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## Watershed Management Plan

The document will be wrapping up soon. Technical memos of the focus areas will soon be delivered to the TAC and the landowners who have expressed interest in the final document. A date of early October will be given to make comments before the final draft is prepared. If you are interested in the final outcome of the watershed management plan for your watershed, please contact the office to obtain a copy of the technical memos.

The water monitoring plan has been approved by the State and the monitoring of some 11 sites will start in September, for one year under this grant. This monitoring will be for water quality, temperature, turbidity, and macro invertebrate.

The draft form of this grant will be coming this fall and workshops will be conducted. This will be the last opportunity for anyone to participate.

Vieva

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## Trespass is a major concern for the property owners on the creek

Summer is nearly over, school about to start, hunting season is on the horizon, and the salmon will soon be making their annual trek up the creek channels.

Have you been to the creek this summer? Do you have plans to have one last picnic and swim? Are you making plans to go hunting along the creek channel?

How are you planning to access the creek? Did you know that the land along the creek is private property, and owned by the landowner who pays taxes on it? Cottonwood creek is a non-navigable stream, and the landowner owns to the center of the channel, making your access to the creek trespass unless you get owner permission.

Landowners along Cottonwood Creek and main tributaries are asking that the public get permission before they enter, that vehicle trespass stop, and that if you do go into the area for a swim or picnic that you take your garbage out with you. Their property taxes do not provide for garbage pickup.

Vieva

## News from the Past

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

### World's First Traction Engine

1886: World's First Traction Engine...was invented by Pleasant Logan in the Logan and wise Foundry building on the south side of Front Street (a wooden marker designates its location). Supposedly Anderson brick makers Holt and Gregg "...wrested away his patent and the machinery" and moved it to Stockton where they manufactured and sold the engines which became well-known throughout the West.

Logan Lake, Logan Butte and Logan Mountain near Lassen Peak were all named for a Logan family member and are the sites of summer pasture for three generations of Logan cattlemen.

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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"*

## Thank You!

CCWG would like to thank Chuck Lema, Sunflower CRMP, Dee Swearingen and Tom Harrington for their donations to our fall raffle. CCWG is a charitable organization to which donations made are tax deductible.

## RAFFLE\*\*\*\*\*

CCWG will be having a raffle in the fall! Raffle tickets will be available at the CCWG office, Westwood Charter School on Main Street, and also from the board members. All donations are greatly appreciated. For more information about raffle tickets and donations please contact CCWG at 347-6637. The pictures below are two of the prizes that have been donated to us for our Fall Raffle.



Long Horn Heifer: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize  
Donated by Chuck Lema  
\$400.00 value



Butcher Lamb: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize  
Donated by Dee Swearingen  
\$125.00 value

See what's on the flip side!

## The Art of Personal Responsibility

Art in everyday terms and experiences might come in the form of pictures, music, architecture, dance or some other creative and very tangible creation. Rarely would the notion of "art" be applied to personal responsibility. As I thought about this topic from the point of view of me as a conglomeration of roles - mom of 4, step-mom of 3, teacher of countless young people over the past 30 years, wife, sister, daughter, friend, pet owner, community member and who knows what else - the concept of art kept rolling into the picture. Why?

The 1996 Merriam-Webster's High School Dictionary defines art in several ways. Interestingly enough, definition #1 was "skill in performance acquired by experience, study, or observation. Definition #2 states "an occupation that requires a natural skill in addition to training and practice". Then definition #3 says "the rules or ideas that a person must know in order to follow a profession or craft". These definitions put into words what many parents, teachers, adults know intuitively, no matter what one's talents or abilities are there is always the needed elements of skill acquisition through observation, instruction, practice, and experience. These are certainly the basic ingredients in a teaching program for people of all ages. We begin this process at birth and continue it to our deaths. The role we each have in this process is fluid and dependent on what our abilities are at a given moment in a given area.

The art of personal responsibility is really just what the words say. It is a "response" to one's "ability" that has been developed through observation, instruction, practice and experience. Obviously, an infant is at the beginning of this journey - who expects an infant to do anything other than cry when in need? That is developmentally appropriate. Infants are really at the true observation point.

What about a toddler? If we were discussing the art of drawing then a toddler would be drawing cute little walking heads that we all proudly hang on the refrigerator. In terms of the art of personal responsibility we might expect and instruct the toddler to pick up stuffed animals, wash hands, and say please and thank you. The toddler would be learning and practicing toddler level skills around family and home. The keen toddler is always observing and copying adults and siblings - like it or not. Toddlers are like parrots. How many parents have been mortified when a toddler repeated something (with no comprehension of the meaning) everyone would rather the child had never heard? Observation is powerful.

As children grow so do their abilities. We expect them to respond to their abilities based on age but age is only part of maturing into a responsible member of society. Of course, observation remains powerful and children are very likely to respond to many situations in the same manner they have observed their adults respond. As children grow older they do not just parrot a few choice words. The older child mimics the observed lifestyle and habits. The older child also imitates parents' responses to laws, authority, school, other people's property, even people. It is easy to forget the power of observation. There is a critical need for constant instruction and re-instruction (this can be tiring), realization that "practice makes perfect" and the value of experience is dictated by previous observations, instruction and practice. Experience without the other three is really just another negative occurrence that is bound to reoccur again and again.

Why is this in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Newsletter? Being on this board has become one more area in my life where I see the incredible importance of everyone practicing

*The Art of Personal Responsibility continued.*

personal responsibility. The stability and health of the watershed in geographical terms is impacted by the way each person behaves and the choices each makes. The watershed is a vital habitat for many native species and plants. It provides critical water for human, animal, fish and plant survival. The watershed also provides tremendous opportunities for recreation, learning, relaxation and the satisfaction of land ownership. It is, in fact, vital to the community's survival and to the quality of living that the collective and the individual experience.

I see everyday that the first and most important practice of personal responsibility must be on the part of parents as those who are the providers of observation material, instructions, and coaches in practicing the lessons and even as guides through their children's experiences. The diligent use of this process will empower our grandchildren to use the process for the benefit of their grandchildren in this same watershed. This is a process that takes place over and over from the child's birth until the child dies and can no longer mentally replay the observations, instructions and experiences the parents provided. Really, when I think of my roles in this life this is an almost terrifying responsibility but then I think of the alternative and that is more terrifying.

Julia Knight

### Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:15 pm**  
**Where: 3233 Brush Street, south of Front St.**  
**Cottonwood, CA 96022**

Meeting dates for 2006

**August 23**

**September 21**

**October 25**

**November and December are cancelled due to holidays.**

**Watch for the newsletter online at our new website at:**  
**[www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org](http://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.

### Ag Waiver Updates:

The regional board met this summer to determine if the irrigated lands program warranted an extension. The program was granted a 5 year extension, with a couple of stipulations. 1) All participants names, addresses, parcels numbers ( APNs) and the number of irrigated acres on those parcels must be provided to the state by 9/30/2006 with updates due every July 31.

2) **December 31, 2006** is the last date for current irrigators to sign up. Anyone not signed up at that time will need to discuss their irrigation with the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento. Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Arnold at 347-6637 for more information or membership forms.