loved how the creek felt so fresh and how clean the water was. "There was one bad thing about living on the creek" she stated, "It would flood sometimes." One really frightening flood she remembers well was in 1964. Claudia and her family lost their electricity and some of their cattle in the flood. Another serious flood she remembered completely covered the bridge on Evergreen Road! Claudia said she is truly thankful she has lived her entire life on Cottonwood Creek and nowhere else!



Do you have an interesting story about Cottonwood Creek? If so, please contact Dennis Mitchell at Evergreen Middle School, 347-2518 or send him your story at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, Cottonwood, California 96022.

3. New Board Members and Upcoming Elections

Richard Edsall was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Lori Lund. Gene Davis was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Phil Grossberger. Elections of officers will take place in January, 2003 at the Annual Meeting. If you have an interest to participate on the board of directors, or know someone who is, please talk with any one of the current members or contact the officer for the nominations committee chair. Board of Directors Contact list:
Dennis Mitchell, Chair 347-1287 Tom Harrington, Vice Ch. 347-0543 Jackie Baker, Secretary 347-3232 Robin Rich, Chief Financial Officer 396-2432 Roy H. Richards 347-3152 Richard Edsall 347-5284 Gene Davis 347-3604

These folks donate a great many hours to their position on the board, and would appreciate hearing from you with both concerns and compliments.

4. Fire! Fire! Fire!

Strategic Fuel Reduction and Management Plan: The BOD approved the document as presented by Western Shasta Resource Conservation District on October 8th. CCWG staff is in the process of reproducing and binding and the document will be available to those requesting a copy. We'd like your participation!-- Fire Safe Council meetings are the second Wednesday of every month, with the next meeting set for November 13th. The Fuel Inventory and Management Plan is expected to be completed by that

date. The Tehama Fire Council is also holding a meeting to discuss fire projects planning on October 30th, 7 pm in the Evergreen Middle School gym.

5. News from the Past

In our last issue, Dennis Mitchell wrote of the replacement of the bridge across Cottonwood Creek. Here is more about the crossing in an excerpt from Dottie Smith's book, History of Cottonwood, Now and Then. Enjoy!!

"The first road into northern California was from the south, and was quite probably the same trail used by called back in 1837 and passed by the Lansford Hastings place farther north in the Sacramento River Canyon at Soda Creek. In 1849/50 the road branched off at Cottonwood Creek and was extended to Readings Springs, the newly established Gold Rush settlement that was soon tot be officially renamed as Shasta. The section through Cottonwood followed a dry creek bed which today would be the vicinity of the Main Street underpass, from there the course followed across Interstate 5 near First Street, then traveled northeast through the park area east of West Cottonwood school and on to Shasta. The road eventually became known as the Red Bluff-Shasta Road and was improved because the majority of goldminers, emigrants and stagecoaches traveled on it. It was rough and treacherous and certain places at the Cottonwood Creek crossing had to be avoided because of the danger of quicksand."

6. Wild and Scenic River Information

To stakeholders concerned with pending wild and scenic legislation: Recently, a question was posed on the exact wording of 'wild and scenic' and 'recreational' rivers in

law. According to the act, "certain selected rivers of the nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." According to the USDA, in the practice and regulation of water resource development, this means that:
WILD rivers are to "remain free of impoundment";
SCENIC rivers are to remain free of impoundment;
and RECREATIONAL rivers allow for "some existing impoundment or diversion." The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance." This is an informational item for members considering S2535 (Boxer) and HR 4947 and 4948.

Upcoming Events

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

Oct. 22nd Legislative Information on AB 1983 and Water Bond
Nov. 26th Burt Bundy, Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve. No Meeting. Have a Joyous Holiday Season!
Jan. 28th-Annual Meeting- Reviewing the Past and Planning the Future
Feb. 25th- Shasta Co. Planning Dept. Newsletter prepared by:
Tricia Bratcher and Vieva Swearingen

Thank you to the following authors for their article and/or input: Vieva, Kelly Kratzer, Stephanie Meda, Dottie Smith



