

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group, P.O. Box 1198, Cottonwood, CA 96022
Email: ccwg@shasta.com Web site: CottonwoodCreekWatershedGroup.com Phone (530) 347-6637



How to deal with Trespassing

Posting Rural lands to comply with new trespass law.
(Excerpts from February 2004 Ag Alert)

Among the many chores that the rural landowner finds crowded into his or her "to-do" list is post "no-trespassing" signs. Rural crime begins with trespassing, and it does not matter if its theft, meth labs or vandalism, a person has to enter the property illegally to commit these crimes. Effective this year is a new state law that increases the penalty for people who trespass on land where livestock is raised for human consumption. Senate Bill 993 by Senator Charles Poochigian, R-Fresno addresses the potential adverse public health and economic consequences of agriculture bioterrorist attacks. Across the nation, there is increased concern regarding those who enter lands and facilities where animals are being raised for human consumption, with the intent to interfere/or damage property.

SB 993, which passed the Legislature with broad bipartisan support, expanded the trespassing law, made it a misdemeanor to trespass on livestock lands and attached an increase fine of up to \$1,000. The 2003 trespassing law allowed the law enforcement to cite trespassers with a \$10.00 fine and ask them to leave the property.

Most trespassers are unaware that when they access the creek for swimming, etc. they are usually on private property, therefore committing trespass. Any time you own private property, especially large pieces of land that is farm property, you should post the "no trespassing" signs properly. "Signs must be displayed at intervals of not less than three signs per mile along all exterior boundaries and that all roads and trails entering the land." Fish and Game Codes #2016. If it is not posted correctly, law enforcement may not be able to prosecute a trespasser, even if you did not allow the person to enter your property.

Trespass issues were the topic of discussion at the March Stakeholder Meeting and included interaction with a panel of representatives from the Tehama County Sheriffs office, the (Tehama) District Attorneys office, and the law enforcement division of California Department of Fish and Game.

Illegal activities (i.e. marijuana crops and methamphetamine labs) were discussed at the April Stakeholder meeting. One very interesting comment made by the law enforcement personnel, was that the landowner is the one responsible for clean up of illegal activities (such as removal of chemicals and other materials associated with meth labs) on their lands. Landowners, especially absent owners, must be observant for such activities and keep the property posted. Both programs were very interesting and informative.

On a similar note, some twenty landowners have come forward and requested that CCWG oversees a project to barricade the entrance into the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, at Evergreen Bridge, to stop the trespassing, driving in the creek bed with ATV's and 4-Wheel drive pickups; drinking; and illegal drug usage. If you have similar concerns in your area, consider contacting CCWG to see if we can be of assistance.

Garbage In, Garbage Out!

Last month (May), several people participated in a Bowman Road Cleanup! Approximately **2 ¾ tons of garbage (or about 5,500 pounds)** were delivered to the landfill, which included several hot water heaters, refrigerators, sofas, dishwashers and some auto parts such as doors, trunk and a hood. This was the effort of 28 individuals, using four pickups, and 3 ½ hours of time.

Thank you very much to all those who participated! We would like to make this an annual event and try to increase both the level of participation and the amount of trash we can remove; we have a beautiful watershed and would like to keep it that way, but it will take all of us to help in reaching that goal.

Inside This Issue

How to Deal with Trespassing	1
Garbage In, Garbage Out!	1
Strategic Planning to Begin!	1
News from the Past	2
Ag Waiver Update	2
WIMming About on the Web	2
What's New with the Fire Safe Council	2
CCWG Stakeholder Meeting Dates	2

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

Strategic Planning to Begin!

The contract for the Watershed Strategic Plan (WSP) grant has been signed! This "Strategy" will start the process of developing a management plan for the entire watershed and will focus on nine issue areas such as erosion and sedimentation; flooding, rangelands and timber, green belt/riparian coordinators, aquatic habitats, terrestrial habitats, groundwater and water quality. Social and cultural issues will also be address throughout the document as well. The focus of this grant is to hold meetings with landowners, directors and technical advisors in each of the nine issue areas, establish a consensus and develop a cooperative WMS 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 next few years. The meeting dates and times will be announced soon, however, we are providing you notice at this time and 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.

CCWG is looking to start the process by hosting some focus issue meetings the last 10 days of June or the beginning of July. The plan is to start the meetings late in the day (3:00 PM until 6:00 PM) to accommodate both the landowner that works and the agency personnel that will also be attending.

For those of you who wish to participate, YOU NEED to contact the office to reserve a chair at the meeting on the issue you feel is most important.

"Funding for this project has been provided full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000, (Proposition 13) and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program."

This work is starting in May 2004 and will continue for approximately 18 months.

Summer's coming; watch that sun!



See what's on the flip side!

News from the Past

1910: William L Rose and Harry Abernathy opened a general merchandise store known as Rose & Abernathy's in Charles Stoekel's brick building across Front Street from Stoekel's butcher shop in the present Holiday Market.* Abernathy left within the year and Stoekel became a partner with Rose. The store then became known as W.L. Rose & Co. and sold everything from farm implements to men's suits to fine china. Other items included groceries, shoes, boots, hats, dishes, laces, ribbons, and mackinaws. Grain was sold from the warehouse in the back alley. The Rose store was smaller in size than the Holiday Market because the east side of the front of the building was the location of Dr. Gilliland's drug store for a time and as Ponte's Saloon.

A hitching rail on the east side was the community gathering place where residents pulled up their spring wagons for loading while they stood around and chatted and chewed the fat.

Mr. Rose and family lived close to the store in the house (still exists) across from the fire department at 3274 Brush Street.

(from the editor: Jackie Baker, member of the steering committee to form CCWG, and current board member is the granddaughter of William L. Rose.

** The History of Cottonwood, Now & Then by Dottie Smith, was published in 1994, and since that time Holiday Market sold the building to A to Z Appliances.)*

Ag Waiver Update for Irrigated Farmland Owners and Operators

At this time, Mid May, 2004, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalitions (SCWQC) is on schedule with the deliverables to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regarding the Conditional Ag Waiver. The watershed evaluations for each sub watershed and the monitoring & quality assurance controls have all been submitted to meet the April 1, 2004 deadline. The next deadline calls for monitoring to start by July 1, 2004.

Since many of our streams are ephemeral, and depend upon the irrigation tail water, the monitoring could be limited to the times when water is in the stream, including storm water run off.

The Shasta-Tehama subwatershed steering committee has agreed that the logical way to proceed with this organization is through a (501-c-3) not-for-profit organization and contribute our fair share to the SVWQC to cover the administrative and monitoring costs. We also believe that we should hire someone to coordinate this at a local level and that would have some costs connected to it. The volunteer committee needs to get back to their jobs and earn their paychecks. The Shasta Tehama committee believes that this may be a part time position, but requires someone knowledgeable of the process and who will stand-up for irrigated agriculture.

WIMming About on the Web

Looking for information on a watershed in the area? Check out the newly updated the Watershed Information Model! WIM is available to anybody interested in watershed activities on the World Wide Web through the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District's Website (<http://www.westernshastarc.org>) or directly (<http://wim.shastacollege.edu>). Everybody lives in a watershed whether you're in an apartment downtown or a 20 acre ranch in the foothills, so come explore YOUR watershed.

WIM offers 'one-stop shopping' for visitors seeking watershed related assessments, reports, photos and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data files in an easily searchable Data Catalog. Other key features include extensive interactive maps, detailed watershed pages for 18 area watersheds (including Cottonwood Creek), a 'matrix' (table) of completed and ongoing projects in the area, a monthly newsletter, a glossary of related terms, and the Hydrologic Cycle diagram, all available with the click of a mouse. There is much to explore on the WIM site, made possible by a grant from the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Watershed Program and California Department of Water Resources.

July 15, 2004 @ 6:00 PM is the next date for the Bowman Road Committee to meet at the Evergreen School Gym to discuss the need for road repairs.

What's New with the Firesafe Council

The council has submitted grants to both Tehama and Shasta Resource Advisory Committees (RAC's) for fuel reduction projects. We were notified that we would be receiving some funding from Tehama County; Shasta County will make their decisions in June.

The council is still working on installing a water tank along Quail Ridge Road for fire protection for that subdivision. This has become a very slow process. Many of the landowners that attended their annual home owners meeting assured the CCWG coordinator they would be contacting her for ways they could participate, move the process along and benefit themselves on their fire insurance coverage. Unfortunately, three months later I have not spoken with any of them even after leaving messages with the one telephone number I had. Are you folks still out there?

The council will also be making a donation to the Bowman Road Fire Department to assist in replacing the generator that is needed when they respond to a fire.

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: **June 22:** Clear Creek Restoration/ **July 27:** Fire Prevention/ **August 24:** Strategy Workshop Reports/ **September 28:** Water Quality in ground water and wells/ **October 26:** CA Timber, a dying breed / **November 23:** Turkeys, Pigs and Beaver

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!