

COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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STAKEHOLDER MEETING LOCATION CHANGED...

CCWG has started holding stakeholder meetings at their office at **3233 Brush Street**. The office is quite large and rated to hold 62 persons. Having the meetings at the office will give us the opportunity to show you the distance we have traveled in the last five years--you will have an opportunity to view the reference materials that are available for your use, and reports that have been completed.

Watershed Management Strategy (WMS)

The final version of the Watershed Management Strategy is being edited and will be ready for you by the end of November. If you are interested in a copy, please email or telephone a request, or you may pick up a copy at the office.

Watershed Management Plan: (WMP)

The work has started on this plan, and for those of you who wish to participate, please pick up a copy of the **WMS** as this will be the basis for the **WMP**, then **contact the office to be included in this effort and provide your input**. This document will develop a watershed management plan that outlines a vision for the watershed including conceptual strategies for environmental management, long-term monitoring and education. This will be accomplished by a series of plan development workshops that cover the topics listed in the WMS.

“Funding for these project’s has been provided full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to Proposition 50 and CALFED and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.”

FIRE GRANTS information

The two grants selected for funding by BLM have increased amounts to 98% of the original requests. These are the Bowman Road Biomass, and R Wild Horse Ranch. The work will start sometime in the FY2006 which begins October 1, 2005.

CCWG has just completed three Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants. Two of the three included a request for water tanks for placement in both Shasta and Tehama county sites to assist in fire suppression. The third request was for hiring staff to fill the much needed position of Coordinator for the Cottonwood Fire Safe Council. Decisions on funding should be forthcoming by December.

CCWG did submit an application for emergency funding to replant a portion of the 2,000 acres burned in the R Wild Horse Ranch property. The pre-proposal was approved and were asked to submit a full grant by 10-14-2005.

For additional information on fire-wise landscaping and making your home Firesafe, log onto www.firewise.org and www.firesafecouncil.org.

For the Shasta County residents:

Your support is needed to assist in obtaining funds to help with fire suppression projects, fuel breaks, etc. Encourage your Shasta County RAC to support efforts in the Cottonwood Creek watershed; letters of support from landowners which can be sent along with the grants is essential. Please call the office at 347-6637 for additional information. For additional information on the RAC funding, check out

http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/r4/payments_to_states.nsf/RAC/Shasta+County?OpenDocument

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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

CHANGES AT CCWG

Lon Currey has taken on the role of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and we thank him for that. Lon and his wife Roselyn operate a care giving business, so Lon has a good deal of experience in business and the finances needed to make a business successful.

Jan Lopez has accepted a position on the board. Jan lives in the upper watershed, is employed by the National Park Service as a fire planner and is active on the Igo/Ono Volunteer fire department.

It is a pleasure having them both on the board of directors.

Gideon Alston accepted a position as Education Coordinator, working on the KIDS program. Gideon has been working with the Sacramento River Discovery Center in their student environmental education program. He has been reaching out to the charter and home school students in the watershed. He and wife, Naseem (a fishery biologist with U S Fish & Wildlife Service) are proud parents of twin boys born 9-13-2005. Congratulations to you both!

MEETING DATE CHANGE - Due to conflicts, the BOD has changed the day of the board meeting to the second Wednesday of each month. The Stakeholders meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting in January 25, 2006 which is the date of the Annual Meeting. The Stakeholder meetings will be held at the CCWG office, located at 3233 Brush Street off Front Street at 6:15 PM.

IRRIGATED LANDS WAIVER IN SHASTA AND TEHAMA COUNTIES

Billings for the 2005/2006 year should be in the mail by the end of November. The **new** rate set by the BOD is \$1.50 per acre with a minimum of \$18.75 for acres under 12.50. Julia Arnold has been doing the paperwork for the Coalition and will be happy to answer your questions.

You can reach Julia at 347-6637 or contact any of the board members as listed:

- Bill Borrer, Chairman - 384-2788
- Robert Harris, Vice Chairman - 472-1436
- Brendon Flynn, Treasurer - 385-1475
- Vieva Swearingen, Secretary 347-1923
- Dave Marin, Board Member 384-1170

See what’s on the flip side!

NEWS FROM THE PAST

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

Trivia

1880: John Leschinsky would shear 100 sheep a day. His wages were 10 cents a head.

Land alongside Cottonwood Creek was selling for between \$5 and \$25 an acre, depending on location and improvements. Only the modestly wealthy could afford to buy at these prices.

1883: George Butterway purchased the land located between what is now First Street and Fourth Street and commenced selling lots. This area became known as the Butterway Addition.

1889: Unimproved Cottonwood land now sells for between \$4 and \$10 an acre while improved land sells for between \$10 and \$30 an acre.

1890: Cottonwood is now described as being a wide open and busy place with three hotels, four big stores, many livery stables, and saloons at "every other door"!

1892: The population of Cottonwood is approximately 400.

1900: Cottonwood possessed 64 dwelling houses at the turn of the century.

Fences began springing up everywhere and open ranges were becoming a thing of the past.

1905: A real estate ad in the October 21 issue of the Cottonwood Enterprise newspaper: *One 20 acre highly improved place. 10 acres in alfalfa, some fruit, 10 acres good grain land, good little house, 1 mile out. Price \$1500.*

1906: A Cottonwood Enterprise newspaper real estate ad on May 5: *One ranch of 120 acres, plenty of fruit for family use, 20 acres bottom grain land, 40 acres grain land higher up, balance good pasture, good well, common house, 2 miles out for \$2000.*

This history lesson brings us to the land values today and the massive development ongoing in the watershed

Red Legged Frog Inventory

CCWG will move forward to the next level on the grant request to conduct surveys for California Red legged frogs. Our request needs to be submitted by mid November with a funding decision before the end of the year. If the project is funded, we will contract with Gary Fellers to do the actual work. Dr. Fellers is with USGS located at Point Reyes and has vast experience in the realm of inventorying the California Red Legged Frog.

GATES AT FARQUHAR

We are waiting a response from the Tehama County Public Works Department, and will start the project when that arrives. This will **REQUIRE** support from the property owners, both in kind and in cash donations. I will keep you posted.

We are also getting requests to consider other sites, for example off Draper road where there has become a great deal of traffic in the creek.

Roots and Shoots

This is a request for watershed folks to look for plants specifically native to the Cottonwood Creek Watershed.

Roots & Shoots would like to start a fire restoration nursery and are most interested in native bunch grass, any gray pine cones that still have seeds in them, or uncommon native plants that may have survived grazing pressure (e.g. on steep slopes).

Any information you have or if you would like to work on this project, call Karen at 347-1687.

***** GRANT OPPORTUNITES FOR LANDOWNERS

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has two programs they are accepting proposals for. The first one is the EQUIP program Landowners are encouraged to bring in proof of ownership and a map along with their contact information. Landowners involved in dry-land, irrigated crop land, rangeland, irrigated pasture, vineyards and non-industrial timberland are all eligible land uses.

The second opportunity is for landowners who desire planning assistance on the property they own or manage.

Signup is from October 1 to November 15.

Call your Natural Resources Conservation Service in Redding 226-2577 or in Red Bluff 527-3013, extension 3.

Noxious weeds: If you have areas of Arundo or Tamarisk, please contact the office to get you name on a list of areas where these noxious weeds are known to exist. CCWG will then submit a grant request for eradication.

This is fast becoming a major problem in the watershed and needs attention quickly to get it under control.

Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:
When: 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm
Where: **NEW! 3233 Brush Street, south of Front St.**

Cottonwood, CA 96022

Upcoming meeting dates:

October 25- NRCS regarding EQUIP and other possible grants

November 22 –Dave DuBose

December –Merry Christmas

Watch for the newsletter online at our new website at:

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.