

The Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory



**Planning and Conservation League
Foundation 2009**

Table of Contents

Introduction:

Purpose

How to Use This Directory

About the Authors

Acknowledgements

Organizations Alphabetically Listed

Counties:

County Location.....Other Active Counties

Alpine County

Alpine Watershed Group

Friends of Hope Valley

Amador County

Foothill ConservancyCalaveras

Butte County

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

Butte Environmental CouncilGlenn, Tehema

California Native Plant Society – Mount Lassen ChapterPlumas

Calaveras County

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch

Friends of the Lower Calaveras River (FLCR)

Mountain Alliance

El Dorado County

American River Conservancy.....Amador, Placer

Foothills Water Network.....Nevada, Placer

League to Save Lake Tahoe – Keep Lake Tahoe Blue.....Placer, Douglas NV, Washoe NV

Sugar Pine Foundation.....Placer, Douglas NV, Washoe NV

Tahoe – Baikal Institute.....Lake Baikal in Russia, State of Nevada

Fresno County

Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment.....Tulare, Kern, Fresno

Revive the San Joaquin.....San Joaquin Valley, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tulare

RiverTree Volunteers

San Joaquin River Parkway Conservation Trust – River Parkway Trust.....Madera

Sierra and Foothill Citizen’s Alliance

Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter..... Madera

Sierra Foothill Conservancy.....Madera, Mariposa

Inyo County

California Native Plant Society – Bristlecone Chapter.....Kern, Mono

Eastern Sierra Land Trust.....Alpine, Mono

Friends of the Inyo.....Mono

Owens Valley Committee

Save Round Valley Alliance Advocates for Smart Growth

Kern County

Antelope Valley Conservancy

Sierra Club – Kern/Kaweah Chapter

Sequoia Forestkeepers.....Tulare

Lassen County

Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Mountain Meadows Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project.....Tehama, Shasta

Madera County

Central Sierra Watershed Committee.....Fresno, Mariposa

Chowchilla/Fresno River Watershed Council.....Fresno, Mariposa

Oakhurst River Parkway.....Fresno

Mariposa County

The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition.....Merced

Modoc County

Central Modoc River Center (The River Center).....Shasta, Lassen

Mono County

Advocates for Mammoth

Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers.....Inyo, Alpine

Mono County Watershed Group

Mono Lake Committee

The State of Nevada

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition...Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Washoe (NV), Douglas (NV)

Nevada County

Friends of Spenceville.....Yuba

Forest Issues Group.....Placer, Yuba

Local Food Coalition

Nevada County Grown

Nevada County Land Trust

Sierra Business Council
 Sierra Club – Motherlode Chapter (Sierra Nevada)Yuba
 Sierra Foothills Audubon Society.....Placer
 Sierra Fund
 Snowlands Network.....Sierra-wide
 South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL).....Yuba, Sierra

Placer County

Clover Valley Foundation.....Sacramento
 Dry Creek Conservancy.....Sacramento, Sutter
 Friends of Squaw Creek
 North Fork American River Alliance (NFARA)
 North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance.....Nevada
 Placer Land Trust and Nature Center
 Sierra Club Placer Group

Plumas County

California Native Plant Society – Mount Lassen Chapter.....Butte
 Feather River Land Trust.....Sierra

Shasta County

Battle Creek Alliance.....All Sierra Counties
 French Gulch Upper Clear Creek Resource Management Group
 The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project.....Tehama
 Shasta Land Trust.....Tehama

Sierra County

High Sierra Permaculture Institute.....Sierra-wide
 High Sierra Rural Alliance.....Plumas

Tehama County

Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy.....Shasta
 Butte Environmental Council.....Butte, Glenn
 Citizens for a Healthy Community
 Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy
 The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project.....Shasta

Tulare County

Tule River Parkway Association
 Sequoia Natural History Association.....Kern, Fresno, Kings
 Sequoia Riverlands Trust.....Kern
 River Ridge Ranch
 Sierra Club – Mineral King Group
 Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter.....Fresno, Madera
 Tulare County Audubon Society

WildPlaces

Tuolumne County

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC).....Calaveras
Restore Hetch Hetchy
Tuolumne River Trust

Yuba County

Middle Mountain Foundation.....Sutter, Colusa, Butte

Statewide

California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Plant Society
California Watershed Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
The Pacific Forest Trust

Organizations: (alphabetically listed)

Antelope Valley Conservancy
Advocates for Mammoth
Alpine Watershed Group
American River Conservancy
Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers
Battle Creek Alliance
Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy
Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
Butte Environmental Council
California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Plant Society – Bristlecone Chapter
California Native Plant Society – Mount Lassen Chapter
California Watershed Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment
Central Modoc River Center (The River Center)
Central Sierra Watershed Committee
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC)
Chowchilla/Fresno River Watershed Council
Citizens for a Healthy Community
Clover Valley Foundation
Deer Creek Water Shed Conservancy
Dry Creek Conservancy
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch

Feather River Land Trust
Foothill Conservancy
Foothills Water Network
Forest Issues Group
French Gulch Upper Clear Creek Resource Management Group
Friends of Hope Valley
Friends of the Lower Calaveras River (FLCR)
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of Spenceville
Friends of Squaw Creek
High Sierra Permaculture Institute
High Sierra Rural Alliance
Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition
Lassen Land and Trails Trust
League to Save Lake Tahoe – Keep Lake Tahoe Blue
Local Food Coalition
Middle Mountain Foundation
Mono County Watershed Group
Mono Lake Committee
Mountain Meadows Conservancy
Mountain Alliance
Nevada County Grown
Nevada County Land Trust
North Fork American River Alliance
North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance
Oakhurst River Parkway
Owens Valley Committee
The Pacific Forest Trust
Placer Land Trust and Nature Center
Restore Hetch Hetchy
Revive the San Joaquin
River Ridge Ranch
RiverTree Volunteers
San Joaquin River Parkway Conservation Trust – River Parkway Trust
Save Round Valley Alliance Advocates for Smart Growth
Sequoia Forestkeeper
Sequoia Natural History Association
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Shasta Land Trust
Sierra and Foothill Citizen's Alliance
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Club – Kern/Kaweah Chapter
Sierra Club Placer Group
Sierra Club Mineral King Group
Sierra Club – Motherlode Chapter (Sierra Nevada)
Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Sierra Fund
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Snowlands Network
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
Sugar Pine Foundation
Tahoe – Baikal Institute
The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project
The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition
Tulare County Audubon Society
Tule River Parkway Association
Tuolumne River Trust
Wildplaces

Introduction

PURPOSE:

The *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory* is an informational resource intended for residents and organizations who wish to become involved in the protection and preservation of the Sierra. The document explores issues prevalent in each of the 23 California and Nevada counties found in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

The *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory* is meant to be an inspirational guide for individuals concerned about particular environmental issues in their community, county, or region, and hopes to provide information useful in combating these issues.

The Planning and Conservation League invites you, the public, to contribute or amend listed information in the document as you see fit. The Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory is not only a testament to the resiliency of the natural world; it is also a work in progress.

HOW TO USE THIS DIRECTORY:

The *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory* is organized alphabetically by county and provides information for each Sierra Nevada county about environmental non-profit organizations, government agencies, and bodies with administrative or policy-making duties in the region.

For each county, we include:

- basic county statistics
- a story about the environmental accomplishments of local environmental organizations and concerned residents
- a list of environmental issues particular to the county
- a list of local environmental grassroots organizations active in the county, including their particular focus and contact information
- a list of public agencies and officials

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Founded in 1972, the Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) is a statewide environmental non-profit organization focused on engaging in cutting-edge state-level

environmental public policy, empowering local communities to participate in local and state environmental decision-making processes, and protecting California's unique environment. Ultimately, the Planning and Conservation League Foundation's mission is to ensure that California continues to be an attractive, livable, and equitable state.

Affiliated with the PCLF, The Planning and Conservation League (PCL), is a statewide alliance of individuals and conservation organizations that have fought for over thirty years to develop an exemplary body of California environmental law. Each year the PCL lobbies on key environmental issues in the California State Legislature and works with state agencies whose work affects the environment. Virtually every environmental bill that comes before the California Legislature is reviewed by PCL staff. Furthermore, PCL staff members have testified in support of or in opposition to thousands of bills, working to strengthen California's environmental laws and fight off rollbacks of environmental protections.

The *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory* is the culmination of a joint effort by PCL Foundation staff, including: Jason Avina, Justin Saydell, Audrey Tucker, Barbara Byrne, René Guerrero, Melanie Schlotterbeck, and Traci Sheehan. PCL would also like to thank those groups which made the conservation stories possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Special thanks to the Sierra Nevada Alliance for their continued help and support, and to all the wonderful grassroots organizations and the individuals who have contributed their valuable time not only to the compilation of the *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory*, but to their continued efforts towards the betterment of the environment.

ALPINE COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 743 sq. miles

Population: 1,208 (2000 U.S. Census)

Sub-Region: Eastern Sierra

Official Website: <http://www.alpinecountyca.gov/departments>

CONSERVATION STORY

Friends of Hope Valley Help Restore Markleeville Floodplain

On May 16th, 2005 the United States Forest Service guard station in Markleeville, California flooded. While some residents of the small town might have been surprised, it was nothing new for Markleeville creek.

Built on the floodplain of Markleeville Creek, the guard station has historically flooded on numerous occasions. To combat this, an attempt was made in the 1930's to protect the property from flooding when two floodwalls were built to confine the stream. However, these floodwalls had an adverse effect, and instead led to periodic dramatic increases in stream flow and overflow.

Since then the creek has continued to flood. In 1997, flood waters eroded a downstream bank supporting Markleeville's primary sewer and damaged the water supply-line for the Markleeville campground. More recent 2005 flooding resulted in damage to USFS property and threatened an above-ground storage tank.

An official assessment of the flood's causes and effects was carried out by the US Forest Service, as well as the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG). The AWG is a non-profit coalition organization that aims to bring together government officials, small business owners, landowners, ranchers, recreation interests, and volunteer residents to manage the health of the watershed.

The volunteer residents in this case were a local citizen conservation organization called The Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV). The FOHV is a community group dedicated to giving a voice to Alpine County citizens concerned with issues such as global warming, endangered species, and development.

In 2005, FOHV provided key analysis of environmental issues that were central to the future of their watershed's health by sitting on the Technical Advisory Committee of the restoration project and submitted comments on how they best thought the project should proceed.

The final assessment ultimately called for the guard station to be re-located, the original stream bed ecosystems to be restored, and declared that the floodwalls built in the 1930's were not only obsolete, but were now exacerbating the effects of floods.

Many positive outcomes have resulted from FOHV's efforts.

Firstly, restoration efforts have benefited both water supply and watershed health, improving water quality and the vegetative uptake of the floodplain and filtration by the sediments of the riverbank.

Secondly, the US Forest Service station's relocation to Turtle Rock County Park, funded by the California Department of Water Resources through the Urban Stream Restoration Program, is scheduled to take place in 2009. It will be several years before the old location is cleaned up.

Lastly, a number of activities have been created to include the local community in the preservation of Markleeville Creek. The Alpine Watershed Group holds a yearly "Markleeville Creek Day," featuring relatively easy restoration activities where attendees are invited to help with the annual macro-invertebrate count, set up the event, to learn about river ecosystems and how they interact with riparian and wetland areas, or to simply bring their children to play in the creek.

Chris Katopothis, a coordinator for the Alpine County Watershed Group said “We really encourage residents to get involved and volunteer with us. Families end up really enjoying coming out and doing volunteer water-quality monitoring. Its easy and everyone learns about the watershed.”

The FOHV website notes that their group is “dedicated to the preservation of Hope Valley’s wild and pristine beauty.”

The FOHV frequently comments on Environmental Impact Reports, which is a key stage in any development project in California. They also hold yearly events as well, including a yearly Bluegrass Concert, where they hope to raise more money for restoration and other efforts. In 2007, the FOHV gave AWG an unrestricted \$2,300 grant to continue watershed restoration projects that encourage the community, stakeholders, and agencies to work together.

The contact information for both the Alpine Watershed Group and The Friends of Hope Valley are included in this section of the *Sierra Nevada Grassroots Directory*.

ORGANIZATIONS

Alpine Watershed Group

Contact Name: Chris Katopothis

Address: P.O. Box 296, Markleeville, CA 96120

Phone: 530-694-2327

Email: watershed@alpinecountyca.com

Website URL: www.alpinecountyca.gov/other_organizations/alpine_watershed_group

County of Activity: Alpine

Issue Focus: botanical, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed, city officials, county officials, private interests

Public Events: Alpine Creek Day; Monitor Training events; Monthly Group meetings

Volunteer Opportunities: Water Quality Monitoring; Stream and upslope restorations; event organization

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Alpine Watershed Group works to preserve and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County’s watersheds for future generations. The group works by inspiring participation to collaborate, educate, and proactively implement projects that benefit and steward the County’s watersheds.

Friends of Hope Valley

Contact Name: Debbie Waldear
Address: PO Box 431, Markleeville, CA 9610
Phone: (530) 694-1701
Email: dwaldear@gbis.com
Website URL: www.hopevalleyca.com

County of Activity: Alpine
Issue Focus: all
Group Type: volunteer

Public Events: Hope Valley Work Day, the Tour of the California Alps (“The Death Ride”), the Back Forty at Sorenson’s, Alpine Creek Days
Volunteer Opportunities: restoration, cleanup events, and opportunities to speak out about environmental issues in eastern Alpine County
Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Friends of Hope Valley is a non-profit organization whose members share a deep affection for the unspoiled beauty of the Sierra’s eastern slope of Alpine County. Formed in 1985 in response to a proposal to run power transmission lines through Hope Valley, the Friends have been successful in their ongoing protection efforts including preserving over 25,000 acres of open space in Hope Valley and eastern Alpine County.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Alpine County Board of Supervisors

Address: 99 Water Street P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120
Phone: 530-694-2281
Fax: 530-694-2491
Website: http://www.alpinecountyca.gov/departments/board_of_supervisors

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 4th District

Counties Represented: Placer, El Dorado, Alpine
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a4/index.aspx>

AMADOR COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 605 sq. miles

Population: 38, 471 (2000 U.S. Census)

Sub-Region: Central Sierra

Official Website: <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/>

CONSERVATION STORY

Amador Fire Safe Council Conserves the Upcountry

By Cathy Koos Breazeal, Executive Director

The prehistoric forest lands of the Sierra looked completely different than the brush-clogged region of the present. The prehistoric native peoples of present-day California managed undergrowth in the forests by annually burning undergrowth. These controlled fires, combined with lightning strike fires, helped create a forest that for 10,000 years was open, diverse, and environmentally sound.

In the mid-1800's California was flooded with miners who, it was said, could ride their horses from one end of the Sierra to the other without ducking or getting knocked off by thick forest brush. But these European settlers quickly erased the 10,000 year history of healthy forest care enacted by the indigenous peoples. In the last 140 years, programs of fire suppression and created a brush-choked environment ripe for catastrophic wildfires.

In 2001, the Amador Fire Safe Council was created in response to the brush growth in the wildland/urban interface (WUI). The WUI is the location where trees meet the people. Because of the population density, annual burning as the indigenous people conducted is now out of the question, and the brush remains an ever-present danger to foothill and mountain residents. Ultimately, the Amador Fire Safe Council's hope is to "protect the people of Amador County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation, innovation and action."

From 2002 to 2005, the Amador Fire Safe Council created shaded fuel breaks on about 400 acres in various portions of the Upcountry, closely recreating the open park-like forests that were present prior to 1849. Using the County Wildfire Protection Plan as the guiding document and various state and federally funded grants, the AFSC has built numerous shaded fuel breaks encircling the rural subdivisions. In 2006, close to 200 acres on private properties were treated, and in 2007 nearly 340 acres were treated. As of 2008, the Amador Fire Safe Council has completed shaded fuel breaks on approximately 160 acres in Pine Grove and Pioneer. All of these shaded fuel breaks are created using rubber-tracked masticators as opposed to tractor pile and burning. Through mastication, small shredded material is returned to the ground, providing soil protection and preventing erosion. The added benefit of mastication is that, unlike burning, mastication leads to cleaner air quality.

The Amador Fire Safe Council considers watershed protection and wildfire prevention in every shaded fuel break project. CEQA and NEPA documents are researched and written, protecting archaeologically and environmentally sensitive areas. The Amador Fire Safe Council annually applies for state and federal grants through partner agencies such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service and CalFire.

To learn more about the Amador Fire Safe Council's projects and volunteer opportunities, visit <http://www.amadorfiresafe.org/>.

ORGANIZATIONS

Foothill Conservancy

Contact: Chris Wright

Address: PO Box 1255, Pine Grove, CA 95665

Phone: 209.296.5734

Email: fhc@foothillconservancy.org
Website: www.foothillconservancy.org

Counties of Activity: Amador, Calaveras
Issue Focus: all
Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Description: The Foothill Conservancy formed in 1989 with the goal of protecting and enhancing the rural surroundings and quality of life in Amador and Calaveras Counties. The Conservancy supports land use planning that emphasizes environmental health, community, and a respect for the natural aesthetics of the region. Issues of interest include growth management, watershed restoration, social and economic diversity, public transportation, coordination of local land use planning, conservation of agricultural lands, forest lands, and open space, and habitat protection. The group actively participates in local decision-making processes.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Amador County Board of Supervisors:

Address: 810 Court St
Jackson, CA 95642
Phone: (209) 223-6470
FAX: (209) 257-0619
Business Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm
Website: <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/depts/bos/>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 10th District:

Counties Represented: Amador
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a10/index.aspx>

BUTTE COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 4,344 sq. km (1,677 sq. mi)

Population: 215,881 (2006 U.S. Census)

Sub-Region: Northern Sierra Nevada

Official Website: www.buttecounty.net

CONSERVATION STORY

Volunteers with Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance Defend Against Invasive Weeds

In November of 2006, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance discovered that their watershed was being taken over by a merciless and restless invader – the Spanish Broom weed.

Spanish Broom is what is called an “invasive species.” These species overrun the natural ecosystems of other species and take over, potentially strangling native plants or animals.

Removing these “invasive species” is often necessary when restoring an ecosystem to its natural state.

Disruptions in an ecosystem can directly affect the community they surround. The Spanish Broom, for example, dries quickly. Because of its flammable nature, areas densely populated by Spanish Broom are at great risk of fire.

That particularly worried Butte County resident Dulcy Schroeder. “I used to drive 20 miles to see Spanish Broom. It’s a beautiful plant, but then I realized what it was doing to my neighborhood,” says Schroeder.

She also noticed that nothing was being done about it by state agencies or elected officials. In retaliation, Schroeder and two others decided to join together to protect their homes and the natural environment. To do this they sought the help of a community-based conservation group, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (BCCWA).

The BCCWA is a volunteer non-profit organization. They organize and sponsor wetlands restoration project, river monitoring programs, efforts to restore salmonidae populations on Big Chico Creek, and monitor groundwater sustainability in Butte County.

The BCCWA “gave us everything we needed,” said Schroeder. “They told us the information we need to know about the species, what we can do, and how to get money for it.”

Through the BCCWA, Schroeder organized the Broom Education and Eradication Program, also known as BEEP. Like many community efforts, BEEP originally had no source of funding, so the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance provided the umbrella of a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) status.

By March 2007, BEEP had a public outreach effort underway. Schroeder and what had now become a core of eight people had arranged for articles to be published in the local newspapers, were giving talks at local schools, and were holding public meetings with dozens of people about the threat Spanish Broom posed to their community.

As the effort progressed, other people pitched in, donating weed pulling equipment, gloves, and even free food and drinks during events.

By August of 2007, the Broom Education and Eradication Program had pulled over 50,000 Broom plants from Forest Ranch and the surrounding area. By late summer of 2007, the weather had become too hot for the group to continue. However, they rested in the knowledge that they had made their community safer from fire and removed an invasive species.

The next community effort, Schroeder said, is going to be replanting of native species.

The BEEP encourages more families to volunteer with community groups such as the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. “I don’t know why it is that us old people are the ones that want to do this,” Shroeder pondered aloud. “Teaching kids about the environment is critical. They’re so sharp they get it. They take it home and teach it to their parents.”

Residents interested in the work of the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance or any future Broom Education and Eradication Program activities, please contact them via their group information listed in this directory or visit their website at <http://www.bigchicocreek.org/>.

ORGANIZATIONS

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

Contact Name: Susan Mason - Watershed Coordinator

Address: P.O. Box 461, Chico, CA 95927

Phone: (530) 894-1308

Email: coordinator@bigchicocreek.org

Website URL: www.bigchicocreek.org

County of Activity: Butte

Issue Focus: botanical, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: bi-monthly public meeting presentations, storm drain stenciling, and restoration site tours

Volunteer Opportunities: stream monitoring, watershed restoration projects, invasive plant removal

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The mission of the Big Chico Creek Watershed alliance is to protect and enhance the ecological integrity and economic vitality of the Big Chico Creek watershed through cooperative efforts. In partnership with landowners, interested citizens, government agencies and private enterprise, we work to foster education, understanding sustainable land management, and ecosystem and water quality restoration and conservation.

Current activities include sponsoring a citizen water quality monitoring program, a wetlands restoration project, a creek bank stabilization project, preparation of grant applications for funding to restore a fish ladder for Big Chico Creek’s salmonidae populations, participation in the county’s groundwater programs, cooperative efforts for removal of invasive plants in the watershed, and joint projects with the Butte County Resource Conservation District.

Butte Environmental Council

Contact Name: Barbara Vlamis
Address: 116 W. Second Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928
Phone: 530.891.6424
Email: barbarav@becnet.org
Website URL: www.becnet.org

Counties of Activity: Butte, Glenn, Tehama
Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, global warming, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat
Group Type: advocacy, litigation, restoration, coalition, outreach

Public Events: Annual Endangered Species Faire (www.endangeredspeciesfaire.org); Annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Clean Up

Volunteer Opportunities: Events coordination and participation, advocacy (letter writing, monitoring local issues and agencies, public hearings participation), photography, newsletter (article writing, proof-reading, advertising sales, mailing assistance), fundraising (including events), in-office assistance.

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: For 31 years the Butte Environmental Council has been a leading voice for protecting the environment, public health, and health of all species in the northern Sacramento valley and foothills. BEC's mission is to protect the Sacramento Valley Foothills Ecoregion and our quality of life. We do this through the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the land, air, and water.

BEC assists an average of 500 area resident each month with calls involving land use regulations and law, toxic threats, habitat destruction, and solid waste referrals. A small, dedicated staff and large cadre of volunteers implement our programs.

Some major current efforts include stopping the export of the northern Sacramento Valley's and foothill's ground water; protecting vanishing vernal pool habitat throughout California; and educating the community about toxics in our air, water, and soil through our Chico Urban Streams Alliance program and our toxics outreach and education program.

California Native Plant Society – Mount Lassen Chapter

Contact Name: Woody Elliot
Address: P. O. BOX 3212, Chico, CA 95927
Phone: (530) 342-6053
Email: cnps@cnps.org
Website URL: www.cnps.org

County/Counties: Butte, Plumas

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat
Group Type: monitoring, restoration, education
Composition: coalition, volunteer

Public Events: Gardening activities, book and poster sales, nature walks, hikes field trips, as well as various publications are all provided to the public

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist at local garden shows, plant tours, hikes, volunteer at local parks with weeding, planting, designing educational material, working on policy issues by volunteering in the Sacramento office

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.

Originally formed in 1965 in the east bay region, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters and statewide programs, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to everyone. Our members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, plant uses, land use, horticulture and gardening, and a love of California's natural setting.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Butte County Board of Supervisors:

Board of Supervisors

25 County Center Drive

Oroville, CA 95965

Website: http://www.buttecounty.net/cob/district_info.htm

Senate Representative – 4th District:

Counties Represented: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba counties

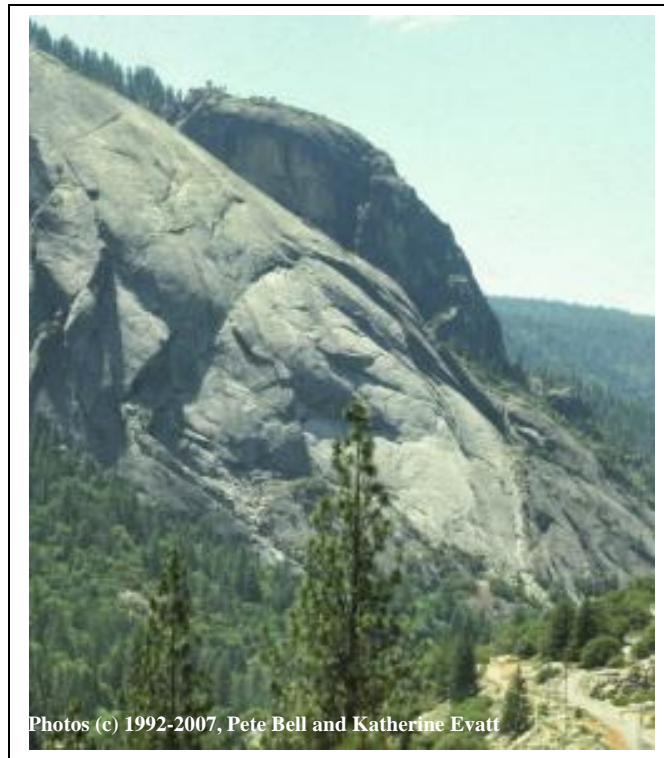
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

CALAVERAS COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 1,037 sq. miles (2,686 sq. kilometers)

Population: 40,554 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: Central Sierra Nevada

Official Website: www.co.calaveras.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Organizes to Stop Clear-cutting

Calaveras Big Trees State Park in Calaveras County is named after its ancient Giant Sequoia trees. Giant Sequoias are the prized behemoths of the tree world, growing up to 280 feet tall and 24 feet in diameter. These trees stand for centuries; the oldest Giant Sequoia on record is 3,500 years old (1). Perhaps due to their unmatched age, size, and regal stature, many visitors to the park describe having a religious experience while there. Some even refer to the park as a “cathedral.”

So in 2000 when Calaveras residents learned that the logging company Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) planned to clear-cut about 880 acres near Calaveras Big Trees State Park, they had to let other citizens know. After several community meetings, they formed Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch (EPFW) to take up the fight against clear-cutting. Clear-cutting, or “even-aged management”, is a logging technique where all trees in one area are cut down at the same time regardless of size or age.

Clear-cutting is one of the most profitable methods of logging for timber companies largely because it is much less labor intensive than the traditional method of lumbering, selective harvesting, which only takes out some trees at a time.

However, for the diverse forests in the Sierra, the negative impacts of clear-cutting are devastating. Clear-cutting destroys forest diversity and habitat. Wildlife corridors are fragmented by the checkerboard of tree plantations across the landscape created after clear-cutting. It threatens the Sierra's majestic beauty, which is important to the Sierra's economy. Watersheds are endangered by runoff and silting.

The even-aged plantations that result from clear-cutting increase fire danger by increasing the risk of crown fire and young trees being more susceptible to fire. Clear-cutting also contributes to climate change by producing more CO₂ emissions than other logging methods.

Documents filed with California Department of Forestry state that SPI, the largest private landowner in the state, intends to clear-cut over one million of its 1.6 million acres in the state. In response to SPI's proposed logging plans, EPFW joined with the group Forest Ethics in the "Save the Sierra" Campaign. The campaign's goals are to get SPI to stop clear-cutting, to identify and protect endangered forests in the region, and to get Forest Stewardship Council certification, seen by conservationists as the only credible standard for logging.

The "Save the Sierra" campaign is also educating consumers on making smart and environmentally friendly choices. The campaign's website (www.savethesierra.org) includes a map of lumber yards and businesses across the United States that are supplied by SPI, so that consumers can avoid these stores and bring pressure on SPI to change its timber practices.

The Forest Stewardship Council provides locations of FSC-certified lumber facilities at their website at: <http://www.fscus.org/>.

EPFW's website is <http://www.epfw.org> .

(1). Flint, W. D. (2002). *To Find The Biggest Tree*. Sequoia Natural History Association, Inc.)

ORGANIZATIONS

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch

Contact Name: John Trinkl, President

Address: P.O. Box 2862, Arnold CA 95223

Phone: 209-795-8260; 415-826-4616

Email: info@epfw.org; jtrinkl@igc.org

Website URL: <http://www.epfw.org>

County/Counties: Calaveras

Issue Focus: botanical, forest, global warming, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer

Public Events: guided tours; educational forums and presentations; annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival; annual Valentine's Concert

Volunteer Opportunities: water monitoring, office help, tabling, cleanup events

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The mission of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch is to protect, promote, and restore healthy forests and watersheds to maintain the quality of life in the Sierra Nevada. We have a number of educational programs about sustainable forestry practices as well as the damaging affects of irresponsible practices. Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch organized to oppose SPI's forest harvest practice of clear-cutting.

EPFW conducts ground and aerial tours of clearcuts and plantations for media, legislative staff assistants, county board of supervisor candidates and other interested people. We conduct educational forums for supervisor candidates, religious organizations, homeowners associations, community groups, and other environmental organizations and sponsor speaking engagements. EPFW routinely does aerial missions to photo-document clearcuts and plantations in the Central Sierra, maintains a GIS mapping database, and comments on Timber Harvest Plans. We regularly attend Board of Forestry meetings to keep current on timber management practices and to provide public comments; and we inform and educate legislators in Sacramento about forestry issues. We actively work on the "Save the Sierra Campaign" with the conservation group Forest Ethics. EPFW is also involved with citizen action groups in our county directed toward empowerment to maintain and improve quality of life issues, including the environment.

Friends of the Lower Calaveras River (FLCR)

Contact Name: Jeremy Terhune

Address: 4555 Pershing Avenue #33-373 Stockton, CA 95207

Phone: (209) 922-8215

Email: www.defenders.org

Website: www.flcr.savestockton.org

Blog: www.riverofskulls.wordpress.org

County: San Joaquin County; Calaveras County

Issue Focus: Support for the Calaveras River Barrier Removal Project; NOAA HCP for the Calaveras River; Water Quality; Restoration; Education/ Outreach

Volunteer Opportunities: River Clean-up Events

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Proposed “Calaveras River Appreciation Day”

Description: The Friends of the Lower Calaveras River is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the sustainable management of the resources and the conditions in the watershed of the Lower Calaveras River. Our objective is to increase public awareness and education about the river.

Mountain Alliance

Contact: Bob Kelso

Address: Mountain Alliance P.O. Box 762, Arnold, CA 95223

Phone: 925-283-7980

Email: avery1317@yahoo.com

County of Activity: Calaveras

Issue Focus: air quality, land use, transportation, water quality, watershed health, wildlife, botanical

Group Type: volunteer

Volunteer Opportunities: Working with the USFS on off-highway vehicle issues

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Mountain Alliance is a community based organization dedicated to the preservation of our mountain environment and rural way of life. We focus our efforts in Calaveras County, focusing on the Highway 4 corridor. Some of our projects have included fighting to keep more dams off the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, working for proper environmental review on building projects in our area, and lately our focus has been on working with the USFS, off road vehicle organizations, and interested community members to develop a plan to manage off road vehicle use on public lands.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: 891 Mountain Ranch Road

San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

Phone: (209)-754-6370

FAX: (209)-754-6733

Website: http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/board_of_supervisors.asp

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 25th District

Counties Represented: Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Mono

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a25/index.aspx>

EL DORADO COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 1,788 sq. miles

Population: 156,299 (2000 U.S. Census)

Sub-Region: Northern/Central Sierra

Official Website: <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/>

CONSERVATION STORY

Sierra Nevada Alliance – Wildfire and Sprawl Report

On June 24th, 2007, the Angora fire raged through South Lake Tahoe, burning 3,100 acres and 250 houses.

Though devastating, the fire did not come as a complete shock. A full two years before the Angora fire, the Sierra Nevada Alliance had begun work on a report entitled “Dangerous Development: Wildfire and Rural Sprawl in the Sierra Nevada.”

The Sierra Nevada Alliance is a network of over 100 Sierra Nevada conservation groups dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada while ensuring healthy sustainable communities. The Alliance works to build the capacity of member groups and provide leadership in regional issues through their Sustainable Sierra Programs in four major areas: Sierra Watersheds Program, Sustainable Land Use Campaign, Water and Climate Change Campaign and the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership. Through collaboration and research, the Alliance has produced several timely publications to expand understanding of regional threats, limitations, and solutions to critical environmental challenges in the Sierra.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2007 publication of "Dangerous Development" report is a serious warning to decision-makers of all levels and citizens alike. It explains how fire risk in the Sierra Nevada is increasing, why it is increasing, and what planners and residents can do about it.

Poorly planned land development, climate change, and a sharp increase in the population of the Sierra Nevada have all compounded the risk in the Sierra Nevada region.

The "Dangerous Development" report states that the population of the Sierra Nevada is expected to "triple by 2040" and that from 1990 to 2000 it increased 16%. As the Sierra Nevada population grows, new housing developments are channeled into unsafe and environmentally unsustainable fire hazard zones.

The predominant form of development planned is what is referred to as rural residential development, also known as "rural sprawl" or "rural ranchette." It is one of the most inefficient kinds of land use in California, averaging approximately "ten acres per person" according to Autumn Bernstein, an author of the "Dangerous Development" report. Unfortunately, 94% of projected development in the Sierra is currently slated for regions classified as "very high" or "extreme fire hazard" by the California Department of Forestry and Fire. ⁽¹⁾

Rural sprawl poses numerous environmental problems such as reliance on septic tanks, inability to connect to central power grids, and longer polluting car commutes. Furthermore, it poses a direct fire risk. Wilderness Urban Interface (WUI), is an area where "houses meet or commingle with undeveloped wild land vegetation." At WUI's, the risk of fires greatly increases and "preventing and fighting wildfire in the wild land urban interface (WUI) is extremely difficult and resource-intensive." ⁽¹⁾

In addition to these man-made problems, climate change is greatly increasing the chances of wildfire in the Sierra. If development continues in fire hazard zones, Californians will be left with a "'perfect firestorm' where more lives and homes will be at risk of catastrophic wildfire." ⁽¹⁾

Ultimately, the Alliance offers several solutions both planners and citizens should adopt. Planners in the Sierra should promote what the report defines as "cluster development" in places that are not fire-hazards, not sprawling rural development. Citizens can take part in

this during local CEQA process, where any citizen can point out the environmental impacts of a proposed development. Planners should also tell developers to pay for their own fire risks, among other things.

CITATIONS

1. http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/publications/db/pics/1190122868_27040

ORGANIZATIONS

American River Conservancy

Contact Name: Alan Ehrgott

Address: 348 Highway 49

Mailing Address: PO Box 562 Coloma CA 95613

Phone: (530) 621-1224

Email: arc@arconservancy.org

Website URL: www.arconservancy.org

Counties of Activity: Amador, El Dorado, Placer

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: Trail Fest in June, Monthly Hikes, Lecture Series, Stewardship Programs

Volunteer Opportunities: River Clean Ups, Trail Building, Conservation Monitoring

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The American River Conservancy is a non-profit, conservation organization headquartered in Coloma, California. The Conservancy is the only local organization working within the private market system to acquire open space from willing sellers. The Conservancy has protected over 9,303 acres of fisheries, wildlife habitat, recreational lands and scenic vistas in El Dorado and Amador Counties. Since it's beginning in 1989, the Conservancy has provided meaningful, hands-on environmental education programs to over 70,000 children and adults through outreach programs to area schools and through the operation of the American River Nature Center within the Marshall Gold State Park in Coloma. The Conservancy also coordinates stewardship programs focused on monitoring water quality in local streams and rivers and enhancing endangered species habitat. Through its focus on land and river protection, public and youth environmental education and land stewardship, the Conservancy continues to provide vital ecological services to the people who call the eastern Sacramento area "home".

Foothills Water Network

Contact Name: Julie Leimbach

Address: PO Box 713 Lotus, CA 95651
Phone: (530) 622-8497
Email: julie@foothillswaternetwork.org
Website URL: www.foothillswaternetwork.org

Counties of Activity: El Dorado, Nevada, Placer

Issue Focus: botanical, global warming, land use, watershed health, watershed quality, water supply, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed, coalition

Volunteer Opportunities: Work with the Yuba-Bear or Middle Fork American Working Groups to advance restoration of watershed health through hydropower relicensing and other opportunities, attend hydropower relicensing meetings, help put together outreach materials on hydropower and the values we are restoring in the three rivers. Also, some economic, legal, and other expert advice is needed.

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The overall goal of the Foothills Water Network is to provide a forum that increases the effectiveness of conservation organizations to achieve river and watershed restoration and protection benefits for the Yuba, Bear, and American. This includes negotiations at the county, state, and federal levels, with an immediate focus on the upcoming FERC relicensing processes.

The Foothills Water Network is a forum, rather than an organization in the traditional sense. This forum is convened by a Steering Committee consists of local conservation leaders. Assisted by a Network Coordinator, the Steering Committee is dedicated to providing a forum in which to address cross-basin issues with the intent of enhancing environmental water flows.

The objectives of the Foothills Water Network include:

- Facilitate a dialogue on cross-basin issues and strategies to enhance overall watershed balance with special attention to an interbasin framework with which to address the FERC relicensings.
- Identify and avoid potential conflicts among watershed groups in order to work towards a common “vision” for overall watershed health across the basins.
- Analyze the Yuba, Bear, and American (NF and MF) as the “problemshed” in order to explore constructive interbasin solutions.
- Conduct public outreach to raise awareness of water supply issues and the unique opportunities in the three interlinked watersheds. To this end, the Network will collaborate with established watershed groups to disseminate outreach materials.

League to Save Lake Tahoe (aka Keep Tahoe Blue)

Contact: Catherine Cecchi

Address: 955 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: (530) 541-5388

Email: info@keeptahoeblue.org

Counties of Activity: El Dorado, Placer, Douglas (NV), Washoe (NV)

Sub-region: Lake Tahoe Basin

Issue Focus: land use, water supply, watershed quality

Group Focus: advocacy

Group Type: staffed, volunteer

Description: The League to Save Lake Tahoe was formed in 1957 and is now the leading environmental advocacy group in the Tahoe Basin. The League is a non-profit organization with over 4,000 members from across the United States. We are dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental quality, scenic beauty, and low-impact recreational opportunities of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Through our three program areas — Advocacy and Monitoring, Support of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), and Outreach and Education — we lead the effort to protect the “Jewel of the Sierra.” Additional information on our programs and current priorities can be found on our website, www.keeptahoeblue.org.

Sugar Pine Foundation

Contact Name: Maria Mircheva

Address: 2293 Oregon Ave, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: 530-725-8307

Email: admin@sugarpinefoundation.org

Website: www.sugarpinefoundation.org

County of Activity: El Dorado, Placer, Douglas (NV), Washoe (NV)

Issues Focus: Forestry, invasive species, global warming

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Tree climbing, ground crew and planting Aug-Oct every year

Accept donations: Yes

Public Events: Forest Stewardship Day, Kirkwood Wildflower Festival, Autumn Fest

Description: The objective of The Sugar Pine Foundation (SPF) is to restore natural regeneration of sugar pines, western white pines and whitebark pines in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

White pine blister rust (WPBR) is an exotic fungal infection from Asia that kills more than 90 percent of white pines that become infected. The Sugar Pine Foundation locates healthy trees, collects cones from them and submits them to the Forest Service testing of their resistance from the fungus. Once a tree is confirmed resistant, we harvest its seed and plant progeny from those trees.

Tahoe-Baikal Institute

Contact: Jennifer Smith

Address: 1061 Third St.

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13587

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

Phone: 530.542.5599

Fax: 530.542.5567

Email: info@tahoebaikal.org

Counties of Activity: El Dorado, NV, and (Russia) Lake Baikal

Issue Focus: cultural change, environmental leadership development, global warming, land use, water supply, watershed quality and management, wildlife and habitat

Group Methods: environmental education (cultural exchange)

Description: The Tahoe-Baikal Institute (TBI) is an international partnership founded in 1990, committed to enhancing sustainable economic development, cultural understanding, and the protection of unique watersheds throughout the world, particularly at Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada and Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia.

TBI programs include university and professional level environmental education, research, and international exchanges of students, scholars, and practitioners in science, policy, economics, and other related disciplines. Through these programs, exchange participants explore and discuss major environmental challenges and apply scientific techniques to develop practical solutions. Participants explore the ecosystems, communities, and cultures surrounding both lakes, and meet with political, business, resource agency, and NGO leaders in both countries. Ecological fieldwork and research are key components of the TBI program, providing participants the opportunity to see how sound science can translate into practical policy and project implementation.

Since TBI's creation in 1990, over 250 international students have graduated from TBI's two-month summer exchange, over 20 international policy-maker and student exchanges have been hosted, and over 40 projects in Russia, Mongolia, and the U.S. have been completed around environmental, economic, and cultural issues in these countries.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Placerville Address: 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (800) 491-6642
Fax: (530) 622-3645

South Lake Tahoe Address: 3368 Lake Tahoe Blvd.,
Suite 102, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: (530) 573-3411
Fax: (530) 543-6773
URL: <http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 4th District

Counties Represented: Placer, El Dorado, Alpine
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a4/index.aspx>

FRESNO COUNTY



FRESNO COUNTY

Size: 15,585 km² (6,017 mi²)

Population: 917,575 (as of 2007 US Census)

Location: Central Valley

Official Website: www.co.fresno.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

San Joaquin River Parkway Trust Preserves Beauty of Central Valley

Since its inception in 1985, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust has permanently protected nearly 3,500 acres of land in the San Joaquin River area. With the overarching ultimate goal of protecting 6,000 acres of land along the San Joaquin River, the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust is currently working on the largest restoration project on the Parkway to date: the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Project.

The Jensen River Ranch 170-acre property is located in a highly visible area north of Woodward Park in the city of Fresno. For many years, Jensen River Ranch was primarily used as a cattle-grazing site which provided public access to the San Joaquin River.

In 2006, the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust was awarded a grant with funding from Proposition 50 to restore wetlands and wildlife habitat on the site. Construction on the site which included earth contouring, irrigation infrastructure, and public access enhancements, was begun in the fall of 2006 by the Department of Water Resources.

The project is a partnership of many agencies, including the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, the City of Fresno, and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

In spring 2007, the River Parkway Trust began habitat enhancement work, planting native plants including Western Sycamore, Blue Elderberry (home to the endangered Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle), California Wild Rose, Silver Bush Lupine, Buttonwillow, Santa Barbara Sedge, and Deer Grass. Project plans further include a multi-purpose trail, picnic facilities, and an outdoor education facility.

Jensen River Ranch is open daily and is accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians from the Lewis S. Eaton Trail through Woodward Park. Access to the San Joaquin River is currently available via the Thomas MacMichael Sr. Loop Trail, which bisects the property and forms a perimeter loop in both directions. Future construction on the site is planned for summer and fall of 2007. The River Parkway Trust will continue planting and weed removal efforts, through 2010.

To sum up the year they state, “But there are more lands to save, more trails to build, and more children to guide toward becoming good stewards of our precious natural resources. In the end, it comes down to all of us working together to create a lasting legacy for the future - one that will contribute to clean water and clean air, a healthy environment for everyone in the Fresno/Madera region.” ⁽¹⁾

To volunteer for a day, become a member or donate to the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, or learn more about the organization, visit <http://www.riverparkway.org/default.asp>.

CITATIONS

1. <http://www.riverparkway.org/default.asp>

ORGANIZATIONS

Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Contact Name: Brent Newell

Address: 1302 Jefferson Street, Suite 2, Delano, CA 93215

Phone: 661-720-9140

Email:

Website URL:

County/Counties: Tulare, Kern, Fresno

Issue Focus: air quality, global warming, land use, watershed quality, water supply

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: (contact group)

Volunteer Opportunities: Internships

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment (CRPE) work primarily with and for low-income peoples, particularly indigenous peoples, to ensure that they have a healthy environment in which to live. CRPE educates communities by informing citizens about agricultural, industrial, and other activities going on around them, and the effects these activities have on human health and quality of life. CRPE currently monitors the land usage of large dairies that have been acquiring new properties in the area, as well as attending planning meetings and commenting when necessary. CRPE has also been active in maintaining water quality near toxic dump sites, where many of the poor live, as well as working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and citizens to bring increased water quality and environmental testing to areas near oil refineries where children often play.

Revive the San Joaquin

Contact Name: Chris Acree, executive director

Address: 5132 N. Palm Ave PMB 121, Fresno, CA 93704

Phone: 559-226-0733

Email: info@revivethesanjaquin.org

Website: www.revivethesanjaquin.org

County of Activity: San Joaquin Valley, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tulare

Issue Focus: land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type:

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: To promote a collective stewardship that sustains the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a healthy San Joaquin River, including adequate flows, habitat, and native fisheries.

RiverTree Volunteers

Contact: Chuck Kroeger

Address: 1509 E. Fallbrook Avenue, Fresno, CA 93720

Phone: 559 -974-5195

Email: riverrich1509@aol.com

Website URL: www.rivertreevolunteers.org

County of Activity: Fresno

Issue Focus: land use, water quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: land trust, educational outreach, land trust, recreation, restoration

Public Events: all events open to the public

Volunteer Opportunities: National River Clean-up Week, Rotary Interact Clean-up, Tree planting, Sunnyside Interact, and California Coastal Commission Clean-up

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: We are a non-profit [501(c)3] group dedicated to the maintenance and appreciation of the San Joaquin River Watershed. We have no paid members, no facilities and almost no overhead costs. We are the "free spirits" of the San Joaquin River.

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (River Parkway Trust)

Contact: Dave Koehler

Address: 1550 E Shaw Ave Ste 114 Fresno, CA 93710

Phone: 559-248-8480

Email: dkoehler@riverparkway.org

Website URL: www.riverparkway.org

Counties of Activity: Fresno, Madera

Issue Focus: land use, water quality, water supply

Public Events: River Camp, the Nature of Art Camp, It's for the Birds: Birdhouse Contest, Respite by the River: Readings by Central Valley Authors, River Buddies, Holiday Cheer at the River Center, Rotating Natural Science, Cultural Traditions, and Fine Art Exhibits, guided nature walks, guided canoe trips

Volunteer Opportunities: River Docent, River Steward, Special Events, River Center Docent, River Center Gardening Angels, River Center Maintenance, and office/clerical

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (River Parkway Trust) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1988. In addition to creating and protecting a 22-mile Parkway along the San Joaquin River - from Friant Dam to Highway

99 - the River Parkway Trust provides community education, recreation and conservation programs to approximately 50,000 people a year.

Educational outreach efforts include field trips to the river, classroom presentations, and specialized workshops and field trips for educators. The education program takes over 15,000 children into contact with the river and its resources annually. Recreational opportunities include guided canoe trips, nature walks, and public river access via Parkway properties.

Conservation and restoration efforts include monthly workdays on Parkway properties, conservation easements, invasive species removal, and trail projects. In 2006 the Trust began work on its largest restoration project to date at Jensen River Ranch. With the help of volunteers, the Trust is planting more than 6,000 native plants on the site. The Trust also supports the San Joaquin River restoration effort, which will restore water flows and Chinook salmon to the river below Friant Dam.

Sierra and Foothill Citizen's Alliance

Contact Name: Gary Temple, President

Address: PO Box 405, Prather, CA 93651

Phone: n/a

Email: mtntop@netptc.net

Website URL: www.sierrafoothillwater.org

County/Countries: Fresno

Issue Focus: land use, water supply, watershed quality

Group Type: volunteer

Public Events: We have hosted several public seminars on water issues and appear regularly at county planning meetings to address the water impacts of specific developments.

Volunteer Opportunities: yes

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Sierra and Foothill Citizen's Alliance (SAFCA) was formed by residents of several Fresno County foothill and mountain communities after many wells began going dry because of increased withdrawals by new developments. SAFCA has worked to educate members of the community about water issues and has formed relationships with regional and local planners and decision-makers to ensure that water sustainability is given adequate consideration.

Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter

Contact Name: Gerald D. Vinnard

Address: P.O. Box 5396, Fresno, CA 93755-5396

Phone: (559)431-5780

Email: gvinnard@cvip.net

Website URL: <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>

County/Countries: Fresno, Madera

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: advocacy, litigation, recreational, restoration, outreach

Public Events: general meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, Annual Banquet

Volunteer Opportunities: outings leadership, lobbying, event planning, watershed restoration

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The mission of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club is to provide outings for its members and the general public, to educate and inform its members and the general public about environmental issues, and to influence and persuade public leaders to preserve and protect the environment.

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Contact Name: Jeannette D. Tuitele-Lewis, Community Relations Director

Address: P.O. Box 529 Prather, CA 93651

Phone: (559) 855-3473

Email: jeannette.tuitele@sierrafoothill.org

Website URL: www.sierrafoothill.org

County/Countries: Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: guided hikes, classes, special events

Volunteer Opportunities: preserve maintenance, conservation education, outreach

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Sierra Foothill Conservancy's mission is to protect the region's ecological health and cultural heritage by conserving land, water and working ranches. Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) works to protect these resources and ensure that present and future generations will continue to enjoy and experience the grasslands, foothills, and forests between Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

SFC is a non-profit land trust founded in 1996. To date the SFC has protected nearly 15,000 acres of foothill and forest lands. SFC's focuses on conserving properties with rare species or critical habitat and connecting them with our preserves, easement lands, and National Forest. We conserve land throughout Fresno, Madera, and Mariposa Counties through voluntary land owner agreements (conservation easements) and purchasing properties for nature preserves. SFC is committed to promoting a sense of

place for foothill and Central Valley residents through education and community enrichment.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: 2281 Tulare Street, #301, Hall of Records, Fresno, CA 93721-2198

Phone: (559) 253-9180

Website: <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/0110a/default.asp>

Senate Representative – 14th District:

Counties Represented: Mariposa, Madera, San Joaquin, Fresno, Tuolumne and Stanislaus

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/14/>

Assembly Representative – 31th District

Counties Represented: Fresno

Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a31/>

INYO COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 26,488 sq. kilometers (10,227 sq. miles)
Population: 17, 945 (as of 2000 U.S. Census)
Location: Southern Sierra, Central California
Official Website: www.countyofinyo.org

CONSERVATION STORY

Owens Valley Committee Turn Tides of LADWP Aqueducts

In December of 2006, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began returning millions of gallons of water back to the Owens Valley, marking a triumph for the Lower Owens River Project. After 96 controversial years of diverting water from the Owens River to Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has finally agreed to send some water back.

Since 1913, the LADWP has diverted the Owens River hundreds of miles to Los Angeles via the LA aqueduct built by William Mullholand. Currently, the two aqueducts from the Owens Valley supply Los Angeles residents, agricultural communities, and other water

interests with about half their water supply. Together the aqueducts convey about 780 cubic feet per second of water from the Valley or 570,000 acre feet per year.

Because of this diversion, the town of Los Angeles has grown from approximately 400,000 people in 1913 to a current population of over 3,450,000. But while the aqueduct caused the city of Los Angeles to flourish, Owens Valley suffered. Over the past 90 years the area known as “The Deepest Valley” has suffered from the impacts from groundwater pumping, and dust from the dry Owens Lake bed has become a toxic health hazard during dust storms.

Bitter rural unrest stains the first aqueduct’s history. During the building of the first aqueduct, farmers in the Owens Valley had virtually no legal recourse to stop the aqueduct, and in the battle for water men were lynched, towns were thrown into economic decline, and farms and livelihoods were destroyed.

In 1970, however, hope emerged in the form of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which laid environmental grounds for monitoring the aqueduct. That same year, the LADWP completed its second aqueduct to extract water from the Owens Valley for Los Angeles.

Inyo residents and conservationists noted that groundwater pumping to fill the second aqueduct had not begun until after CEQA took affect and thus required an “Environmental Impact Report” (EIR). The aqueduct’s builders had failed to file an EIR, so in 1972 Inyo County filed a lawsuit against the LADWP for the environmental impacts of groundwater pumping.

As noted by Inyo residents, groundwater pumping and surface diversions had tremendous environmental impacts on the Valley. Soil erosion was severe and dust storms were common. Vegetation dependent upon groundwater and surface water died off, and wildlife dependent on the affected vegetation subsequently suffered.

Furthermore, it was shown that the dust storms that Owens residents had been breathing for decades contained particulate matter pollution at concentrations that severely exceeded the limits set by the Clean Air Act.

It took almost twenty years, three inadequate EIRs and several lawsuits later for the LADWP to finally file a complete Final EIR to Inyo County for the aqueduct in 1991.

The FEIR stipulated that LADWP would implement the Lower Owens River Project to mitigate for some of the most direct effects on alkali meadows and on wildlife in the Valley.

The Lower Owens River Project (LORP) arose as a mitigation measure for some of these impacts that effected most directly on the watershed and wildlife there. The LORP was further elucidated by the Long Term Water Agreement between LADWP, the State of California, the Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee, and Inyo County in 1997. The

LORP is the largest river restoration effort of its kind in the Western United States, and aims to bring the Lower Owens River back to life with a river bed base flow of forty cubic feet per second, or approximately ten percent of the water usually taken from the Owens Valley region.

The Lower Owens River Project has four main uses. The first is to re-water a 62 mile stretch of the Lower Owens River, in the expectation that meadow and wetland habitat will reestablish and provide a place for species dependent on those habitats. The second goal is to maintain or improve the Owens River Delta's wetland and aquatic habitats. Third, the LORP will seasonally flood 1,500 acres of off-river area for Blackrock area waterfowl and other species, and maintaining several off-river ponds. Lastly, the LORP will maintain several other off-river lakes and pools.

Mike Prather has been with the Owens Valley Committee since it formed in 1984. The OVC is a non-profit, all-volunteer community group that oversees the implementation of the LORP. It was formed in late 1983 when Inyo County and the LADWP began to discuss a long term water agreement, from which the Lower Owens River Project arose as a mitigation measure.

"When I began this in 1984, I was much younger," began Prather in a phone interview. "Now I'm grey and old. Many of the people that fought for the valley early in the century are gone now." (He is referring to the many local citizen groups that have periodically formed to oppose various aspects of the aqueduct and LADWP decisions affecting the Owens Valley.) "So, it's incredible to see this for myself," he concludes.

Prather says that as of September of 2007 the effects of the 2006 re-watering are beginning to show.

"Some fish have already moved into the re-watered stretch. Willows are beginning to colonize the banks. Cattails and emergent vegetation are popping up in the channel itself. Some bird species that nest in those are too, like the Marsh Wren, and the Common Yellow Throated Wren, which are indicators of good marsh wetland habitat. Also, water is spreading outside of the channels, and has created a lot of ponds. So waterfowl have begun appearing and have made attempts to turn some of these pools into habitat."

Still, conservationists like the OVC and others are keeping a watchful eye on the project. Prather says that the LORP still falls short of the 1997 MOU in several ways, and the OVC is watching to ensure that the LORP eventually meets the MOU goals.

If you would like to visit, volunteer with, become a member of, donate to, or find out more about the Owens Valley Committee please see their group information in this section of the directory and visit their website at www.ovcweb.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

California Native Plant Society – Bristlecone Chapter

Contact Name: Sherryl Taylor, President
Address: P.O. Box 364, Bishop, CA 93515
Phone: 760-924-8742
Email: staylor@npgcable.com
Website URL: www.bristleconecnps.org

Counties of Activity: Inyo, Kern, Mono
Issue Focus: botanical
Group Type: education, conservation, advocacy

Public Events: bi-monthly program meetings, field trips, Sojourn (weekend of native plant field trips and programs), Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, annual plant sale, highway cleanup

Volunteer Opportunities: leading field trips, working in Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden, writing letters/attending meetings to advocate for the protection of native plants, growing native plants for plant sale, field trips to remove invasive weeds, hosting educational booths

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society seeks to increase the public's knowledge and enjoyment of native plants and to protect native plants for future generations. We lead field trips to Death Valley, the northern Mojave Desert, the Inyo and White Mountains, the Owens Valley and the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, following the bloom. Our programs, held in Bishop, Mammoth, Lone Pine and Ridgecrest, focus on local native plants and their ecosystems. We collect seeds, grow our own plants for our annual sale, and is the only organization that sells local native plants in our chapter area. Our Mary DeDecker Botanical Grant program supports research on local native plants and helps support the Native Plant Project where 4th graders at Mammoth Elementary School learn about and grow native plants and plant them to restore areas around their school. While our members work in many ways to protect the local environment, our chapter, since its inception in 1984, has advocated for the protection of the Owens Valley from excessive groundwater pumping.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Contact Name: Karen Ferrell-Ingram
Address: PO Box 755, Bishop, CA 93514
Phone: 760.873.4554
Email: karen@eslt.org
Website URL: www.easternsierralandtrust.org

Counties of Activity: Alpine, Inyo, Mono

Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: Wildlife Migration Festival

Volunteer Opportunities: monitoring, restoration, office support

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The ESLT is a land trust that works mostly with private landowners in the Eastern Sierra to conserve their land for wildlife, historical, recreational, botanical, watershed, farming, and ranching values.

Friends of the Inyo

Contact Name: Paul McFarland

Address: 699 West Line, Suite A, Bishop, CA 93514

Phone: 760.873.6500

Email: info@friendsoftheinyo.org

Website URL: www.friendsoftheinyo.org

Counties of Activity: Inyo, Mono

Resource Focus: botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy, stewardship, educational outreach, forestry, recreation

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Friends of the Inyo)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Friends of the Inyo is dedicated to preserving the public lands and wildlife of the Eastern Sierra. We help citizens get involved in the management of the lands we all share, bringing Preservation, Exploration and Stewardship to the mountains, deserts and creeks of Inyo and Mono Counties. Contact us to find out about coming along for a hike, joining in a volunteer project, or to get more information on the issues facing the Eastern Sierra's wild places.

Owens Valley Committee

Contact Name: Nancy Prather

Address: Drawer D

Phone: 760.876.1845

Email: info@ovcweb.org

Website URL: www.ovcweb.org

County of Activity: Inyo

Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy, stewardship, educational outreach

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact the Owens Valley Committee)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Owens Valley Committee is a non-profit citizen action group dedicated to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of water and land resources affecting Owens Valley. The Owens Valley Committee participates in water and land management issues on lands owned by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The Committee monitors the Long-term Water Agreement between Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles that is attempting to "cooperatively" manage water and land resources on 200,000 acres of the Owens Valley that is owned by Los Angeles. Issues include LADWP groundwater pumping for export and its impacts, T & E species, re-watering of 62 miles of the Lower Owens River (riparian and fishery), wildlife and wetlands protection at Owens Lake, native spring protection and restoration. The OVC is a member of the MOU Group that supervises the implementation of the Lower Owens River Project.

Save Round Valley Alliance Advocates for Smart Growth

Contact Name: Jennifer Fenton

Address: 757 Rome Drive, Bishop CA 93514

Phone: 760.872.3839

Email: jenni@redjellyfish.net

Website URL: www.saveroundvalley.org

County of Activity: Inyo

Issue Focus: air quality, land use, water supply, watershed quality

Group Type: advocacy, stewardship, coalition, educational outreach

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact SRVA Advocates for Smart Growth)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: SRVA Advocates for Smart Growth is a grassroots organization working to protect and enhance the quality of life in Inyo County by encouraging appropriate planning and development that safeguard our natural environment, our regional economy, and the interests of local residents. To this end we are currently utilizing CEQA process to encourage county officials to deny projects that conflict blatantly with the land use goals listed in the Inyo County General Plan. Two projects we are currently working on are the Pine Creek Communities Development and the Whitney Portal Preserve. These two projects have negative impacts that could ultimately lead to the destruction of the Owens Valley.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: Board of Supervisors Room
County Administrative Center
224 North Edwards
Independence, California
Website: http://www.inyocounty.us/board_agenda.htm

Senate Representative – 18th District

Counties Represented: Kern, Tulare, Inyo and San Bernardino
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/18/pro.asp>

Assembly Representative – 34th District

Counties Represented:
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a34/index.aspx>

KERN COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 8,161 sq. miles (21,137 sq. kilometers)

Population: 661,645 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: Southern

Official Website: www.co.kern.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

Kern Community Takes a Stand Against Unhealthy Air

In 2006, the American Lung Association named Kern County the most ozone-polluted county in the nation. The County has consistently violated the federal health based eight-hour and one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. ⁽²⁾ Nearby Tulare, Fresno, and Merced ranked fourth, sixth, and seventh, respectively, as most ozone polluted on the American Lung Association's list ⁽¹⁾.

Decomposing dairy manure, livestock feed, and cows' digestive systems emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs.) VOCs react with oxides of nitrogen emitted from cars,

trucks, and other combustion sources to form ozone, also known as “smog.” According to a December 2001 Ozone Plan by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Board, dairy emissions comprise approximately 20-25% of the county’s ozone pollution.

Smog is unhealthy for people of all ages, especially children, and according to recent research may be lethal in high doses.¹ Smog can damage lung-tissue, cause and exacerbate asthma, reduce lung capacity, increase respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions, increase school and work absenteeism, and damage crops.

So when yet another mega-dairy with 2,800 cows bought its way into Kern in 2005, residents took it upon themselves to act.

A Kern-based citizen’s group named the Association of Irrigated Residents, or AIR, brought the suit against the dairy. They were represented by an environmental litigation non-profit called the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment. The CRPE’s involvement in the AIR’s lawsuit was motivated largely by their dedication to protecting the public health of economically and ethnically diverse areas like Kern County. As of the 2000 US Census, approximately 20.8 % of the population was below the poverty line. The most populous ethnicities were white (61.6%), Hispanic (20.8%), and African American (6%). “Without them [CRPE] we wouldn’t have been able to afford this,” said Tom Frantz of Shafter, a high school teacher and member of AIR. “They covered us pro-bono.”

“These are not ‘happy cow dairies,’” said Linda MacKay, a Kern County resident from Lebec and a member of AIR. “These factories are huge operations that maximize profits and emit significant amounts of air pollution, which the Court has ruled must be regulated just like any other industry.”

On September 25, 2007 U.S. District Court Oliver Wagner ruled that a mega-dairy had violated the Clean Air Act when it was built without an air permit in Kern County. Wagner also ruled that California’s “State Implementation Plan,” which is the state’s strategy to achieve healthy air in the San Joaquin Valley, required the mega-dairy obtain an “authority to construct permit” which it had not yet done. He also ruled that the dairy adopt Best Available Control Technology and to purchase “offsets” or “emission reduction credits.”

“This is a significant step towards health in the San Joaquin Valley, because our lungs will no longer be forced to subsidize the dairy industry,” said Frantz.

For the AIR and the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, the battle is just beginning. While increasingly more attention is paid to recent climate issues such as CO2 emissions, residents of the San Joaquin Valley are standing up for their most basic health rights.

“There are about twenty more dairies being proposed across the valley. We are going to keep fighting them, but it would be a lot easier if the Air District just enforced the policies they already have,” says Frantz.

Residents interested in volunteering with the Association of Irrigated Residents, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, or to learn about these issues should visit the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition website at www.calcleanair.org. or www.crpe-ej.org.

Citations:

1. http://lungaction.org/reports/sota06_table3b.html
2. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/aqd/OLDozone/A1C15.ht>

ORGANIZATIONS

Antelope Valley Conservancy

Contact Name: Wendy Reed, Director

Address: PO Box 3133, Quartz Hill, CA 93586-0133

Email: avconservancy@yahoo.com

Website: www.avconservancy.org

County: Kern, Los Angeles

Issue Focus: Preservation of habitats, watershed resources, and wildlife corridors

Group Type: California Public Benefit Corporation

Volunteer Opportunities: Land cleanups, educational events, policy analysis, mapping

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Sierra Bike Trail Cleanup, Leona Valley Bicycle Fun Ride, Endangered Species Day Conference, Earth Day Cleanups at Sanctuaries and Saddleback State Park.

Description: Antelope Valley Conservancy's mission is to preserve and steward natural lands that provide functional native habitats, watershed resources, community character, and scenic beauty. We accomplish this through land acquisition, implementation of mitigation, scientific studies, collaborative planning and projects, and community education. Our service area focuses on the Antelope-Fremont Valleys Watershed and the upper Santa Clara River Watershed.

Sierra Club – Kern/Kaweah Chapter

Contact Name: Arthur Unger

Address: 2815 La Cresta Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305-1719

Phone: (661) 323 5569

Email: artunger@att.net

Website: www.sierraclub.org

County: Kern, Kings, Tulare

Issue Focus: All

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Events are within the chapter.

Description: The Sierra Club's members and supporters are more than 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

Sequoia Forestkeepers

Contact Name: Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

Address: PO Box 2134, Kernville, CA 93238

Email: Valerie@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Website: www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org

County: Kern, Tulare

Issue Focus: Forest management and conservation, wildlife

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Forest and wildlife monitoring

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival, Kern Valley Autumn and Vulture Festival, Annual SFK Great American Campout, periodic community education programs, Whiskey Flat Days, Earth Day L.A., Earth Day Bakersfield

Description: Sequoia ForestKeeper serves as the eyes, ears, and voice of the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument through monitoring, enforcement, education, and litigation.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Kern County Board of Supervisors

Address:

1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Phone: (661) 868-3601

Email: board@co.kern.ca.us

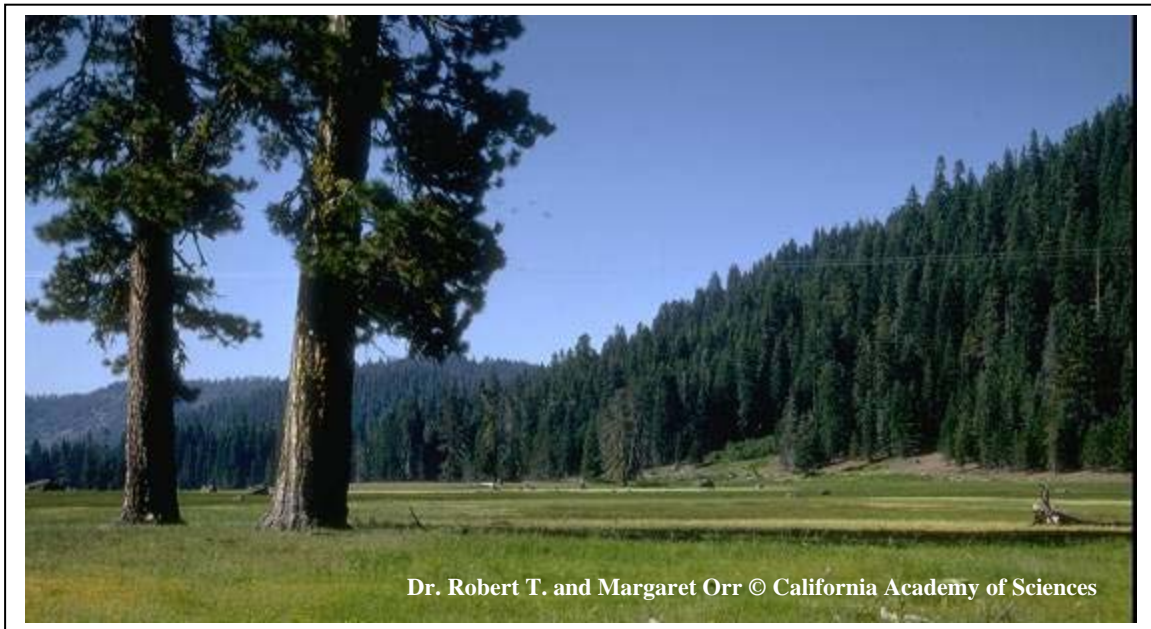
Website: <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/bos/>

Senate Representative – 18th District

Counties Represented: Kern, Tulare, Inyo and San Bernardino

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/18/pro.asp>

LASSEN COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 4,720 sq. miles (12,225 sq. kilometers)

Population: 33,828 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Eastern Sierra

Official Website: www.co.lassen.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

Land Trust Preserves the Lassen Creek Conservation Area

In December of 2003, Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) purchased the 149-acre Soule Family property. The property contains a section of Lassen Creek and a valuable watershed habitat for the Willow Flycatcher, a small bird listed as both a State of California threatened species and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sensitive species. The Soule family property also contains protected mule-deer winter range and wildlife habitat that was otherwise threatened by “ranchette” style development in the Honey Lake Valley of Northeastern California.

With development encroaching on many sides of this prime habitat, LLTT recognized a need to protect the last viable strip of open space between Bass Hill Wildlife refuge and

the Lassen National Forest in the Diamond Mountains. The trust's vision was for a "habitat corridor," or a means for wildlife to move between seasonal locales.

LLTT then began work on its second acquisition, the 116-acre Charles W. Beckett Family Trust property.

Acquired in February of 2005, the Beckett Family Trust property lies between the Soule property and 100 acres set aside for wildlife habitat protection by the County of Lassen in the late 1990's. The Beckett acquisition was made possible by a \$100,000 grant through the Preserving Wild California (PWC) program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, and a \$65,000 one-year no-interest bridge loan from Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

With this momentum, LLTT prepared a "Capp" – a Conservation Area Protection Plan, to outline the threats, values, and means to protect the corridor from fragmentation. This "Capp," is a system put in place by the Wildlife Conservation Board of California, and now serves as the main planning document for the successful implementation of the project. Lands within the "Capp" comprise a total of 4,340 acres, and include possible acquisitions, as well as potential conservation easements on lands within the habitat corridor.

By December of 2007, LLTT officially paid off all remaining debts on the two parcels thanks to the sale of a Conservation Easement to the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board. This easement secured the "Lassen Creek Conservation Area" (LCCA) as wildlife habitat in perpetuity, and with the pending donation of 100 acres of bordering Lassen County land, moved the size of the preserve up to 365 acres.

But as circumstance often demands, LLTT's hard work has currently shifted to a new focus at LCCA – fire.

A fire burned roughly 165 acres of land owned by the LLTT at the Lassen Creek Conservation Area on Saturday, June 23 2007. Though fire is part of a natural cycle, many non-native and invasive species of plants take advantage of the open space left from a fire in the early stages of recovery. Currently, the LLTT Conservation Committee has developed a rehabilitation plan for the LCCA to ensure re-vegetation of the Bitterbrush and other native species that were lost in the fire. These plants are vital to the migratory deer that frequent the preserve, and their success will be vital to the winter-feeding grounds that the herd relies on.

LLTT has been working hard with many local partners in this rehabilitation: California Department of Fish & Game, the Eagle Lake office of the Bureau of Land Management, Antelope Fire Camp, the US Forest Service, The Susanville Rotary Club, Lassen County, and the numerous valuable professional volunteers that comprise the LLTT Conservation Committee.

Re-seeding the burned area of the preserve is ongoing, and thankfully, the most valuable wetland portion of the property did not burn in the fire. The re-seeding of the preserve is

anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2008, and LLTT is continuing its ongoing efforts to complete the “Capp” with the cooperation of conservation minded landowners and partners.

To volunteer with, become a member of, donate to or find out more information about the Lassen Land and Trails Trust see the organization’s contact information in this section of the Directory or visit www.lassenlandandtrails.com.

ORGANIZATIONS

Lassen Land & Trails Trust

Contact: Jan Heid

Address: PO Box 1461

Susanville, CA 96130

Phone: 530.257.3252

Fax: 530.257.3252

Email: lltt@psln.com

Website: www.bizzjohnsontrail.com

County of Activity: Lassen

Issue Focus: land use, global warming, wildlife and habitat

Methods: land trust

Public Events: (contact Lassen Land & Trails Trust)

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: To conserve and restore land and historic sites in Lassen County. We also own and operate the historic Susanville Railroad Depot as a museum, visitor center, and trailhead for the Bizz Johnson Trail. We also operate a summer nature camp for kids and own and manage the Lassen Creek Conservation Area, a 265 acre wildlife habitat area which is part of a 4,000 acre conceptual conservation plan to protect wildlife habitat, particularly a mule deer migration route and mature stands of bitterbrush. We also promote and develop trails to connect people with their natural environment.

Mountain Meadows Conservancy

Contact Name: Steve Robinson

Address: P.O. Box 40, Westwood, Ca 96137

Phone: 530-256-3982

Email: mmc@mtmeadows.org

Website URL: www.mtmeadows.org

County of Activity: Lassen

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Mt. Meadows Conservancy)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Mountain Meadows Conservancy was formed to protect and restore lands in the Mountain Meadows watershed, a unique high mountain meadow, riparian and wetland ecosystem. Preserving these lands and water resources for ecological purposes will also protect local Mountain Maidu cultural and burial sites.

The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project

Contact: Jake Jacobson

Address: 500 Main Street

Chico, CA 95928

Phone: (530) 897-6370

Email: jjacobson@tnc.org

Website: www.nature.org

Counties of Activity: Tehama, Shasta, Lassen

Issue Focus: botanical, forest, global warming, land use, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Methods: conservation(monitoring/restoration)

Public Events: guided tours

Volunteer Opportunities: occasional restoration and docent opportunities

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters the need to survive. TNC is an international organization that takes a non-confrontational approach to conservation work. In the Lassen Foothills, TNC works collaboratively with landowners and other partners to preserve the important biological and ecological resources of eastern Tehama county and southeastern Shasta county.

The Lassen Foothills Project area includes seven important tributary streams to the Sacramento River, extensive blue oak woodlands and four vernal pool complexes. Conservation targets include Steelhead trout, several wild Chinook salmon runs, neo-tropical migratory birds, vernal pool plants and animals, the largest migratory deer herd in California and numerous other at-risk species.

TNC's primary protection tool in the Lassen Foothills is the acquisition of conservation easements, typically over large cattle ranches. TNC owns three properties in fee in the Lassen Foothills: the 4,600-acre Vina Plains Preserve (a vernal pool complex north of

Chico), the 1,844-acre Wildcat Ranch (an oak woodland on the North Fork of Battle Creek) and 1,440-acre Childs Meadow (a mountain meadow near Lassen Volcanic National Park). TNC also manages the 37,540-acre Dye Creek Preserve (an oak woodland in multiple watersheds east of Los Molinos) on behalf of the State Controller Environmental Trust.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Lassen County Board of Supervisors

Address: 221 South Roop St., Ste. 4
Susanville, CA 96130

Phone: (530) 251-8333

Fax: (530) 251-2663

Email: coadmin@co.lassen.ca.us

Website: <http://www.co.lassen.ca.us/govt/dept/bos/default.asp>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

MADERA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 2,153 sq. miles (5,176 sq. kilometers)

Population: 123,138

Location: South-West Sierra

Official Website: www.madera-county.com

CONSERVATION STORY

Sierra Foothill Conservancy and Land-Owners Conserve Habitat

Special thanks to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy for contributing this article.

Fine Gold Creek begins in Eastern Madera County amid a jumble of giant granite boulders, some as big as small houses. After passing through these rock caverns, the creek levels off and widens out. This stretch of the creek is lined with willows and alders, with an occasional cottonwood and valley oak mixed in. Farther down, piles of rock and sand testify to extensive placer mining in the 1850's or 1860's. Working with pick and shovel, the miners dug out and put many tons of sand and gravel through sluice boxes to capture the fine gold for which the creek is named.

Standing on the hill above Fine Gold Creek, it is difficult to see the water unless the creek is running very high. If you come down to creek level (or better yet) climb out onto the rocks, you can hear the water rushing below you.

To some, the gurgling creek may not signify much, but for the past four years our staff at the Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) has worked to protect the creek from development and pollution. Beginning in 2003 we organized a purchase of the land with the help of the Trust for Public Land, Pacific Gas and Electric, and a forward-thinking landowner named Ben Ewell. Now Fine Gold Creek runs through an over 700 acre preserve called the Austin and Mary Ewell Preserve, after the family who owned it.

The Conservancy has also worked for four years so that their staff, members, and the general public can explore the creek. Younger people just becoming aware of the Sierra are signing up for the hikes, as well as older Sierra residents who know the region thoroughly. As a mitigation site the preserve is not open to the public in the same way a public park is. This is to protect the preserve's ecological integrity. Interested hikers are encouraged to contact the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, since we hold frequent and fun tours and hikes of the preserve.

If you are fortunate, you might happen on a western pond turtle leaving the creek to find a dry, sunny place to dig a burrow and lay her eggs. Birds you might see include mergansers, wood ducks, black phoebes and kingfishers. A close inspection of the sand and gravel at the edge of the creek could turn up the half-inch shells of freshwater clams. The creek is also home to the Elderberry Beetle, which is listed as both a state and federal endangered species.

Like most foothill creeks, Fine Gold does not flow all year long. But, twelve months out of the year, potholes fill with water and remain vital to the new preserve's wildlife. In the summer, species that use this water leave their tracks along Fine Gold Creek's sandy, wet banks.

One of the main reasons SFC protected the creek was because of its riparian zone, an area where land, flora, and fauna are significantly influenced by an aquatic ecosystem. Riparian zones filter sediment, hold water, provide habitat, and provide bank stability.

Long before its current preserved and protected state, this area of Fine Gold Creek was owned by numerous people. In the 1960's it was split into small parcels that were sold as part of a land speculation scheme. Most of the parcels were sold to Navy personnel at Lemoore Naval Air Station. Over the years the buyers spread out over the world, married, got divorced, died, and passed on the almost worthless parcels to their heirs. Then someone gave several parcels to the Boy Scout Council, which tracked down other owners and got them to donate. When they had assembled a large percentage of the parcels, the Council sold their interest to a Mr. Ben Ewell.

The Sierra Foothill Conservancy first saw this portion of Fine Gold Creek in 2002. Members of SFC's land committee decided that it was an area that should be protected because of its important riparian status. SFC enlisted the help of The Trust for Public Land and together we approached Mr. Ewell. Ben agreed to let SFC buy a portion of the property for permanent protection as a wildlife preserve. Without Ben's patience and generosity we could never have completed this project. Not only did he extend our option several times while TPL and SFC were putting together the funds for the purchase, but Ben and his family sold the property to us at a price far below market value. In return for the Ewell family's generosity, the preserve is named after Ben's parents, Austin and Mary Ewell.

The Trust for Public Land also provided the SFC with expertise, contacts and interim funding and TPL project manager Robin Park worked with SFC staff.

The project was different from other title fee purchases in that it involved three separate sources of funds. Each funder had different reasons for preserving the land. The largest financial contribution came from the Ewell family themselves. The second largest contribution came from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. PG&E was interested in helping to buy the site as mitigation for unavoidable impacts on Valley Elderberry bushes and the endangered Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle during its normal operations. PG&E staff biologist Peter Beesley worked many hours on this project and SFC owes both Beesley and PG&E many thanks. The third essential funder was the Bureau of Reclamation through its Central Valley Project Conservation Plan.

Furthermore, the California Department of Fish and Game helped fund the project through the Wildlife Conservation Board and retains the right to use the preserve for biological studies, which is something SFC welcomes.

In the end everyone worked together to make it happen and if any one of them had dropped out the preserve would not exist today.

Without the steady and generous support of the SFC Board, staff, and members we would not have the resources to complete projects like this. We hope that all our members will pat themselves on the back. They deserve it.

If you would like to volunteer with, become a member of, donate to, or find out more information about the Sierra Foothill Conservancy please see their information in the groups listed below and visit www.sierrafoothillconservancy.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Central Sierra Watershed Committee

Contact: Jeannie Habben

Address: Post Office Box 1061, Coarsegold, CA 93614
Phone: 559-642-3263
Email: info@cfwatershed.org
Website URL: www.cred.org and www.cfwatershed.org

Counties of Activity: Fresno, Madera, Mariposa

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: volunteer, county officials, state officials, state and federal agencies, tribes, concerned citizens

Public Events: education through publications: “Sierra Smarts – Information for the Private Well Owners Living in California’s Fractured Hard Rock Groundwater Areas,” Property Owners Brochure for Foothill Residents, and assistance with others. We give quarterly community workshops dealing with environmental issues in our areas and participate in community events such as Earth Day, Youth Workshops, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities: volunteers are needed for graphic work on brochures, community events, assistance with workshops; participate in other projects as they are brought to the committee

Accepts Donations: no

Description: The Central Sierra Watershed Committee (CSWC) began in 1997 to develop a cooperative effort to improve and protect our area’s watersheds and other resources. There is an average of 15 to 20 attendees per meeting with over 50 participants total on the list serve and mailing list who attend when they are able.

The CSWC develops common ground solutions for improving watershed and local habitat. Through the monthly meetings the CSWC members air their differences while working together to provide solutions to watershed issues. The CSWC has played a key role in a long-term watershed effort for three counties, involving more than 30 public, tribal, and private representatives participating in a consensus building effort.

Committee management includes a facilitator, ground rules, a code of ethics, and is solution oriented. The CSWC success has been rooted in its ability to bring all those involved in watershed issues to the table and focus on capacity building, while the members/partners focus on the implementation of projects, the education of the communities in the watersheds, and the distribution of information. Many of the CSWC members did not communicate with each other before participating; now they sit side by side at meetings and work together to resolve the watershed’s issues. Our mission is to promote the quality, quantity, and aesthetic values of our water resources through the conservation and restoration of our watersheds.

Chowchilla/Fresno River Watershed Council

Contact: Jack Fry – Chair, Jeannie Habben - Coordinator
Address: Post Office Box 1061, Coarsegold, CA 93614

Phone: 559-642-3263
Email: info@cfwatershed.org
Website URL: www.cfwatershed.org

Counties of Activity: Fresno, Madera, Mariposa
Issue Focus: land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality
Group Type: volunteer, projects and coordinator – grant funded

Public Events: outreach workshops to dairies, farmers, and ranchers, youth workshops, Earth Day events, Creek Stewardship Day, restoration projects, watershed assessments
Volunteer Opportunities: workshop assistance, collect data for the assessments, work during river clean-up or planting days
Accepts Donations: no

Description: In June 2004, the Watershed Coordinator started the Watershed Council for the Upper Chowchilla-Upper Fresno/Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds funded by a grant from CalFed. In our watershed, as in many places in California populations are expanding and resources are dwindling. Environmental impacts are intensifying as fuel loads grow, noxious weeds spread, and pollution permeates watersheds. Many of these issues can only be addressed if competing groups work together and develop solutions on a comprehensive, collaborative basis. We strive to develop a comprehensive watershed approach as an improvement on the fragmented approach that has been used in this area in the past. The watershed approach is advantageous because it considers all activities within a landscape that affect watershed health while leveraging resources and improving collaboration and information sharing among diverse partners.

Oakhurst River Parkway

Contact: Sierra Tel
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 974, Oakhurst, CA 93644
Phone: 559-642-0220
Email: sandyb@stcg.net
Website URL: www.orptrails.org

Counties of Activity: Fresno, Madera
Issue Focus: land use, watershed quality, water supply

Public Events: the Oakhurst River Parkway is continually open to the public
Volunteer Opportunities: Yes
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: In 1992 the Oakhurst River Parkway was a dream of a small group of citizens who wanted to preserve and restore the natural resources environment of our community. These citizens sought support from the Eastern Madera County Chamber of

Commerce and the Madera County Board of Supervisors and have been successful in receiving several grants to develop and construct the Oakhurst River Parkway. These grants along with countless hours by volunteers have transformed the dream into a beautiful three mile nature trail in the center of one of the most thriving mountain communities in the Sierra Nevada Range: that of Oakhurst, California. Along with the trail, the Oakhurst River Parkway has restored river banks and improved water quality in the Fresno River. Involvement in the Oakhurst Area Plan has produced an area plan land designation called the “River Front Mixed Use” that has guidelines established for future development along the Fresno River in Oakhurst. Preservation of these areas has been the goal of the Oakhurst River Parkway. The Eastern Madera County Foundation has been established to help meet that goal.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Madera County Board of Supervisors

Address: 200 West 4th Street

Madera, California 93637

Telephone: (559) 675-7700

Fax: (559) 673-3302

Email: supervisors@madera-county.com

URL: <http://www.madera-county.com/supervisors/>

Senate Representative – 14th District:

Counties Represented: Mariposa, Madera, San Joaquin, Fresno, Tuolumne and Stanislaus

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/14/>

Assembly Representative – 25th District

Counties Represented: Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Mono

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a25/index.aspx>

MARIPOSA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 1,463 sq. miles (3,789 sq. kilometers)

Population: 17,130 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: South-West Sierra

Official Website: www.mariposacounty.org

CONSERVATION STORY

Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition Fights for Clean Air in the Sierra

Air pollution and its effect on public health is an issue which has been creeping to the forefront in recent years. In Mariposa County, a non-profit called the Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition has joined in and taken action against air pollution.

The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition (MMCAC) is a community-based health organization. With over 150 volunteer members, the MMCAC has provided services and education to the residents of Merced and Mariposa Counties for over 10 years. From

clinical and public education about asthma to advocacy work to clean up the air the MMCAC strives to make the places we live healthy for people with respiratory disease.

Since the program started four years ago, it has spread across the San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and Texas, and been acknowledged in a special report of the October 2007 Journal of Environmental Health.

The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition's mission is: "controlling asthma through awareness and education." The MMCAC began the Asthma-Friendly Flag Program in February 2004. This program uses flags with the colors of the Air Quality Index to signal to school children and their care providers the level of outdoor pollutants on a daily basis. On unhealthy air days schools adjust the schedule of outdoor activities in order to prevent students' exposure to this asthma trigger. Teachers can use the asthma coalition's Active Indoor Recess (AIR) curriculum to find fun games and exercises to do with their classes inside on those days.

"Tools for Schools" is a free program offered to schools in both Merced and Mariposa Counties. This program was created by the U.S. EPA and addresses indoor air pollution in classrooms and other areas around campus.

The Coalition also provides educational presentations for the community about the basics of asthma, indoor and outdoor environmental triggers, and the link between the environment and health. The coalition has worked with clinics and physician offices in both Merced and Mariposa Counties to distribute free peak flow meters and spacers to asthmatic patients.

Outdoor air quality advocacy work is also a strong and growing component of the work of the MMCAC. Recent work has focused on the San Joaquin Valley's 2007 8-hour ozone and 2008 PM 2.5 plans. Members of the asthma coalition are actively engaged in the update of Merced County's General Plan and are working to defeat a distribution center proposed to be placed in Southeast Merced near homes and schools.

The MMCAC takes an active role in statewide policy efforts and members often visit members of the state legislature to communicate the challenges of asthma and air pollution facing our communities. In 2007, the coalition experienced a great victory with the passage of Senate Bill 719 which expanded the Governing Board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to include more representation from local cities and public members from the fields of health and science.

For those who want to spend a few days working for clean air with their community, the Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition provides a multitude of volunteer opportunities. All members are volunteers including the five-member Steering Committee. Opportunities include helping with health fairs, visiting legislators in local offices and at the Capitol, writing articles for the coalition newsletter and website, providing testimony at public hearings, and helping with administrative work around the

office. There is a place for everyone's skills and voice wherever they feel most comfortable.

The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Golden Valley Health Centers classroom, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited to join the coalition for lunch as they continue their educational and advocacy efforts in the community. To get involved with the Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition, to donate or for more information see their entry listing below or visit their website at www.mmcac.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition

Contact Name: Mary-Michal Rawling, Program Manager

Address: 737 W. Childs Ave., Merced, CA, 95341

Phone: 209-385-5490

Email: mrawling@gvhc.org

Website URL: www.mmcac.com

Counties of Activity: Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin Valley region

Issue Focus: air quality

Group Type: staffed, volunteer

Public Events: meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at the Golden Valley Health Centers classroom, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities: Opportunities include helping with health fairs, visiting legislators in local offices and at the Capitol, writing articles for the coalition newsletter and website, providing testimony at public hearings, and helping with administrative work around the office.

Accepts Donations: Yes (Make checks payable to: Golden Valley Health Centers, Memo: "Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition")

Description: The Merced/Mariposa County Asthma Coalition is a grassroots community-based health organization formed in 1997 by a group of local healthcare providers. Located in California's central San Joaquin Valley, Merced County has a diverse population that is no stranger to the economic, environmental, and chronic health problems that rural communities commonly face. The coalition has been a part of the Community Action to Fight Asthma initiative since its inception and, as such, has worked to link these issues together through a variety of programmatic and policy work.

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Address: PO Box 691, Mariposa, CA 95338

Phone: (209) 742-5556

Email: sfc-mariposa@sierrafoothill.org

Website: www.sierrafoothill.org

County: Mariposa

Description: The grasslands, foothills, and forests between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks provide land for farms and ranches, a home for native plants and wildlife, and a source of clean water. The Sierra Foothill Conservancy protects these resources and ensures that present and future generations will continue to experience and enjoy the land in this region.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 784,
Mariposa, CA 95338

Phone: (209) 966-3222

FAX: (209) 966-5147

URL: <http://www.mariposacounty.org/board/index.htm>

Senate Representative – 14th District:

Counties Represented: Mariposa, Madera, San Joaquin, Fresno, Tuolumne and Stanislaus

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/14/>

Assembly Representative – 25th District

Counties Represented: Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Mono

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a25/index.aspx>

MODOC COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 4, 203 sq. miles (10,886 sq. kilometers)

Population: 9,449 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: Northernmost Sierra

Official Website: www.modocounty.us

CONSERVATION STORY

The Central Modoc River Center Brings Education to Pit River Neighbors

Modoc County is the North-Easternmost County in California. The Pit River runs through the center of this remote county and is the longest tributary to the Sacramento River, stretching approximately 110 miles from the Warner Mountains to the Sacramento River.

Water flows into the Pit River from hundreds of tributaries that join it in its course. A series of small dams over large portions of the river provide for irrigation on farm and ranch lands.

While diversion structures and small dams create a plentiful source of irrigation water, the diversion structures also result in bare banks during winter months that are subject to erosion during high flows.

To combat the erosion, the Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (CMRCD) is working with local land-owners on restoring the Pit River through their Upper Pit River Watershed Enhancement and Protection Project.

The CMRCD states that, “With increasing state/federal attention on non-point source pollution (i.e. from agriculture, timber, grazing, etc.), it is important to demonstrate that a locally directed watershed management program can be effective.” ⁽¹⁾

The CMRCD and the River Center participate with the Pit River Watershed Alliance, made up of other agencies and landowners, in developing a Pit River Watershed Management Strategy that addresses watershed issues.

The CMRCD employs restoration techniques utilized by Resource Conservation Districts all over the Sierra. These methods include planting stream bank vegetation to stabilize banks, removing invasive non-native species, planting appropriate vegetation to improve water quality, and otherwise improving the health and quality of the watershed through general restoration.

The creation of the Central Modoc River Center represents the district’s efforts at educating the general public. The center’s mission is to “foster natural resource stewardship and promote the sustainability of the local community” by teaching elementary through high-school students about environmental science and their local watershed.

Valerie Lantz, Director of the Central Modoc River Center, explains that the center offers a variety of programs: “We host kindergarten through 12th grade classes, hold watershed events and activities at the River Center, organize tours for geology, bird watching, nature-scaping and other watershed related subjects, have a booth at the annual Modoc District Fair and help organize the ‘Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival’ and other workshops too.”

One particularly popular offering at the River Center is information and birding kits for the Basin and Range Birding Trail. “The children get so excited about having the binoculars, their little fingers grab them so quickly,” chuckled Lantz.

Another student favorite is the Watershed Adoption Program.” Twice each year, this program takes students K-12 on field trips to the Upper Pit River watershed. With assistance from natural resource specialists from the River Center, the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, the Pit River Watershed Alliance, and the Modoc National Forest, these students help with projects that may include wetland restoration, animal and plant observation and inventories, water quality monitoring, soil sampling, and other

enhancement projects. Students then create a portfolio tracing their watershed experience and activities through the years, an important memento of their volunteer experience.

To volunteer with, visit, donate to or for more information on the Central Modoc River Center visit the website www.centralmodocrivercenter.org. For more information on the Central Modoc Resource Conservation District visit the site <http://cmrcd.carcd.org/>.

ORGANIZATIONS

Central Modoc River Center (The River Center)

Contact Name: Valerie Lantz

Address: PO Box 1189 136

Henderson St Alturas, CA 96101

Phone: 530.233.5085

Email: vlantz@modoccoe.k12.ca.us

Website URL: www.centralmodocrivercenter.org

Counties of Activity: Modoc, Shasta, Lassen

Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: non-profit, volunteer, staffed, private interests, partnerships with schools, governmental agencies and other organizations

Public Events: The River Center is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM, Children's Fair (May), Tours & Workshops (various subjects and times), Summer Camp week (June), Modoc District Fair (August), Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival (Sept), Pit River Clean-Up (Sept), Day in the District (Sept or Oct), Mixer/Open House w/ Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteer Opportunities: Teaching environmental education on outdoor field trips, Staffing activities at the River Center including: improvement projects, fish and turtle care, gardening, scrapbooking, membership mailings, computer support, event planning, event staffing, research, photography, writing, tour guide.....and more!

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Central Modoc River Center's mission is: to foster natural resource stewardship and to promote the sustainability of the local community.

The Central Modoc River Center (CMRC) or 'The River Center' as its known locally, began in 2003.

The River Center provides educational information and programs related to watershed conservation. The River Center is an interpretive facility designed to educate the public about natural resources and watershed health, focusing on the Pit River. The River Center's Pit River Adoption Project provides environmental education on two outdoor

field trips per year for Modoc County's K through 8 classes and supervises interns from Alturas High School who mentor the younger children. The River Center hosts workshops, classes, tours, field trips and community meetings. The River Center develops presentations and activities for community festivals and events. The Center's facility contains interpretative displays, exhibits, an interactive nocturnal room and aquaria. It has displays that showcase Modoc County habitats, products, culture, art, native plants, geology, birds, and wildlife. The River Center serves as a repository for watershed research and information pertaining to the Pit River watershed.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 2nd District

Counties Represented: Modoc, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a2/index.aspx>

MONO COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: Total - 8,111 km² (3,044 mi²)

Population: 12,853 (as of 2000 Census)

Location: Central-Eastern Sierra

Official Website: www.monocounty.ca.gov

CONSERVATION STORY

The Mono Basin Volunteer Program at Mono Lake

Since 1978, the Mono Lake Committee has led the protection and restoration of Mono Lake. This ongoing effort has included public awareness campaigns, legal battles, years of hearings, education of urban youth, and now, a strong local volunteer program.

Today, volunteers are beginning a new chapter in the long history of citizen advocacy at Mono Lake. The Mono Basin Volunteer Program is a robust, interagency-sponsored program established by the Mono Lake Committee that connects local and statewide volunteers to Mono Lake.

The story of water diversions from Mono Lake and the Owens Valley are a well-documented part of California's history. Newspaper articles, books, and scientific reports

have all covered the issue, including the Planning and Conservation League Foundation report “Everyday Heroes” (2000).

In 1941 the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) began diverting water from tributary streams that flowed into Mono Lake. After 40 years of unrestricted diversions, the lake had lost half its volume, doubled in salinity, and dropped 45 feet. As a result, waterfowl habitat disappeared, riparian vegetation withered along the dry stream channels, and brine shrimp, alkali flies, and trout populations declined.

A historic turning point in Mono Lake’s health and in water laws across the country came in 1983 when a Supreme Court decision found DWP’s diversions from the Mono Basin unlawful under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Later, the 1994 California State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Water Board) Decision 1631 (D1631) marked an even greater victory for Mono Lake. Under D1631, DWP must allow Mono Lake to rise to a level of 6,392 feet above sea level, a level at which the lake’s ecosystem can thrive. DWP must also deliver minimum base flows and annual peak flows to the creeks they diverted, and restore critical waterfowl habitat primarily in lakeshore areas. To achieve these mandates, the agency has reduced their water exports from the creeks and allowed water to flow below the dams all the way to Mono Lake.

To ensure that restoration proceeds on schedule and in the best possible ecological way, the Mono Lake Committee and independent consulting scientists work closely with DWP. All parties routinely review and analyze stream data to ensure that diversions occur at appropriate times and creeks receive the required flow of water.

Thirteen years after the State Water Board’s decision, DWP and the Mono Lake Committee work as partners in the restoration process. The lake has risen nearly nine feet since 1994, and its tributary streams flow once again through lush riparian corridors full of wildlife. There will always be more work to be done to ensure a healthy Mono Basin, but there is much to celebrate.

With less of an emphasis on litigation the Mono Lake Committee continues to focus on hands-on education programs, science, and new protection efforts. After all, undergraduate college students were the founders of the Mono Lake Committee in 1978. In addition to conducting interpretive walking tours and canoe tours, hosting groups of inner-city youth from Los Angeles, and giving talks to school and university groups, the Committee helps to oversee the Mono Basin Volunteer Program.

The Mono Basin Volunteer Program is sponsored by the US Forest Service, the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, and the Mono Lake Committee. Volunteers come from all over the Eastern Sierra (with some from Nevada!), and donate eight hours of their time to Mono Lake each month. Retired State Reserve ranger Janet Carle conducts the training each May with enthusiasm and expertise.

Volunteers are a crucial part of keeping the Mono Basin healthy. They help plant Jeffrey pine seedlings, remove invasive plant species along the creeks, help interpret the area for visitors, and monitor water quality. In 2006, volunteers contributed over 800 hours of their time to Mono Lake.

Lisa Cutting, the Mono Lake Committee's Eastern Sierra Policy Director, says the volunteer program does more than protect the lake: "It connects people to this place in an important way. [Mono Lake] has been damaged, and this helps people see the land healing."

She says that volunteers not only connect with the lake, but with other volunteers as well since, "We have a number of people who come back to volunteer year after year."

In addition to volunteering, there are many other opportunities to get involved at Mono Lake for families, young adults, couples, seniors, or anyone. Check the Mono Lake website (www.monolake.org) for a calendar of events that includes the locally-renowned Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. This festival is a celebration of birds, science, and art with field programs and presentations from scientists and experts from around the country, culminating in an outdoor music concert and bird calling contest. Other annual events include the Christmas Bird Count, Halloween South Tufa Walk for those not afraid of the dark, and canoe tours, among many others.

State Water Board required restoration actions at Mono Lake will eventually end, but Cutting states that the plan "as envisioned by the Water Board and scientists may not be 'done' in our lifetimes." In 1994 it was estimated that it would take at least 20 years for Mono Lake to rise to its target level. Some of the riparian vegetation, including cottonwood seedlings, will take at least 50 years to mature. Overall, Cutting says "restoring channel morphology to pre-diversion conditions will take decades."

The Mono Lake Committee will continue to oversee the health of the Mono Lake watershed for decades into the future. Together with the Mono Basin Volunteer Program, the Committee ensures that Mono Lake will have friends and advocates forever.

To volunteer with, become a member of, donate to or find out more information regarding the Mono Lake Committee their contact information is listed in this section of the publication and their website is www.monolake.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Mammoth

Contact Name: John Walter

Address: PO Box 2005 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Phone: 760.934.176

Email: walter@qnet.com

Website URL: www.advocatesformammoth.org

County of Activity Mono

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: advocacy, coalition, educational outreach

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Advocates for Mammoth)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Advocates for Mammoth has been formed to present an avenue for ensuring that community input received and recognized in planning and zoning decisions made by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers (ALIMAR)

Contact: Andrea Lawrence

Address: Box 100 PMB 334, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546.0043

Phone: 760.934.2877

Email: andrea@alimar.org

Website: www.alimar.org

County of Activity: Inyo, Mono, Alpine

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: coalition

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact ALIMAR)

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: ALIMAR serves as a collaborative base for citizen conservation groups and decision-making bodies. It provides administrative support, convening meetings, moderating discussions, and synthesizing and disseminating information to achieve group consensus. ALIMAR is a catalyst for positive community change by developing, implementing and maintaining a cohesive regional vision integrating natural, cultural and spiritual values with economic and social needs.

At a very successful 'think tank' held on February 2004, attendees identified six core issues they felt presented significant regional challenges and volunteered to serve on working groups to explore solutions. The six 'working groups' are; Regional Identity, Sustainable Agriculture, Carrying Capacity, Community Involvement, Housing and Development Guidelines, and Science and Inventory. ALIMAR will also provide educational forums, serve as a 'Regional Planning Repository' and provide General Plan analyses for Inyo and Mono Counties and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. If the Town of Mammoth Lakes general plan update becomes unduly contentious, which is likely, ALIMAR may seek a more active role to foster collaboration and consensus.

Mono County Watershed Group

Contact Name: Greg Newbry
Address: PO Box 347 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Phone: 760.924.1811
Email: gnewbry@msn.com

County of Activity: Mono
Issue Focus: all

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact the Mono County Watershed Group)
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Mono County worked with the county Collaborative Planning Team (CPT) successfully and received two Prop 13 grants enabling an effort towards the creation of watershed management plans. The CPT is an active body representing most of the state, federal and local agencies in Mono County. The purposes of the grants are to develop watershed management plans for three of the principal watersheds of Mono County: Upper Owens River Basin, Mono Basin and the West Walker basin. For each basin, the watershed management plans will be developed with input from a watershed council of landowners, agencies, and other local stakeholders, and will be based on an assessment of watershed conditions. The Group will also outline the role of a recently formed regional land trust, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, in watershed conservation and restoration (particularly as related to wetlands) within the basins and provide support for the land trust in this role.

Mono Lake Committee

Contact Name: Geoff McQuilkin, Executive Director
Address: PO Box 29 lee Vining, CA 6595
Phone: 760.647.6377
Email: geoff@monolake.org
Website URL: www.monolake.org/mic

County of Activity: Mono
Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, water quality, water supply, wildlife and habitat
Group Type: advocacy, stewardship, educational outreach

Public Events: Annual Bird Chautauqua, Tufa State Park tours
Volunteer Opportunities: many – contact the Mono Lake Committee
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizen's group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin Ecosystem; educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use; and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Mono County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 237 Bridgeport CA. 93517

Phone: (760) 932-5538

Fax: (760) 932-5531

Website: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/departments/supervisors/supervisors.html>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 25th District

Counties Represented: Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Mono

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a25/index.aspx>

THE STATE OF NEVADA



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 110,567 sq. miles (286,367 sq. kilometers)

Population: 2,495,529 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: Sierra Nevada includes Carson, Douglas, and Washoe Counties

Official Website: www.nv.gov

CONSERVATION STORY

(Ellen Lapham, Snowlands Network is writing currently, awaiting)

ORGANIZATIONS

League to Save Lake Tahoe (aka Keep Tahoe Blue)

Contact: Catherine Cecchi

Address: 955 Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: 530-541-5388

Email: info@keeptahoeblue.org

Website: www.keeptahoeblue.org

Counties: El Dorado, Placer, Douglas (NV), Washoe(NV)

Resource Focus: land use, global warming, transportation, water quality, water supply, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy

Public Events: Earth Day Festival, Beach Cleanup Day, storm drain stenciling, Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day, Fashion Show Fundraiser

Volunteer Opportunities: event planning, Keep Tahoe Blue sticker distribution program, research, restoration/cleanup events

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The League to Save Lake Tahoe was formed in 1957 and is now the leading environmental advocacy group in the Tahoe Basin. The League is a non-profit organization with over 4,000 members from across the United States. We are dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental quality, scenic beauty, and low-impact recreational opportunities of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Through our three program areas — Advocacy and Monitoring, Support of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), and Outreach and Education — we lead the effort to protect the “Jewel of the Sierra.” Additional information on our programs and current priorities can be found on our website, www.keeptahoeblue.org.

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition

Contact Name: Tyrone Polastri

Address: PO Box 1147, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

Phone: 775-586-9566

Email: BikeTahoe@aol.com

Website URL: www.tahobike.com

County/Counties: (list all organization works in)

California and Nevada and all counties surrounding the Lake Tahoe Basin. (Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Washoe, Douglas)

Issue Focus: land use, water quality, watershed health, air quality, global warming, transportation,

Public Events: Bike To Work Challenge, May 12-16, 2008 (annual), Lake Tahoe, Bicycle Symposium, May (annual), Earth Day, Opening Day of Bicycle Season, June Lake Tahoe Bicycle Film Festival, Sept. 8, 2007 (annual), America’s Most Beautiful Bike Ride, June (annual), Tour de Tahoe, Sept. (annual)

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for all events. Some tasks include: event poster distribution, staffing membership booths, Valet Bike Parking corrals and rest stops during large rides, ticket transactions during events, and simple event production.

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Since its inception in late 2005, the LTBC has successfully accomplished the following: Produced Membership brochure, produce and launched www.TahoeBike.org, championed the City of South Lake Tahoe, CA to be nationally designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community, produced 40,000 Lake Tahoe Bike Trail Maps and distributed them free of charge throughout the Tahoe region, produced the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Symposium in conjunction with Nevada Dept of Transportation's Bike/Ped Conference, co-produced the Bike To Work Challenge with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, co-produced the Tahoe/Reno International Film Festival, co-produced the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Film Festival. In 2008 we will be launching our: Bicycle Friendly Business Campaign, Rack'em Up: Bike Racks with an Attitude, TahoeBike TV, Branded merchandise for sale.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Elected Officials:

Website: http://nv.gov/new_Feds.htm

NEVADA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 2,524 km² (974 mi²)

Population: 98, 784 (U.S. Census Bureau - 2006)

Location: Northern Sierra

Official Website: www.mynevadacounty.com

CONSERVATION STORY

Friends of Deer Creek Raise Methyl-mercury Awareness

The California Gold Rush of the mid-1800's had a huge impact on California's culture, economy, and population growth. The Gold Rush did not only affect the men and women who rushed to make their fortunes in the Golden State; it also made a lasting impact on the natural ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada. The environmental effects of mining practices were so destructive that they are still visible in many places along the Sierra today.

Located in Nevada County, Deer Creek is a tributary of the Yuba River stretching over 37 miles long. At Deer Creek, the negative environmental impact that gold miners' destructive techniques left is visible even today: "Deer Creek has been threatened since the days of the Gold Rush. Prospectors turned over every section of the river, diverted its waters, logged its forests, and filled it with gravel and toxic mercury in their quest for riches. This legacy is still with us," states citizen conservation group, the Friends of Deer

Creek (FODC), on their website.

Many toxins were deposited into Deer Creek in the mid-1800s. In 1999, a U.S. Geological Survey study showed mentholated mercury or methyl-mercury in significant amounts in Sierra watersheds, including Deer Creek. ¹ When ingested through fish consumption, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has linked the compound to cardiovascular disease, specifically heart attacks, as well as birth defects in children. ²

“Methyl-mercury gets into the different steps of the aquatic food chain,” explains hydrologist for FODC and Solomon Henson. “And as it moves up the food chain, as each larger predator consumes the smaller organism with methyl-mercury, the compound becomes concentrated.”

When the USGS came out with this report, the FODC wanted more information. They decided to study and document the heavy metals in the sediments, water, and biota of Deer Creek, and to see how these toxins were affected by peak storm flows.

In 2005, the FODC received funding from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and during stormy, midnight gales, adventurous volunteers ventured out onto Deer Creek to take water samples during peak storm flows.

Once the FODC’s findings had established that methyl-mercury existed in the sediments and water, they began to investigate further, and in 2006, they received funding from the Bureau of Land Management to document the impact of methyl-mercury on the Deer Creek biota. FODC scientists conducted methyl-mercury studies on macro-invertebrate and fish in the Deer Creek watershed and are currently studying levels in algae. With these studies, they found that methyl-mercury was found in “virtually all levels” of the aquatic food chain in Deer Creek, “from phytoplankton, to macro-invertebrate, to fish,” said FODC’s Executive Director Joanne Hild.

In 2006, the FODC also received grants from the CalEPA called “Brown-fields Grants.” This money funded studies of areas particularly contaminated with mercury and other heavy metals. The findings of the Brown-fields Grant are still being determined by the FODC.

Heavy metal cleanup, land use and resource extraction methods continue to be an issue in the Sierra Nevada, particularly Nevada County. Groups like Friends of Deer Creek provide the scientific data that helps communities make informed choices and that reminds people of why the ecological character of their local creek is so important.

FODC is working with the Maidu Tribe to write a restoration plan which will identify significant cultural and historical information of the region and prioritize restoration projects in the watershed. Local middle and high schools will benefit from working on projects involving both.

Through it all, volunteers have played a large role in their “creek-days”, macro-invertebrate counts, restoration projects, trail building and other community events. “We encourage all types of people to come to volunteer and get involved with us,” says Henson, “this creek unites our communities, both past and present.”

If you’d like to get involved with Friends of Deer Creek, visit their website at www.friendsofdeercreek.org.

CITATIONS

- 1 <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/archive/reports/ofr00367/>
- 2 <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp46.html>

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Spenceville

Contact: Richard Thomas, President
Address: 10066 Robinson King Rd., Nevada City, CA
Phone: (530) 265-2666
Email: randtthomas@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.spenceville.org

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Yuba
Issue Focus: all

Description: The Friends of Spenceville was formed to educate the public about the Spenceville Wildlife and Recreation Area about the need to preserve Spenceville as a wildlife and recreation area.

The Spenceville Wildlife Area, an 11,813 acre wildlife preserve, managed by the California State Department of Fish and Game, is a treasure that should be celebrated and protected for present and future generations.

Friends of Spenceville originally was founded to combat the threat of a major dam that would flood the Spenceville area. Currently the group is fighting a proposal to build 5,100 homes adjacent to the Spenceville area. Along with other significant impacts due to the remote location of the Yuba Highlands development, the project will generate greatly increased traffic in the area. The primary access to the development is proposed to go south through Spenceville on Smartville, Waldo, and Long Ravine Roads. linking the development with Lincoln, Roseville and Sacramento.

Forest Issues Group

Contact: Don Rivenes, Acting Executive Director
Address: PO Box 1334, Nevada City CA 95959
Phone: (530) 478-0117
Email: rivenes@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.forestissuesgroup.org

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Placer, Yuba
Issue Focus: Forestry

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Forest Issues Group)
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Forest Issues Group (FIG) is an organization made up of citizens committed to a healthy Tahoe National Forest. FIG provides community education and public review of U.S. Forest Service management of the Tahoe National Forest.

FIG focuses its on-the-ground activities on the public lands of the Tahoe National Forest. However, we are also concerned with the U.S. Forest Service management planning on National Forests, and the other Sierra Forests, and how this management and private timber sales impact the Tahoe National Forest.

Nevada County Land Trust

Contact Name: Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director
Address: 175 Joerschke Dr Ste R, Grass Valley CA 95945
Phone: 530-272-5994
Email: marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org
Website: www.nevadacountylandtrust.org

County of Activity: Nevada County
Issue Focus: Land conservation, building trails, educational and recreational programs for members and the public.

Volunteers Opportunities: Yes, we have a varied group of volunteers such as trail builders, trek leaders, event workers, office workers, etc.
Accepts Donations: Yes, the Land trust has an active membership of approximately 650 and also accepts non-member donations and endowments.
Public Events: Annual fundraising concert, Small Farms Progress Day, Come Home to Eat, Indigenous People's Day, Summer Kids' Camp (nature studies and Native American studies)

Description: Nevada County Land Trust is a non-profit, membership-supported group promoting voluntary conservation of our natural, historical and agricultural resources through protection and enhancement of natural areas, farms and ranches, trails and parks to provide a lasting community heritage. The Land Trust exists to create a balance between nature and the needs of the people who make a life and a livelihood here. This is

our home. Our mission is to enrich the deep community connection with our land – today, tomorrow, and forever.

Sierra Business Council

Contact Name: Nikki Streegan, Communications Director

Address: PO Box 2428, Truckee, CA 96160

Phone: 530-582-4800

Email: info@sbcouncil.org.

Website: www.sbcouncil.org

County: Nevada

Issue Focus: Sierra Business Council works in the program areas of economy, environment, community, and leadership.

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Sierra Business Council is a member-based organization of over 700 individuals and businesses who are committed to our mission of pioneering innovative projects and approaches that foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social fairness in the Sierra Nevada. We are the Sierra Nevada's sustainability organization and continue to demonstrate that vibrant communities, fair and prosperous economies, and healthy thriving ecosystems are not competing interests. When all three thrive, everyone wins.

Sierra Club – Motherlode Chapter (Sierra Nevada)

Contact: Charlie Chisholm, Group Chair

Address: PO Box 1042 Nevada, Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-2033

Email: charles.chisholm@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada/>

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Yuba

Issue Focus: all

Public Events: hikes, walks, and outings for seniors, families and experienced hikers, monthly meetings

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes (contact group)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Are you concerned about environmental issues in Nevada, Sierra and Yuba Counties? We have an active Sierra Club group, offering local outings for seniors, families, and experienced hikers. We hold monthly meetings featuring speakers as well as camaraderie. We publish a bimonthly newsletter to keep you informed on local issues and to give you an opportunity to express your concerns. We are involved in the community, participating in local issues that affect our environment: mining, forestry, toxins, population, land use issues, as well as such recreational activities as hiking, canoeing, picnics, a fall run through the colors, and potluck dinners.

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Contact: Christina Sherr, President

Address: PO Box 1937, Grass Valley CA 95945

Phone: (530) 478-5741

Email: sherrs@infostations.com

Website: www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com

County: Nevada, Placer

Resource Focus: land use, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: Christmas Bird Count, Annual Rice Field's trip, public meeting presentations

Volunteer Opportunities: event planning, school slide-shows

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: Sierra Foothills Audubon Society's mission is to work within our community to promote appreciation of and protection for birds and their habitats.

Our education efforts include slide shows to groups (primarily senior housing developments) and bi-monthly presentations at public meetings. We give presentations to Elementary Schools and offer a program at the county Fair. We support educational activities for youth at the Placer Nature Center. We average over two public field trips per month, including the handicapped-accessible beginning birder trips at Roseville's sculpture park, and our annual rice fields' trip to view migrating waterfowl. Special events for the year included the four Christmas Bird Counts within our Service area.

Conservation activities include joining with other environmental organizations to oppose sprawl housing projects in Placer and Nevada Counties and the Yuba Highlands 5,100 homes project that is proposed adjoining the Spenceville Wildlife Area, which is habitat to the threatened California black rail. The Forest Service's plans to apply herbicide to an area recovering from the effects of the Cottonwood fire has caused us to join with other organizations to prevent this unnecessary application of herbicides to our forests. We also provide funds to research programs for state threatened California black rails and Tri-colored blackbirds.

The Sierra Fund

Contact Person: Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin, CEO

Address: The Sierra Fund, 423 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-8454

Email: info@sierrafund.org

Website: www.sierrafund.org

County: Nevada

Issues Focus: air quality, botanical, forestry, global warming, land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat, Tribal consultation, legacy mining

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes (Sierra Day in the Capitol, Calling Back the Salmon Ceremony)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Sierra Day in the Capitol, Tribal Convergences on Mercury, Calling Back the Salmon Ceremony, Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference

Description: The Sierra Fund was established in 2001 as the only community foundation dedicated to saving the Sierra Nevada.

The mission of The Sierra Fund is to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada. We do this by partnering with private donors and public agencies to increase and organize investment in the region’s land, air, water and human resources. In the last two years we have granted or loaned nearly \$2 million to conservation efforts.

Sierra Watch (All Sierra Nevada Mountains)

Contact Name: Tom Mooers, Executive Director

Address: 408 Broad St #12 Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-2849

Email: info@sierrawatch.org

Website: www.sierrawatch.org

County: Sierra Nevada Mountains

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Sierra Watch secures protection of valuable but threatened landscapes by shaping critical land-use decisions on specific development projects and creating strategic funding for priority conservation landscapes.

Snowlands Network

Contact Name: Ellen Lapham, president
Address: Snowlands Network, PO Box 2570, Nevada City CA 95959
Phone: 530-265-6424
Email: elapham@snowlands.org
Website URL: www.SaveOurSnowlands.org

Counties of Activity: All Sierra Nevada counties in CA and NV that have snow depth sufficient for winter recreation. In California our focus is on: Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mono, Tuolumne, Madera, and Inyo. In Nevada: Washoe and Douglas.

Issue Focus: Public lands winter land use and planning, sustainable winter recreation:

FROM LIST: land use, watershed health, air quality, global warming, wildlife, botanical

Public Events: HOST: Snowlands on Snow winter outings, The Backcountry Film Festival, winter recreation slide shows and talks, monitoring/stewardship programs
PARTICIPATE: Earth Days (Reno, North Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, Winter Trail Days, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, public meeting presentations on land use & Forest planning issues.

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Snowlands Network is the only non-profit advocate focused on issues of winter lands planning and recreation use – and abuse – on public lands in our beautiful Sierra Nevada range. We represent self propelled and low-impact skiers, snowshoers, hikers, birdwatchers, photographers, anglers, climbers, campers, and sledding/snow-play families. For all, we work to preserve & protect the Sierra's 10 million Forest Service acres.

Our three action programs are: advocacy and monitoring, education/outreach, and recreation enhancement. Our Snowlands On Snow outings help people learn about our fragile Sierra and gain new winter skills. Snowlands' critical 'quiet use' projects include Sonora Pass/Hoover Wilderness, Hope Valley/Highway 88, and Mount Rose to Martis Peak/Tahoe Meadows above Lake Tahoe.

South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)

Contact: Jason Rainey
Address: 216 Main Street County: Nevada
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530.265.5961 x207
Fax: 530.265.6232
Email: jason@syrccl.org
Website: www.syrccl.org

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Yuba, Sierra

Issue Focus: all

Public Events: Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Annual Great Yuba Clean-Up and Raft Tour, quiz nights, poetry readings, river tours, (contact group for more information)

Volunteer Opportunities: river monitoring (RiverScience program participation), river docent, help organize events, office assistance, RiverPeople program participation, (contact group for more information)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: SYRCL's mission is to protect, preserve and restore the entire Yuba watershed. SYRCL was formed in 1983 to combat dam threats on the South Yuba river and has a 20 year record of measurable successes including achieving Wild and Scenic status for the Yuba in 1999. We have established a positive reputation as a model collaborator and built trust amongst diverse interests while aggressively advocating in defense of the Yuba. With the help of our 4500 supporters and 500 active volunteers SYRCL has developed five unique and effective programs to defend the Yuba ecosystem and have designed programs to be models for other groups. The issues we are currently working on include restoring the last run of native Central Valley salmon and steelhead to the upper Yuba, monitoring water quality, preventing pollution, stopping dams and teaching the community how to protect their watershed.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: Eric Rood Administrative Center

950 Maidu Avenue,

Nevada City, CA 95959

Telephone: 530-265-1480

Fax: 530-265-9836

Website: www.mynevadacounty.com/boardofsupervisors

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

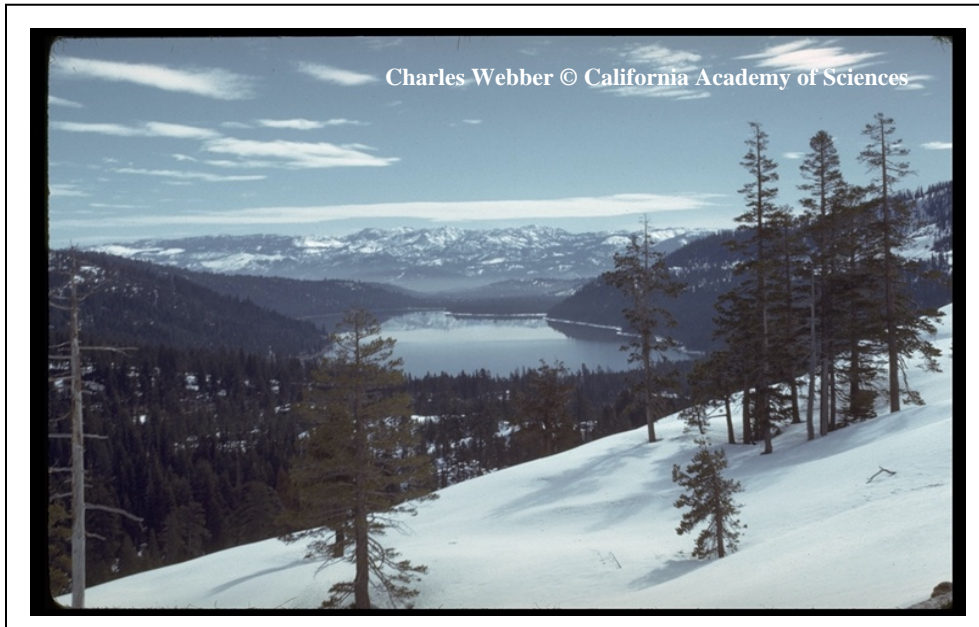
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

PLACER COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 5,891 sq. km (2,274 sq. mi)

Population: 248,399 (as of 2000)

Location: Northern Central Valley

Official Website: www.placer.ca.gov

CONSERVATION STORY

Placer Land Trust Preserves the Stagecoach Preserve

From 1999 to 2007, the Placer Land Trust and Placer county residents have worked together to protect the Stagecoach Preserve. The Stagecoach Preserve is a 10-acre tract of natural open space that, in 1999, was scheduled for intense residential development.

The preserve protects some of the last remaining open space and habitats that lie between the American River Canyon and the residential area of Auburn near the popular Stagecoach Trailhead.

Open space serves multiple purposes for both people and wildlife. In and around the Stagecoach Preserve hikers and mountain bikers use the area as a staging point for ventures into the Canyon. The land is in the prime Canyon-view corridor for many residences in the area and for the countless pedestrians, bicycles and traffic passing through on Foresthill Avenue. Stagecoach Preserve also provides important wildlife habitat connecting the canyon to upland ravines and is home to a stretch of Canyon Creek.

Placer Land Trust purchased the bulk of the property in 1999 and added three acres in 2007. Thanks to the support and vision of the community and the SkyView Foundation, Placer Land Trust was able to purchase the land in fee title for the purpose of open space protection.

For some this is where the story of Canyon Creek ends, but for volunteers and visitors this is where family stories and memories just begin!

With neighborhood volunteers, Placer Land Trust is currently restoring the stretch of Canyon Creek that runs between Foresthill Avenue and Canyon Drive on Stagecoach Preserve.

Volunteers do a whole range of restoration activities from planting native shrubs and trees such as coffeeberry and redbud, to pulling invasive species like Himalayan blackberry and cat-tails that disrupt the natural ecosystem of Canyon Creek.

“Volunteers come out because they want to beautify their neighborhood and because they want to protect it,” said Katy Sater, a volunteer coordinator for the Placer Land Trust in 2007. “It’s a little work, but when they come they enjoy it. Sometimes parents volunteer and bring their kids.”

Placer Land Trust is planning a public trail along Canyon Creek on Stagecoach Preserve, linking up to the popular Stagecoach Trailhead. Meanwhile, the property is accessible to the public for educational purposes with prior consent. Contact Placer Land Trust to get permission to access the property; their contact information is listed in this directory.

ORGANIZATIONS

Clover Valley Foundation

Contact Name: Marilyn Jasper

Address: Clover Valley Foundation, P.O. Box 713, Loomis, CA 95650

Phone: (916) 652-7005

Email: email@clovervalleyfoundation.org, mjasper@accessbee.com

Website: www.clovervalleyfoundation.org

County: Placer and Sacramento
Issue Focus: Land-use, development

Volunteer Opportunities: UNLIMITED volunteer opportunities--website management, CEQA commenting, fundraising, education and public outreach, etc.

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Presentations on effort to save Clover Valley

Description: Dedicated to preserving Clover Valley's 622 pristine acres of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, creek, meadows, grasslands, scenic ridges, historic rock walls, stone corral, and prehistoric sites in perpetuity as a regional historic nature preserve.

Dry Creek Conservancy

Contact Name: Gregg Bates
Address: PO Box 1311, Roseville, CA 95678
Phone: 916 773-6575
Email: dcc@surewest.net
Website: drycreekconservancy.org

County: Placer, Sacramento, Sutter
Issue Focus: Watershed Quality
Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Creek Week, Fall Spawning Survey

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Creek Week, Fall Spawning Survey

Description: Dry Creek Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation organized in 1996 to facilitate watershed conservation, restoration, and education in the watersheds of Dry Creek, Pleasant Grove Creek, Auburn Ravine Creek, Coon Creek and surrounding areas in Placer, Sutter, and Sacramento counties. Programs include Restoration of Salmon habitat, Monitoring aquatic insects and water quality, public events such as Creekweek, and Planning processes such as the American Basin Council of Watersheds stakeholder collaborative, and the Dry Creek Greenway, a continuous trail and open space greenway connecting with the American River Parkway at Discovery Park and Folsom Lake, forming a 70-mile loop.

Friends of Squaw Creek

Contact: Ed Heneveld
Address: 955 Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: (530)583-1817

Email: heneveld@telis.org
Website: www.squawcreek.org

County: Placer

Issue Focus: water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: educational outreach, (local) advocacy, restoration

Public Events: Spring Refuge Workday, National Wildlife Refuge Week, Eagle Days, other

Volunteer Opportunities: Prairie Restoration, Wetlands Refuge Restoration, Refuge Center help, surveys, other

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC) is a grassroots organization in Squaw Valley comprised of landowners, businesses, jurisdictional agencies, and private citizens dedicated to enhancing the Squaw Creek watershed. Our mission statement is: "The Friends of Squaw Creek seek to provide a forum for facilitating and coordinating efforts to promote a naturally sustainable environment for the Squaw Creek watershed through education, communication, science, and community involvement." Goals include promoting that Squaw Creek's ecosystems be able to perform their natural, physical, and biological functions considering their uses and constraints. This includes improving communication within the community, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and educating the community about the watershed's ecology.

North Fork American River Alliance (NFARA)

Contact Name: Jim Ricker

Address: P.O. Box 292, Gold Run, CA 95717

Phone: 530-389-8344

Email: jvricker@colfaxnet.com

Website: www.nfara.org

County: Placer

Issue Focus: Trails and Recreation, Land use, Forestry Issues

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Trail Maintenance, Events, Research, Commentary

Accept donations: Yes

Description: Our mission is to preserve the wild, scenic and cultural heritage within the watershed of the North Fork American River.

We believe that by establishing partnerships with private property owners, public agencies, land trusts and other interested parties, we can preserve the North Fork Canyon and its heritage for future generations to enjoy.

North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance

Contact Name: Jerry Wotel, President
Address: PO Box 289, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148
Phone: 530-546-8125
Email: jwotel@ntcaa.org
Website URL: ntcaa.org

County/Counties: North Lake Tahoe, Placer County
Issue Focus: air quality, global warming, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat
Group Type: educational, community outreach, advocacy

Public Events: monthly meetings, newsletter
Volunteer Opportunities: community land use monitors
Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance (NTCAA) will provide a citizen voice and better representation for North Shore Lake Tahoe residents and homeowners. It will proactively engage local government agencies, planners, and other key decision-makers that define the future shape of our communities, and work with them to improve the quality of their decisions.

NTCAA supports a community development strategy that eliminates blighted conditions, directs the effective expenditure of public funds, integrates community projects for the public good, and develops innovative solutions. NTCAA wants to increase the flow of accurate and timely information to both its members and the public at large, and the group will push for the wise use of taxpayer funds through full disclosure, greater accountability, and increased public scrutiny.

Placer Land Trust and Nature Center

Contact: Jeff Darlington
Address: PO Box 9222, Auburn, CA 95604
Phone: (530) 837-9222
Email: jeff@placervillelandtrust.org
Website: www.placerlandtrust.org

County: Placer
Issue Focus: botanical, land use, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: guided tours, Harvest celebration, Farmer's market

Volunteer Opportunities: easement monitoring, watershed restoration, event planning, photography, other

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: To work with landowners to preserve open space and farmland in Placer County, CA. The group focuses on sprawl in West Placer.

Since 1991 Placer Land Trust has preserved wild land along the North Fork of the American River, open space in a residential area of Auburn, and working agricultural land in the western region of the County. PLT is currently working on conservation methods such as easements and estate planning. In the future they will also be working on a countywide open space project and individual land-owner easement donations.

PLT works in partnership with local, statewide and national conservation organizations as well as local, state, and federal agencies. The Trust is familiar with the decision-making procedures of a variety of governmental agencies/representatives including the local board of supervisors, the city council, the local planning and commission, the local water district, and the local sanitation district.

Sierra Club Placer Group

Contact Name: Marilyn Jasper

Address: P.O. Box 7167, Auburn, CA 95604

Phone: (916) 652-7005

Email: mjasper@accessbee.com, marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org

Website URL: <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/placer/index.html>

County of Activity: Western Placer County (from summit westward)

Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, forestry, global warming, land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat, sprawl development

Public Events: As many Earth Day/Environmental events as possible; tabling, displays, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities: UNLIMITED volunteer opportunities--website management, CEQA commenting, fundraising, education and public outreach, etc.

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Explore, enjoy and protect the planet, with special focus on Placer County.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Placer County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: Main Auburn Office
175 Fulweiler Ave, Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: 530-889-4010
Toll-free in Placer County: 800-488-4308
Fax: 530-889-4009
Website: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/bos.aspx>
E-mail: bos@placer.ca.gov

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 4th District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a4/index.aspx>

PLUMAS COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 2,613 sq. miles (6,768 sq. kilometers)

Population: 20,824 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Eastern Sierra

Official Website: www.countyofplumas.org

CONSERVATION STORY

High Sierra Rural Alliance Represents the Public's Interest in Protecting the Rural Communities of the Sierra

The High Sierra Rural Alliance is a non-profit, grassroots organization committed to the preservation and enhancement of the rural Sierra experience. Believing rural values provide a balance between human, economic and environmental well-being, HSRA monitors local land use decision-making and advocates for the preservation of rural landscapes. The organization was founded in 2004 by two former County Land Use Planners in response to the increasing development pressure threatening the areas sensitive natural resources. In a short time the HSRA has:

- Protected the California public's right to participate in land use decisions by winning a precedent setting case banning certain "streamlined zoning" processes
- Established a de facto moratorium on development projects which encroach upon open space lands in Plumas County
- Partnered with the Sierra County Land Trust to purchase up to 1,000 acres in the Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin for water quality, habitat and open space protection
- Aided the residents of the City of Loyalton to successfully derail a developer's plan for leap frog development into neighboring ranches
- Convinced Plumas County that their Land Use Planning process is in need of revision
- Galvanized the community of Sierraville in opposing plans for a gated-community development at the Sierra Valley Hot Springs site
- Plugged a loophole in the Sierra County Zoning Code making measures to mitigate environmental impact enforceable
- Successfully insisted that the potential environmental impacts of amending existing policies and regulations must be disclosed to the public before amendments are made

Currently, HSRA is advocating:

- For the Plumas County General Plan Update by:
 - challenging projects which highlight the lack of protection for open space and threaten natural resources in Plumas County;
 - collaborating with citizens groups and developers to pressure the Board of Supervisors to commit to a public process to update the General Plan;
 - exposing the County's effort to fix the General Plan without public participation
 - monitoring and testifying against proposed development projects which are not consistent with the public's desire for a coherent land use plan
- For compliance with Sierra County's General Plan by:
 - attending Planning Commission meetings and offering suggestions as the Commission considers revision of ordinances
 - challenging projects which threaten rural and environmental values
 - challenging Sierra Pacific Industries' rezone of over 7000 acres between Jackson Meadows Reservoir and Perazzo Meadows from a zone which protects California forests from development to a zone which encourages development.

Other Projects include:

- Writing a Child Element for the Calaveras County General Plan Update in collaboration with a Calaveras County citizen's group
- Compiling data and material to create a GIS model of the Sierra Valley for use by local jurisdictions in planning

The High Sierra Rural Alliance believes the resources and exceptional communities of the Sierra will be protected through good local and regional land use planning and public participation. The organization participates in the land use decision making process and provides outreach and education to members of the community to encourage those impacted by the process to speak out.

The HSRA is one of the only citizen groups watch-dogging Sierra and Plumas County's land use decisions. While it is important that citizens take part in a local conservancy or land trust, it is also important that residents are vigilant of the democratic process, environmental review process, and environmental implications of policy in their region. Without strong policies protecting natural resources, conservancies will be at the mercy of a speculative real estate market. HSRA has been an astute observer of those issues. If you are interested in getting involved with HSRA, becoming a member, volunteering, donating, or would like to find out more about them please visit www.highsierrarural.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group

Contact Name: Jim Wilcox
Address: 550 Crescent Street Quincy, CA 95971
Phone: (530) 283-3739

Email: jim@plumascounty.org
Website: www.feather-river-crm.org
County: Plumas

Description: The Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group works to protect, maintain, and enhance ecosystems and community stability in the Feather River Watershed through collaborative landowner participation.

Feather River Land Trust

Contact Name: Paul Hardy
Address: 75 Court Street
P.O. Box 1826
Quincy, CA 95971
Phone: 530.283.5758
Email: frlt@frlt.org
Website URL: www.frlt.org

County/Countries: Plumas, Sierra

Issue Focus: botanical, forest, land use, watershed health, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: tours of preserves, annual Round Valley Run

Volunteer Opportunities: help restore wetlands, protected properties, or assist in our annual Round Valley Run

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The mission of the Feather River Land Trust is to conserve, restore and manage land in the Feather River region in cooperation with willing landowners for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Feather River Land Trust works with willing landowners, local communities, and the general public to protect the land. We do this by purchasing conservation easements, buying land, and through donations. As a result the land we protect, restore and manage remains both protected and productive. It continues to generate needed tax benefits for the community, county and state, and preserves the unique character of the region.

High Sierra Rural Alliance

Contact Name: Stevee Duber

Address: P.O. Box 65, Sierra City, CA 96125

Phone: (530) 862-1571

Email: stevee@highsierrarural.org

Website URL: www.highsierrarural.org

County/Countries: Plumas, Sierra

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: public informational meetings

Volunteer Opportunities: internships, event planning, local agency meeting attendance

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The High Sierra Rural Alliance advocates preservation and enhancement of rural Sierra Nevada in Plumas and Sierra Counties. Formerly the Environmental Defense Project of Sierra County, the High Sierra Rural Alliance (HSRA) has been in existence since 2004. Our organization utilizes land use and planning expertise to provide local agency oversight and public input opportunities. We advocate for the public's right to participation and healthy sustainable communities. Our focus is on the preservation of agriculture in Sierra Valley and conservation of the immeasurable natural resources found in the region. Please visit our website, www.highsierrarural.org for project information and our successes.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Address: 520 Main Street, Room 309

Quincy, CA. 95971

Phone: (530) 283-6170

Fax: (530) 283-6244 - FAX

E-Mail: pcbs@countyofplumas.com

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

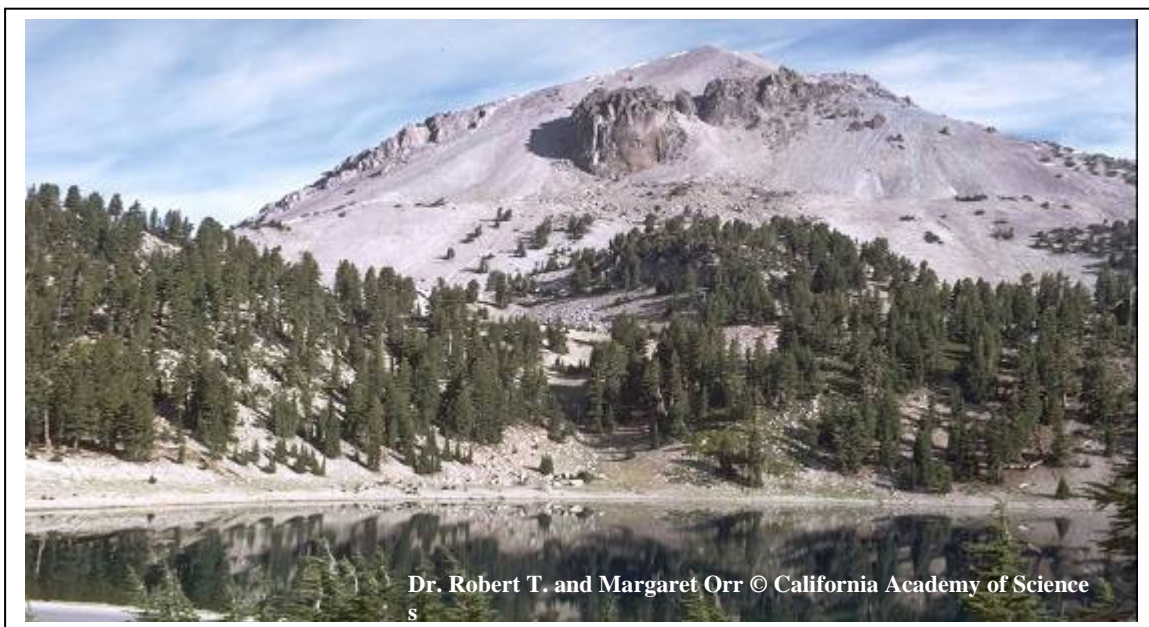
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

SHASTA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 3,847 sq. miles (9,964 sq. kilometers)

Population: 163, 256 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: Northern Sierra

Official Website: www.co.shasta.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

Shasta Land Trust Protects 6,640 Acres of Diverse Bird Habitat

In March of 2006, the community-based non-profit the Shasta Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land completed the purchase of a land conservation easement on the 6,640-acre Hathaway Ranch at Oak Run.

Located ten miles northeast of Redding in Shasta County, “This project has been a five year labor of love—a collaborative effort supported by our partners and many community members,” said Kathleen Gilman, Executive Director of Shasta Land Trust in 2006. The conservation easement was funded by two State of California agencies: the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Resources Agency (with funds from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000).

The project also had a large base of local support with letters of endorsement from the local California Department of Fish and Game's regional manager, as well as from local landowner organizations such as the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group.

The Hathaway Ranch lies within the Cow Creek Watershed (a primary focus area for Shasta Land Trust) and contains five miles of Oak Run Creek frontage which supports native fish species as well as large areas of wetlands.

The Ranch has been in the Hathaway family for over 150 years and is a valued component of the area's rich farming history. The Hathaway Ranch watershed is under steadily-growing pressure as Redding and nearby towns expand east into the foothills, and the Hathaway family felt that permanently preserving the Ranch against this threat was very important. The completion of the conservation easement made this possible as the Shasta Land Trust worked in close partnership with the Hathaway family to maintain their ranching lifestyle while protecting the ranch's important natural resources.

Conservation easements are an important tool for conserving valuable landscapes. This easement forever protects the land from development, while allowing sustainable cattle grazing to continue on the property. In this way, important habitat for native species is legally protected while helping to ensure the survival of the working landscape and lifestyle of cattle ranching.

By focusing on the Cow Creek Watershed, Shasta Land Trust works on a landscape scale to protect biologically rich habitat, wildlife corridors, and working landscapes that are increasingly targeted for development. Annual grassland and foothill pine-oak woodland cover the ranch and provide habitat for abundant native wildlife and plants, as well as valuable winter grazing for cattle. The diverse array of species found at the Hathaway Ranch includes barn swallows, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, Cooper's hawks, black-tail deer, gray squirrels, black bears, gopher snakes, and bushy-tailed woodrats.

Shasta Land Trust members and volunteers play an integral part in protecting the significant lands in the biologically rich Northstate. Members donate time and money to the Land Trust. They work on a variety of projects such as the newsletter and fund raising events, or get involved by working on a committee or joining the board of directors.

Supporters' donations make it possible for the land trust to do its work every day. In addition, members' tax dollars also flow back to be used to purchase Easements because Shasta Land Trust utilizes grants from local and state funding agencies for its Easement purchases.

With the impact of rapid growth and the loss of wildlife habitat and grazing lands in the California Northstate, Shasta Land Trust continues to look for creative partnerships and has found the community very supportive in its endeavors to protect valuable properties here.

Kathy Callan, a retired teacher and active member of Shasta Land Trust sums it up best: “We owe it to our children to protect the few remaining wild places.”

For residents who would like to see more protections like this in Shasta County, volunteer, donate, or learn more about the Shasta Land Trust please visit www.shastalandtrust.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Battle Creek Alliance

Contact Name: Mauro Oliveira

Address: Box 225, Montgomery Creek, CA 96065

Phone: 530 356 7343

Email: Marily Woodhouse, marily-lobo@hotmail.com

Website URL: www.stopclearcuttingcalifornia.org

County of Activity: Statewide

Issue Focus: Main focus global warming and clearcutting. Clearcutting in general, water quality, wildlife, herbicide exposure, diversity

Public Events: Whole Earth Festival in Davis, Capital Day in Sacramento, Demonstrations in different counties

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes, contact the organization

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Ending clearcutting in California

The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project

Contact: Jake Jacobson

Address: 500 Main Street
Chico, CA 95928

Phone: (530) 897-6370

Email: jjacobson@tnc.org

Website: www.nature.org

County: Shasta, Tehama

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: guided tours

Volunteer Opportunities: restoration opportunities

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters the need to survive. TNC is an international organization that takes a non-confrontational approach to conservation work. In the Lassen Foothills, TNC works collaboratively with landowners and other partners to preserve the important biological and ecological resources of eastern Tehama county and southeastern Shasta county.

The Lassen Foothills Project area includes seven important tributary streams to the Sacramento River, extensive blue oak woodlands and four vernal pool complexes. Conservation targets include Steelhead trout, several wild Chinook salmon runs, neo-tropical migratory birds, vernal pool plants and animals, the largest migratory deer herd in California and numerous other at-risk species.

TNC's primary protection tool in the Lassen Foothills is the acquisition of conservation easements, typically over large cattle ranches. TNC owns three properties in fee in the Lassen Foothills: the 4,600-acre Vina Plains Preserve (a vernal pool complex north of Chico), the 1,844-acre Wildcat Ranch (an oak woodland on the North Fork of Battle Creek) and 1,440-acre Childs Meadow (a mountain meadow near Lassen Volcanic National Park). TNC also manages the 37,540-acre Dye Creek Preserve (an oak woodland in multiple watersheds east of Los Molinos) on behalf of the State Controller Environmental Trust.

Shasta Land Trust

Contact Name: Ben Miles, Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 992026, Redding, CA 96099-2026
(office located at 1918 West St., Redding)

Phone: 530-241-7886

Email: info@shastalandtrust.org

Website URL: www.shastalandtrust.org

Counties of Activity: Shasta, Tehama

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: conservation

Public Events: nature hikes, bird walks, conservation property tours, land restoration workdays, stargazing trips, mountain bike rides, horseback rides, wine tastings

Volunteer Opportunities: event planning, office, watershed restoration, land stewardship, photography, newsletter, website, other

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Shasta Land Trust is dedicated to permanently protecting and enhancing natural habitats, agricultural lands, and open spaces. Founded in 1998, Shasta Land Trust works with private landowners, statewide and national organizations, and government agencies to accomplish its land conservation mission. The Trust protects land permanently and directly, by purchasing conservation easements, accepting easement donations, and buying land. Shasta Land Trust's current areas of focus are the Cow Creek and Bear Creek Watersheds in the foothills east of Redding, and the Fall River Valley. Currently, Shasta Land Trust holds over 11,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat, streams and rivers, cattle ranchlands, and productive lands in conservation easements and land purchases.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Shasta County Board of Supervisors

Address: 1450 Court St., Suite 308B

Redding, CA 96001-1680

Phone: (530) 225-5557

Toll Free: (800) 479-8009

Fax: (530) 225-5189

URL: http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/html/BOS/bos_index.htm

Senate Representative – 4th District:

Counties Represented: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba counties

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4/>

Assembly Representative – 2nd District

Counties Represented: Modoc, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a2/index.aspx>

SIERRA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 962 sq. miles (2,492 sq. kilometers)

Population: 3,555 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Eastern Sierra

Official Website: www.sierracounty.ws

CONSERVATION STORY

The Feather River Land Trust Holds Sierra Valley Habitat Together

The Sierra Valley is the largest alpine meadow in California. The meadow spans both Plumas and Sierra counties - over a whopping 210,000 acres. Un-fragmented open areas such as the Sierra Valley are vital to the protection of wildlife, as habitat destruction is currently the number one cause of species extinction world-wide. The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) realized this, and in 2007, the FRLT purchased conservation easements in the Sierra Valley from Fred and Dan Balderston – two generations of a ranching family.

In January of 2007 with the help of the Sierra Business Council and the Nature Conservancy, the FRLT purchased a 1,360 acre conservation easement on the Fred Balderston Ranch in the valley. In September of that same year, the FRLT completed a 160 acre conservation easement with landowner Dan Balderston, son of Fred Balderston.

The easements on both ranches help maintain the properties as working cattle ranches, while conserving outstanding wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and the water quality of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. Because the easements are “in perpetuity,” the land is protected from development even if the ranchers decide to give up working the land.

“Sierra Valley is a very special place,” said Fred Balderston. “The ranch is like an old friend to me and protecting its land, wildlife, and scenery, while ensuring that the property remains a working ranch, is a legacy my family is very proud to pass on.”

The conservation easements in the Sierra Valley protect both the wildlife and ecological integrity of the region. They provide key migratory and wintering habitat for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd, as well as house over 130 bird species. Some of the endangered and threatened species found on the ranches are the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wolverine, and the Sierra Nevada Red Fox.

Ecologically, the properties support a diversity of habitat, including grassland, sagebrush, and bitterbrush ecosystems. The Sierra Valley is the site of extensive freshwater marshes filled with cattails, bulrushes and alkaline flats that drain into the middle fork of the Feather River.

While the FRLT has succeeded in creating safe havens for these species and ecosystems in the Balderston ranch conservation easements, the FRLT is also working to protect larger portions of the valley. In order to prevent “fragmentation,” which means that the habitat for a species is protected only in small pieces interspersed with development areas, the FRLT hopes to secure larger areas of land in the Sierra Valley as conservation easements.

“The nearby cities of Reno and Truckee continue to expand around the Sierra Valley,” said FRLT Executive Director Paul Hardy. As urban populations continue to grow in the Sierra in unsustainable ways, they fragment crucial habitat. Not only is wildlife affected, but eventually so are natural resources people need.

Hardy summed up the relationship between the rancher and encroaching developers: “When ranchers and private organizations can work together to protect agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and other important natural resources while helping to maintain ranching as an integral part of the Sierra Valley, everybody wins.”

The Feather River Land Trust was formed in 2001 and since then has protected over 27,000 acres in the Feather River region. As a 501(c)3 it has done it all through the

support of volunteers, donations, and its community. For more information on the Feather River Land Trust visit www.frlt.org.

ORGANIZATIONS

Feather River Land Trust

Contact Name: Paul Hardy
Address: 75 Court Street
P.O. Box 1826
Quincy, CA 95971
Phone: 530.283.5758
Email: frlt@frlt.org
Website URL: www.frlt.org

County/Counties: Plumas, Sierra

Issue Focus: botanical, forest, land use, watershed health, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: tours of preserves, annual Round Valley Run

Volunteer Opportunities: help restore wetlands, protected properties, or assist in our annual Round Valley Run

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The mission of the Feather River Land Trust is to conserve, restore and manage land in the Feather River region in cooperation with willing landowners for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Feather River Land Trust works with willing landowners, local communities, and the general public to protect the land. We do this by purchasing conservation easements, buying land, and through donations. As a result the land we protect, restore and manage remains both protected and productive. It continues to generate needed tax benefits for the community, county and state, and preserves the unique character of the region.

High Sierra Permaculture Insitute

Contact Name: Beenie
Address: POB 251 Sierraville CA 96126
Phone: 530-994-3370
Email: highsierrapermaculture@gmail.com
Website: www.highsierrapermaculture.org

County of Activity: Sierra Nevada regions

Issue Focus: Sustainable agriculture, working landscapes, air quality, forestry, land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat, soil ecology, wilderness programs, renewable fuel, renewable energy, localization, art and culture, green and natural building/construction and planning.

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accept donations? Yes

Public Events: High Sierra Permaculture (HSP) will be publishing information for upcoming events for 2008, 2009 and 2010 on our web site

www.highsierrapermaculture.org.

Description: High Sierra Permaculture (HSP) weaves indigenous wisdom and permaculture principles into experiential learning opportunities. HSP uses a range of hands-on, earth-centered programs to empower participants to create and maintain economically, ecologically, and culturally sustainable systems. HSP is creating an educational hub and that will use sustainable principles and practices of permaculture with the collaboration of ranchers, indigenous tribes, and cottage industries to develop collaborative, community-based strategies for effective kinship with the land and economical benefits to communities.

High Sierra Rural Alliance

Contact Name: Stevee Duber

Address: P.O. Box 65, Sierra City, CA 96125

Phone: (530) 862-1571

Email: stevee@highsierrarural.org

Website URL: www.highsierrarural.org

County/Countries: Plumas, Sierra

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, transportation, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: public informational meetings

Volunteer Opportunities: internships, event planning, local agency meeting attendance

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The High Sierra Rural Alliance advocates preservation and enhancement of rural Sierra Nevada in Plumas and Sierra Counties. Formerly the Environmental Defense Project of Sierra County, the High Sierra Rural Alliance (HSRA) has been in existence since 2004. Our organization utilizes land use and planning expertise to provide local agency oversight and public input opportunities. We advocate for the public's right to participation and healthy sustainable communities. Our focus is on the preservation of agriculture in Sierra Valley and conservation of the immeasurable

natural resources found in the region. Please visit our website, www.highsierrarural.org for project information and our successes.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: P. O. Drawer D
100 Courthouse Square, Suite 11
Downieville, CA 95936

Office Phone: (530) 289-3295

Fax: (530) 289-2830

Email: clerk-recorder@sierracounty.ws

Website:

[http://www.sierracounty.ws/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page
&PAGE_id=31&MMN_position=7:7](http://www.sierracounty.ws/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=31&MMN_position=7:7)

Senate Representative – 1st District:

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas and Sierra, as well as portions of Nevada, Placer and Sacramento Counties.

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

TEHAMA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 2,962 sq. miles (7,672 sq. kilometers)

Population: 56,039 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Western Sierra/Cascade

Official Website: www.co.tehama.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

The Nature Conservancy Protects Un-fragmented Habitat of Lassen Foothills

In September 2007, The Nature Conservancy purchased Childs Meadow in Tehama County and successfully preserved the area from encroaching development. Located in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range foothill regions, the meadow is a 1,440-acre mix of creeks, springs, mountain meadows and conifer forest south of Lassen Volcanic National Park. It rests at an elevation of 5,000 feet and is well-known for providing spectacular views along State Highways 36 and 89.

For many years, the Simmons family moved their horse herd between Childs Meadow and Chico. In 2007, the forward-thinking Simmons family opted to keep Childs Meadow connected to its ranching roots and create a conservation outcome rather than sell the property to a developer.

Commercial developers offer alluring profits to landowners. Though many developers propose unsustainable development plans, the money offered is frequently difficult to turn down. When landowners sell their land to developers, “fragmentation,” or the parceling off of wildlife habitat, occurs. This, combined with the steady growth of rural sprawl (also called “rural ranchette”), threatens native wildlife and causes damage to natural ecosystems, resources, scenic landscapes, and rural economies alike.

However, with the help of the Simmons family and the Nature Conservancy, Childs Meadow has escaped from fragmentation and rural sprawl. Childs Meadow is a recent acquisition in the Nature Conservancy’s “Lassen Foothills Project”, which aims to protect important wildlife habitat lands stretching from Lassen Peak to the Sacramento River.

Together with fee-simple acquisitions like Childs Meadow, the Nature Conservancy has turned to conservation easements as a means of protecting the Lassen Foothills. Conservation easements are voluntary land preservation agreements that restrict future development while allowing landowners to retain ownership and management of their lands. So far, many areas of the Lassen Foothills, like the Simmons Ranch, remain protected because large private cattle ranches have not yet been sold and subdivided.

Like the foothills surrounding it, Childs Meadow houses a large numbers of rare and declining bird species. Willow flycatchers, Yellow Warblers and Greater Sandhill Cranes find important riparian habitat along Gurnsey Creek, which winds through it. The findings of Point Reyes Bird Observatory monitoring data show that this area supports one of the most diverse bird populations in the region.

“Childs Meadow is especially critical for birds and the property’s creek plays an important role in the regional watershed,” says Rich Reiner, a senior ecologist for The Nature Conservancy. “Plus, these meadows are also a keystone of the rural economy because of the grazing land they provide.”

The meadow also serves as the headwaters of Deer Creek and helps protect a rare salmon run further downstream. Like most mountain meadows, Childs Meadow stores cold water during winter storms and slowly releases it during the hot, dry summer. This cool water is critical to the survival of Deer Creek’s spring-run salmon, a genetically distinct sub-species listed as threatened by state and federal resource agencies.

One of the most internationally successful conservation organizations in history, the Nature Conservancy encourages people to learn more about these issues by visiting their website at www.nature.org. They also encourage people to visit the Lassen Foothills and experience it for yourself. Child’s Meadow is both a working ranch and an ecological preserve and is only open on a guided tour basis. Large group tours can be arranged by

contacting the Nature Conservancy. Within the Lassen Foothills Project, seasonal guided tours are also available at Dye Creek Preserve, Vina Plains Preserve, and McCloud River Preserve.

Among the Nature Conservancy's partners in the Lassen Foothills are the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy, Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy, Mill Creek Conservancy, the Center for Land Based Learning, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, California Department of Fish and Game and Wildlife Conservation Board, CALFED, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and PG&E.

ORGANIZATIONS

Butte Environmental Council

Contact Name: Barbara Vlamis

Address: 116 W. Second Street, Suite 3, Chico, CA 95928

Phone: 530.891.6424

Email: barbarav@becnet.org

Website URL: www.becnet.org

Counties of Activity: Butte, Glenn, Tehama

Issue Focus: air quality, botanical, global warming, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy, litigation, restoration, coalition, outreach

Public Events: Annual Endangered Species Faire (www.endangeredspeciesfaire.org); Annual Bidwell Park and Creeks of Chico Clean Up

Volunteer Opportunities: Events coordination and participation, advocacy (letter writing, monitoring local issues and agencies, public hearings participation), photography, newsletter (article writing, proof-reading, advertising sales, mailing assistance), fundraising (including events), in-office assistance.

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: For 31 years the Butte Environmental Council has been a leading voice for protecting the environment, public health, and health of all species in the northern Sacramento valley and foothills. BEC's mission is to protect the Sacramento Valley Foothills Ecoregion and our quality of life. We do this through the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the land, air, and water.

BEC assists an average of 500 area resident each month with calls involving land use regulations and law, toxic threats, habitat destruction, and solid waste referrals. A small, dedicated staff and large cadre of volunteers implement our programs.

Some major current efforts include stopping the export of the northern Sacramento Valley's and foothill's ground water; protecting vanishing vernal pool habitat throughout California; and educating the community about toxics in our air, water, and soil through our Chico Urban Streams Alliance program and our toxics outreach and education program.

Citizens for a Healthy Community

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 153

Red Bluff, CA 96080

Phone: (530) 526-8750

Email: rclappdirhc@yahoo.com

County: Tehama

Issue Focus: air quality, land use, global warming, transportation, water supply, watershed quality

Group Type: volunteer

Public Events: Environmental Faire in Chico, CA; Tehama County Health Fair; Earth Day event in Redding, CA; fund raising events: yard sales, karaoke event, silent auctions and chocolate sales; Educational Forum with Sanitec medical waste treatment company in Red Bluff, CA.

Volunteer Opportunities: computer research, passing out flyers, letter writing, phone calls, signature collecting, attending public meetings and speaking out.

Accepts Donations: Yes (501c3 pending)

Description: The Citizens for a Healthy Community maintains vigilance of the democratic process in Tehama County. We watch for legal notices and public hearings pertaining to environmental and public health issues. For its work the CHC has received one grant for \$5,000 about a year ago.

Currently, the CHC is in litigation with a proposed plasma-arc medical waste treatment facility in Tehama County. The company planned to truck in 40 tons of medical waste a day and run the facility 24/7 with no EIR. We educated the community through news articles, letters, and brought expert witnesses to the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District hearing in the Fall of 2005. After 5 months of sworn testimony, in December 2005, our Hearing Board revoked their construct permits, but we continue to keep a watchful eye on the public health of our community.

We also educated our community regarding another company (Sanitec) that treats medical waste with microwaves which was interested in coming to our community. CHC members invited the company to an educational forum in our town of Red Bluff, as well as invited all citizens, and public officials to attend a presentation by the company, followed by a question and answer period.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

Contact Name: Holly Savage
Address: PO Box 307 – Vina, CA 96092
Phone: (530) 839-2105

Email: deercreekwatershed@gmail.com

Website: N/A

County: Tehama

Issue Focus: watershed health, wildlife and habitat conservation, sustainable land use, water quantity/quality, fuels/fire management, flood management/control, sustainable forestry, responsible recreation, invasive species

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes, contact the organization

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Monthly Board Meetings, Stakeholder Workshops/Presentations, Annual Meeting and Watershed Tours

Description:

The Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy (DCWC) is a non-profit organization made up entirely of landowners who own land within the Deer Creek watershed. DCWC is dedicated to preserving natural resources, private property rights, and responsible land stewardship. The Conservancy joined together with resource managers to protect the unique ecological values associated with the Deer Creek watershed. The Conservancy focuses its attention on conserving the natural resources of Deer Creek through sensitive stewardship practices. The Conservancy also serves as a forum for communication and group action within the Deer Creek watershed. By working in a cooperative, organized manner, the Conservancy identifies needs and implements programs and projects to achieve its goal of protecting the resources located in the Deer Creek watershed. By taking an active role in the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy, landowners help shape the direction of these activities.

In 1998 the Conservancy completed the development of a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) for Deer Creek. The Plan consists of both a description of existing conditions of the watershed and a comprehensive Watershed Management Strategy (Strategy) that outlines implementation measures to meet private concerns and fulfill the public's objectives.

The Plan and Strategy reflect the diversity of interests and natural resources in the watershed. The Strategy represents a successful collaborative effort to review and discuss new data/information, identify any new issues and concerns and revise and update watershed goals. The watershed-related goals in the Strategy focus on cooperative, watershed-wide management actions that integrate and implement local, state and federal programs. The recommendations in the Strategy emphasize preventative rather than reactive management actions and include advisory notes. The Strategy

reflects community based watershed goals that promote and sustain; healthy fish and wildlife populations, clean and reliable water, agricultural based land use, reduced flood damage, responsible land stewardship and private property rights.

DCWC is currently involved in 4 grant-funded projects and is seeking funding to carry out additional projects and activities. The DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant scope of work encompasses numerous activities and funds the Coordinator's efforts to carry out the recommendations of the Strategy.

Goals

Maintain and improve the high water quality of Deer Creek.

Maintain and enhance anadromous fish populations by protecting and restoring functional habitats and reducing negative impacts.

Improve watershed health through best management practices.

Develop feasible solutions to the flooding problem on lower Deer Creek that are sensitive to the needs and values of the local landowners.

Maintain watershed health through by sustaining the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy and Coordinators.

Preserve the ecological, cultural and economic heritage of the watershed.

The Nature Conservancy – Lassen Foothills Project

Contact: Jake Jacobson

Address: 500 Main Street
Chico, CA 95928

Phone: (530) 897-6370

Email: jjacobson@tnc.org

Website: www.nature.org

County: Shasta, Tehama

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: volunteer, staffed

Public Events: guided tours

Volunteer Opportunities: restoration opportunities

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters the need to survive. TNC is an international organization that takes a non-confrontational approach to conservation work. In the Lassen Foothills, TNC works collaboratively with landowners and other partners to preserve the important biological and ecological resources of eastern Tehama county and southeastern Shasta county.

The Lassen Foothills Project area includes seven important tributary streams to the Sacramento River, extensive blue oak woodlands and four vernal pool complexes. Conservation targets include Steelhead trout, several wild Chinook salmon runs, neo-tropical migratory birds, vernal pool plants and animals, the largest migratory deer herd in California and numerous other at-risk species.

TNC's primary protection tool in the Lassen Foothills is the acquisition of conservation easements, typically over large cattle ranches. TNC owns three properties in fee in the Lassen Foothills: the 4,600-acre Vina Plains Preserve (a vernal pool complex north of Chico), the 1,844-acre Wildcat Ranch (an oak woodland on the North Fork of Battle Creek) and 1,440-acre Childs Meadow (a mountain meadow near Lassen Volcanic National Park). TNC also manages the 37,540-acre Dye Creek Preserve (an oak woodland in multiple watersheds east of Los Molinos) on behalf of the State Controller Environmental Trust.

Shasta Land Trust

Contact Name: Ben Miles, Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 992026, Redding, CA 96099-2026
(office located at 1918 West St., Redding)

Phone: 530-241-7886

Email: info@shastalandtrust.org

Website URL: www.shastalandtrust.org

County/Counties: Shasta, Tehama

Issue Focus: land use, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: conservation

Public Events: Nature hikes, Bird walks, Conservation property tours, Land restoration workdays, Stargazing trips, Mountain bike rides, Horseback rides, Wine tastings

Volunteer Opportunities: event planning, office, watershed restoration, land stewardship, photography, newsletter, website, other

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Shasta Land Trust is dedicated to permanently protecting and enhancing natural habitats, agricultural lands, and open spaces.

Founded in 1998, Shasta Land Trust works with private landowners, statewide and national organizations, and government agencies to accomplish its land conservation mission. The Trust protects land permanently and directly, by purchasing conservation easements, accepting easement donations, and buying land. Shasta Land Trust's current areas of focus are the Cow Creek and Bear Creek Watersheds in the foothills east of Redding, and the Fall River Valley. Currently, Shasta Land Trust holds over 11,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat, streams and rivers, cattle ranchlands, and productive lands in conservation easements and land purchases.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Tehama County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address: PO Box 250,
Red Bluff, CA 96080
Phone: 530 527-4655

Assembly Representative – 2nd District

Counties Represented: Modoc, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter
Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a2/index.aspx>

Senate Representative – 4th District:

Counties Represented: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba counties
Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4/>

TULARE COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 12,533 sq. km (4,863 sq. mi)

Population: 429,006 (2007 U.S. Census)

Location: Southern Sierra/Central Valley

Official Website: www.co.tulare.ca.us

CONSERVATION STORY

River Ridge Ranch and WildPlaces Bring Ecological Education to Tulare County

Long known for its cattle industry, Tulare County has only recently begun to be recognized as a hotbed of development and rural sprawl. Environmentalist Gary Brydolf explained: “Over ninety percent of the Sierra Nevada foothills are privately owned. Much of it hasn’t been developed on, but that is going to change very soon.”

Gary and his wife Barbara Brydolf are professional biologists who specialize in field work. After learning that developers were planning to build hundreds of homes along the Tule River, they bought the Negus Ranch in June 2000, re-naming it River Ridge Ranch. The property is 722 acres and sits on in an important riparian corridor runs through it along the North Fork of the Tule River. Furthermore, the ranch borders the 323,000 Giant Sequoia National Monument.

By working with the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Wildlife Conservation Board, the Packard Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and other partners and donors, the Brydolfes were able to place a conservation easement on the ranch at purchase and market the development rights to mitigate part of the purchase cost. This meant that part of the property would be protected in perpetuity, and part of it would remain a working cattle ranch.

The Brydolfes view River Ridge Ranch as an example and model for others. “We made the ranch sustainable,” Gary says. “The ranch is entirely solar powered, well, all except for the back-up generator. The outhouses don’t flush. That is because we don’t want to dump waste onto the ranch or its surroundings. We have all the waste transported and sanitized.”

“Also, as a ranch we rotate our cattle so that they don’t overgraze. It is more profitable for ranchers to overgraze, because it brings them more profit in the short run. However, we are not doing this for the short-run.”

River Ridge Ranch is a participant in the Department of Agriculture’s programs for improving wildlife habitat, reducing erosion and runoff and enhancing water quality. It has also won the region’s Waste Reduction Award Program in 2002.

Gary and his wife don't want to keep the ranch to themselves. In fact, that couldn't be farther from the case. With the help of non-profit environmental group called WildPlaces the ranch becomes another source of opportunity for citizens of Tulare County – it becomes a classroom.

Through the “River Ridge Ranch Habitat Recovery and Rangeland Restoration and Demonstration Project” Gary and his wife Barbara regularly host a variety of classes on the ranch including a program called “Trout in the Classroom.” They give students the chance to raise trout from eggs, bring them to River Ridge and release them into the Tule River under the watchful eye of the Kaweah Flyfishers.

“When they come back they always seem to know just which fish was theirs,” Gary says. While at the ranch, students walk the self-guided nature trail, study aquatic wildlife, learn to cast flies, and even print their own t-shirts.

Another group that visits River Ridge is Tulare County ProYouth/Heart. This after-school enrichment program brings elementary school children to the ranch from the inner cities throughout the county. WildPlaces and staff members Mehmet McMillan and Ian Springer also help to supervise day trips from local high schools on the ranch.

In addition, each year they open the ranch to junior hunters from Fish and Game's Wild Bird Heritage Program. Hunting is limited to quail and wild turkey through an agreement with Wilderness Unlimited, and numerous threatened and endangered species are under strict protection.

Unfortunately, these good works aren't extremely profitable. In fact, the ranch typically loses money on its public education offerings. So they subsidize these programs with others that are more profitable: musical events, weddings, and day camps. Currently, they are “saving their pennies” to convert their old blacksmith shop into an all-weather classroom to be named River Barn.

Gary and Barbara's vision for the future is one where education continues to be the focus of the ranch. Also, they think they're on to something.

“I think this kind of destination, where a family can go to camp, to learn, to just be in a place that can teach so many lessons, is the new kind of place to be. I think people are getting tired of Disneyland and wherever. You just can't re-create places like this.”

You can find out more about River Ridge Ranch by visiting its website www.river-ridge.net. They encourage families to visit and if they enjoy their time they are encouraged to stay involved with the ranch.

WildPlaces' mission is “to preserve, support, and protect California's natural and rural places and the people of these landscapes through volunteer driven habitat restoration, natural and cultural education, and career development.” To find out more about

WildPlaces and their environmental education programs for students and community volunteering events in Springville, CA, visit www.wildplaces.net.

ORGANIZATIONS

Tule River Parkway Association

Contact Name: Cathy Capone

Address: 806 West Westfield Avenue, Porterville, CA 93257

Phone: 559 361-9164

Email: trpa@gobot.com

County of Activity: Tulare

Issue Focus: botanical, land use, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy, monitoring/restoration, coalition, educational outreach

Public Events: river cleanup, native plant restoration, docent lead river walks, tree pruning workshops, oak tree mapping

Volunteer Opportunities: help with above events, river walk docent training

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Tule River Parkway Association is dedicated to the restoration and development for public use of the Tule River Riparian Corridor.

Sequoia Natural History Association

Contact Name: Dayna Higgins

Address 47050 Generals Hwy #10, Three Rivers, CA 93271

Phone 559-565-3759

Email snha@sequoiahistory.org

Website www.sequoiahistory.org

County of Activity: Tulare, Kern, Fresno, Kings

Issues Focus: Education of all values in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Lake Kaweah and Devils Postpile National Monument

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accept Donations: Yes

Public Events: Sign up for our free email newsletter to be updated on events and opportunities.

Description: Sequoia Natural History Association is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting education, interpretation, research, and the natural

and historic preservation of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, Lake Kaweah, and other areas of the National Park System. The Sequoia Natural History Association is committed to enriching the experiences of visitors and promoting public awareness of the significance of national parks through educational programs, publications, and financial support.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Contact: Niki Woodard

Address: 427 South Garden Street

Visalia, CA 93277

Phone: 559.738.0211

Email: info@sequoiariverlands.org

Website: www.sequoiariverlands.org

County of Activity: Kern, Tulare

Issue Focus: land use, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: land trust

Public Events: celebrity entertainment fundraisers, guided tours of preserves

Volunteer Opportunities: field guides at preserve, restoration

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Sequoia Riverlands Trust is a community-based conservation organization, comprised of residents and partners who care about the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. We engage in land protection, stewardship, restoration and education efforts in the region surrounding the Kings, Kaweah, Tule and Kern rivers from the southern Sierra foothills to the Tulare Lake Basin.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust works with willing landowners on voluntary conservation agreements and other forms of creative land protection; uses the best available science to care for and restore the land; educates children and the community about the value of conserving natural and agricultural resources; and participates in public planning efforts that keep our communities vibrant, thriving and beautiful.

River Ridge Ranch

Contact Name: Dr. Gary Adest

Address: P.O. Box 879, Springville, CA 93265

Phone: (559) 539-0207

Email: info@river-ridge.net

Website URL: www.river-ridge.net

County/Counties: Tulare

Issue Focus: botanical, forestry, land use, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: annual fundraiser in September; Spring concert series.

Volunteer Opportunities: in collaboration with **WildPlaces**

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: River Ridge Ranch is a 722-acre working cattle ranch on the North Fork Tule River. Our southern Sierra Nevada location is adjacent to the Giant Sequoia National Monument and two miles from downtown Springville. We have an active revegetation and restoration program; we host hundreds of schoolchildren for outdoor education, we are a concert and music venue, we provide facilities for group use such as weddings, retreats, picnics, reunions and camps. Our mission is to model healthy working landscapes as an alternative to subdivision of large parcels of blue oak woodland.

Sierra Club - Mineral King Group

Contact Name: Janet Wood, Chair

Address: P.O. Box 3543, Visalia, CA 93278

Phone: (559) 739-8527

Email: janet.wood@sierraclub.org

Website: <http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org/mineralking/>

County: Kings and part of Tulare Counties

Issue Focus: Local Land Use Planning; Water Issues, Sequoia National Forest and National Park Issues

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Monthly outings and social events; bi-monthly film series; Earth Day; waterways cleanup

Description: The Sierra Club Mineral King Group serves Kings County and most of Tulare County (excluding the Porterville area, served by the [Kaweah Group](#)), in California's fertile San Joaquin Valley, near Sequoia National Park. The Group, headquartered in Visalia, is named after the famous high Sierra mountain valley, Mineral King, that was the focus of the Sierra Club's successful campaign in the 1960's to stop a huge ski resort from being built in that beautiful mountain valley.

The Mineral King Group carries on a variety of conservation and outdoor activities, working on city, county, and regional conservation issues, and enjoying and working for the protection of the nearby Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest.

Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter

Contact Name: Gerald D. Vinnard

Address: P.O. Box 5396, Fresno, CA 93755-5396

Phone: (559)431-5780

Email: gvinnard@cvip.net

Website URL: <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>

County/Counties: Fresno, Madera, Tulare

Issue Focus: all

Public Events: General Meetings third Wednesday of each month; Annual Banquet

Volunteer Opportunities: outings leadership, lobbying, event planning, watershed restoration.

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The mission of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club is to provide outings for its members and the general public, to educate and inform its members and the general public about environmental issues, and to influence and persuade public leaders to preserve and protect the environment.

Tulare County Audubon Society

Contact Name: Brian Newton

Address: 1407 W Laurel Ave, Visalia, CA 93277

Phone: (559)627-3571

Email: bandj1407@yahoo.com

Website URL: coming soon

County/Counties: Tulare

Issue Focus: Identification and education about local birds and their environment

Volunteer Opportunities: currently board openings (May 2009)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Free monthly programs. Free birding field trips.

Description: Tulare County Audubon Society (TCAS) is a local chapter of both the California and National Audubon Society

WildPlaces

Contact Name: Mehmet McMillan

Address: P.O. Box 853, 35549 Hwy 190, Springville, CA 93265

Phone: (559)539- 5263

Mobile: (760) 447-1702

Email: info@wildplaces.net

Website URL: www.wildplaces.net

County/Counties: Tulare

Issue Focus: all

Group Type: educational outreach, restoration

Public Events: Adopt-A-Sequoia Program, Springville Apple Festival, River Ridge events

Volunteer Opportunities: Rio Limpio clean up days, Immersed in the Wild – H.O.M.E.Y. events, other

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: WildPlaces engages in restoration and education work to help re-connect the cycles of nature. It combines high quality, volunteer-driven habitat restoration projects with an ecosystem-based education program. These both repair adversely impacted ecosystems and raise awareness about the effects such environmental damage reaps on the human community. Each step of the way WildPlaces enables its volunteers and members to connect with nature and empowers them with the knowledge and ability to help heal the land.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Address: Administration Building

2800 West Burrel Avenue

Visalia, CA 93291

Phone: (559) 733-6271

Fax: (559) 733-6898

Email: jforbes@co.tulare.ca.us

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors meets weekly on Tuesdays at 9:00 A.M.

Website: <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/board/default.asp>

Senate Representative – 18th District

Counties Represented: Kern, Tulare, Inyo and San Bernardino

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/18/pro.asp>

Assembly Representative – 34th District

Counties Represented:

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a34/index.aspx>

TUOLUMNE COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 5,891 sq. km (2,274 sq. mi)

Population: 56,855 (2006 U.S. Census)

Location: Central Sierra Nevada

Official Website: www.co.tuolumne.ca.us

CONSERVATION STORY

CSERC and Volunteers Protect the Sierra Nevada from Septic Contamination

For the past 18 years, a small non-profit organization with a large name has served on the frontlines defending the environment of over 2,000,000 acres north and west of Yosemite National Park. The Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) relies upon its tiny staff - one executive director and two staff scientists - to advocate for open space, rare wildlife, free-flowing rivers, clean water, and protection of spectacular forest groves in this world-renowned region.

CSERC carefully reviews all development proposals that come up for approval in both Tuolumne County and Calaveras County. For all development projects with potentially

harmful environmental and public health impacts, CSERC staff provide detailed written input and testify at county hearings. While much of the Center's focus ties to water and watershed issues, CSERC also focuses on the impact of land development on the foothill's oak woodlands, open space, and biological values.

CSERC staff relies on CEQA and General Plan requirements to press for mitigation for each development project's environmental impacts. Unfortunately, even under CEQA, county officials in both counties have allowed many massive subdivisions and commercial projects to harm the region's ecology. Developers have bulldozed extensive stands of oaks, scalped ridge tops, paved over crucial wildlife habitat, and consumed precious water resources -- often with only minimal mitigation. Consistently land development policies in both Tuolumne and Calaveras counties have favored developers, rather than protective of at-risk resources or open space values.

One such example was Tuolumne County's two-year debate over its septic system regulations. In the southern end of Tuolumne County, a broad area of shallow soil and volcanic rock surrounds Lake Don Pedro reservoir. Over the years, developers gained approval for many development projects on sites where shallow soils and underlying rock provided few suitable sites for septic systems.

In late 2005 when a number of prospective new developments around the reservoir were being proposed, a shift in County personnel led to a stricter application of the septic guidelines. The strict enforcement of the septic guidelines created a huge backlash of anger from developers, realtors, and individual lot owners. Many of them suddenly faced requirements for very expensive engineered septic systems. In many cases, sites with less than a foot of soil were prevented from gaining building permits without assurances that highly engineered septic systems were feasible.

The outcry from developers and realtors was loud and intense. Environmentalists were ridiculed as overly worried about water quality, fecal coliform, or the spread of disease from leaking septic systems.

A number of county board of supervisor sessions were dominated by complaints, threats of lawsuits, and verbal attacks on CSERC staff scientists who testified in support of maintaining strict septic regulations. Politics rose in intensity - and sunk to a new low - as one key county staff person reported personal threats for enforcing the septic regulations.

But CSERC and supportive local conservationists stuck to the facts, undertook months of research, and discovered documented proof in county files that septic systems had already failed and contaminated wells. CSERC staff also reached out to local community activists to attend county-led septic policy "workshop" debates. The local leader of the Sierra Club and other citizens concerned about water contamination joined with CSERC staff and raised opposition to county-endorsed proposals intended to significantly weaken the existing septic guidelines.

After nearly two years of meetings, debates, and acrimony, a majority of the County's board of supervisors voted to ask the State Water Board to accept weakened septic regulations. They requested a change in policy to drop the septic system requirements from a minimum of two feet to one foot of soil; to eliminate the requirement to have native soil -- and to instead allow sand/rock; and to allow bedrock to be defined as the point where a backhoe could no longer crack or tear up the rock any further. These revisions would have allowed marginal septic systems and new development on hundreds of lots where septic systems would be almost certain to fail over time -- contaminating downstream or subsurface water.

The State Board declined to approve Tuolumne County's request for support of the weaker septic policies - leaving the County with a choice between doing expensive CEQA analysis of the new policy changes or working within existing rules. Pro-development forces rallied again to press County officials to weaken the policies.

Thankfully, CSERC staff and community activists testified effectively and the conservation side was able to hold back any immediate weakening of county septic policies. While a majority of Tuolumne County supervisors made no effort to conceal their leaning towards the pro-development forces on the septic issue, they nevertheless agreed to retain the existing requirements.

As of late summer, 2008, the existing regulations are still intact. Such vigilance on behalf of environmental policies does not always end as successfully, at least not in Tuolumne or Calaveras counties, but in this situation, citizen involvement and conservation group advocacy helped turn back an environmentally-harmful change in policy.

For CSERC staff, attending long meetings, reviewing dry policy documents, or engaging in advocacy efforts over technical issues is often boring, draining, and frustrating. The septic policy debate was just one small part of CSERC's overall planning efforts. Yet such work is pivotal to protecting the environment of California. When local citizens combine their enthusiasm and dedication with the expertise and credibility of professional environmental groups, at the very least nature now has a stronger voice. Decision-makers can't ignore the potential impacts of their votes, and sometime, just sometimes, that will make all the difference in a community.

To find out more about the wide range of issues and programs that CSERC takes on to defend nature or if you wish to donate to the Center's efforts, go to **www.cserc.org** or e-mail the Center at: johnb@cserc.org if you have any questions. CSERC also provides free environmental slide show programs in urban areas around Turlock, Modesto, and Stockton -- reaching more than 5,000 students each year in an effort to expand awareness about forests, rivers, wildlife, and wild places of California.

ORGANIZATIONS

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC)

Contact Name: John Buckley, Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 396, Twain Harte, CA 95383

Phone: (209) 586-7440

Email: johnb@cserc.org

Website URL: www.cserc.org

Counties of Activity: Calaveras, Tuolumne

Issue Focus: all

Public Events: CSERC provides free environmental education programs to more than 5,000 students per year at schools throughout the Central Valley and foothill region

Volunteer Opportunities: workday restoration projects on public lands

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: For the past 17 years, CSERC has led forest, wildlife, land planning, wildland, and water protection efforts in a 2,000,000 acre region stretching from Yosemite to the North Fork Mokelumne River and from the foothills to the crest of the Sierra Nevada. CSERC reviews every proposed development project within a vast region of the foothills, and provides fieldwork, detailed written comments, and testimony at hearings for all major projects. CSERC reviews each and every timber harvest plan on private timberlands and every proposed project (including timber sales) for the Stanislaus National Forest. CSERC staff includes two staff scientists who engage in water sampling, wildlife photo-detection surveys for rare wildlife, and extensive field monitoring of meadows and stream areas on public lands of the region. CSERC deals with every major environmental issue in the world-renowned region of Northern Yosemite.

Restore Hetch Hetchy

Contact Name: Ron Good, Executive Director

Address: P.O. Box 3538, Sonoma, CA 95370

Phone: (209) 533-4481

Email: info@hetchhetchy.org

Website URL: www.hetchhetchy.org

County of Activity: Tuolumne

Issue Focus: botanical, water supply, watershed quality, wildlife and habitat

Group Type: advocacy, litigation, outreach

Public Events: information tables at fairs & festivals; slide show and video presentations for environmental, civic, governmental, and business organizations

Volunteer Opportunities: information tables at fairs & festivals; making slide show and video presentations; interacting with local, state, and federal public officials

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The mission of Restore Hetch Hetchy is to restore Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Tuolumne River which runs through it.

Restore Hetch Hetchy seeks to obtain a "win-win" outcome for all the stakeholders: Yosemite National Park, San Francisco Bay Area water & power users, Central Valley irrigation districts, recreational boaters, and Native Americans. Several engineering studies have been completed describing "win-win" ways to replace water storage and electrical power: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (1988); University of California-Davis (2003); Environmental Defense (2004), and Restore Hetch Hetchy (2005). In July 2006, the Schwarzenegger Administration's Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a report which found that it is "technically feasible" to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley and that there are "no fatal flaws" in the restoration concept. The DWR report recommended that \$7 million be spent, in cooperation with the federal government, to complete a more in-depth analysis of restoration. In February 2007, the President's budget recommended that \$7 million be spent to further study Hetch Hetchy's restoration.

Tuolumne River Trust

Contact Name: Cynthia King, Galen Weston

Address: PO Box 933, Sonoma, CA 95370 (mailing)

Phone: (209) 588-8636

Email: Cynthia@tuolumne.org; galen@tuolumne.org

Website URL: www.tuolumne.org

Counties of Activity: Bay Area counties, Tuolumne, Stanislaus

Issue Focus: botanical, water supply, watershed quality, and wildlife and habitat

Group Type: staffed, volunteer

Methods: advocacy, education, restoration

Public Events: regular outings in the upper watershed, fall canoe trips on the Lower Tuolumne

Volunteer Opportunities: tabling, leading hikes, restoration work

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Founded in 1981, the Tuolumne River Trust's mission is to promote the stewardship of the Tuolumne River and its tributaries to ensure a healthy watershed. Our strategic approach melds advocacy, education, coalition building, and scientific inquiry to address threats to the watershed and take advantage of opportunities to protect and restore this California jewel. As the only organization working throughout the Watershed, the Trust is connecting people to the Tuolumne River and forging ties between Sierra, Valley, and Bay Area communities. The Trust believes that serious river restoration and protection efforts, strategic land acquisitions, and improved water flow policies create a healthier river for people and a habitat sanctuary for spawning fish, riparian species, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Our Sierra Nevada program is focused on protecting the Clavey River, a major tributary of the Tuolumne, and one of the few remaining free-flowing Sierra streams. The Trust organizes support for wild and scenic designation of the Clavey, in addition to working with a local stakeholder group to develop a collaborative watershed plan.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address:

2 South Green St., Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: (209) 533-5521

Website: www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Senate Representative – 14th District:

Counties Represented: Mariposa, Madera, San Joaquin, Fresno, Tuolumne and Stanislaus

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/14/>

Assembly Representative – 25th District

Counties Represented: Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Mono

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a25/index.aspx>

YUBA COUNTY



COUNTY INFORMATION

Size: 644 sq. miles (1,668 sq. kilometers)

Population: 71,938 (as of 2000 US Census)

Location: North-Western Sierra

Official Website: www.co.yuba.ca.us/

CONSERVATION STORY

The South Yuba River Citizens League Unites Residents to “Save Yuba Salmon”

Yuba County salmon are in trouble, and the South Yuba River Citizens League is working to change this.

For centuries, Chinook salmon have traversed the Lower Yuba River, Feather River, Sacramento River, San Joaquin Delta to and from the Pacific Ocean at the beginning and end of their lives, a round trip of over 300 miles. However, over the past few years

increasingly fewer fall-run Chinook salmon have returned to spawn in the Lower Yuba River in Yuba County.

The Lower Yuba River in Yuba County provides one of the last wild runs of for Central Valley salmon, including fall-run and spring-run Chinook salmon. The fall-run are a “candidate” for Endangered Species Act listing, and the spring-run and Steelhead are both listed as “threatened” species.

The numbers of salmon returning in the fall to spawn has decreased since 2003. Last year, 909 were counted, two years ago 1,671 were and in 2003 there were 3,842. ⁽¹⁾ The count was well below the average count from 1953-1989, which is 13,050 fish and even sinks below the bottommost range or returns for that period of 1,000 to 39,000 salmon. ⁽²⁾ In other tributaries to the Delta such as the Feather River, fall-run salmon counts have been low as well. ⁽⁴⁾

NOAA Fisheries has published a report stating that only 242 spring-run spawners made there way up the Yuba River in 2007. The California Fish and Game estimated that approximately 2,600 Fall-run Chinook salmon spawned in the Yuba River compared to an estimated 18,000 spawners in 2005.

Climate change and changing ocean conditions are both considered possible factors in the quickly depleting salmon population. Executive Director Zeke Grader of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations notes that ““Obviously the collapse of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has had an impact on Central Valley salmon populations and the problem may be exacerbated by ocean conditions, especially the lack of krill.” ⁽⁵⁾

An organization in Yuba County has dedicated themselves to the protection of the salmon population. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is a community non-profit conservation group based in Nevada City. The group began in 1983 as a small group of unpaid, passionate volunteers. Since the organization’s reaction, the SYRCL has been dedicated to protecting the Yuba River from numerous unnecessary dam proposals, hydro-electric developments, and further degradation.

Each fall, SYRCL holds numerous community events such as the “SYRCL Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival” and the “Yuba Salmon Rafting Tours” each fall which teach attendees about the journey of the Chinook.

Their latest campaign is called “Save Yuba Salmon.” The campaign includes working with decision-makers to eliminate unnecessary fish death at the fish ladders, improving existing spawning and rearing habitat, improving fish passage at Daguerre Dam, and returning salmon to their ancestral spawning habitat.

A vital part of the campaign has been to provide adult volunteers and student youth in the Yuba with information about the plight of the Chinook salmon and opportunities to help protect them. Called “Journey of the Salmonids” presentation, the educational presentation teaches students about the California Science Concept Standards of life

cycles, habitat, and adaptation through the story of the Chinook salmon's journey on the Yuba River. And at each presentation, one lucky volunteer or staff member dresses up as a six-foot salmon called "Tiny."

According to Lyndly Martin, RiverTeachers Program Coordinator, the "Journey of the Salmonids" assembly program and "Yuba River Salmon Expeditions" have educated over 40,000 students on the watershed and water cycle concepts and salmonid and river ecology.

Another integral program is the RiverScience program. Trained volunteers gather water samples to collect data about river pH levels, temperature, and possible chemical contents. The data tells SYRCL about possible upstream erosion, mercury contamination, storm-water runoff, dams, and hydropower facilities. These impact people, the river itself, and all species living near or in the river.

Joel Passovoy, who served as an AmeriCorps member with SYRCL throughout 2007 and helped lead over 70 trained volunteers on water monitoring trips across the Yuba river, stated, "the data gathered can be a vital part in helping to understand connections that exist between Chinook salmon, water quality, and impacts to that water quality." As for the volunteers: "They really are great volunteers," said Passovoy. "Some drove for hours just to get there through the snow in the winter. Then they dedicated hours of time once a month for twelve months to monitor the river."

Yuba and Nevada County residents interested in getting involved or finding out more about the South Yuba River Citizen's League and their "Save Yuba Salmon" campaign should visit www.yubariver.org.

CITATIONS

1. <http://www.theunion.com/article/2007110230159>
2. Reynolds FL, Mills TJ, Benthin R, Low A. 1993. Restoring Central Valley streams; a plan for action. Sacramento (CA): California Department of Fish and Game. 129 p.
3. <http://www.theunion.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007110230159&template=printart>
4. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/10/30/MNAAT2VTR.DTL>
5. <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/documents/OceanConditionsImpactSalmonReturns102907.pdf>
6. South Yuba River Citizens League <http://yubanet.com/regional/California-s-Central-Valley-Salmon-in-Unprecedented-Collapse.php>. *California's Central Valley Salmon in "Unprecedented Collapse"*

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Spenceville

Contact: Richard Thomas, President
Address: 10066 Robinson King Rd., Nevada City, CA
Phone: (530) 265-2666
Email: randtthomas@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.spenceville.org

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Yuba
Issue Focus: all

Description: The Friends of Spenceville was formed to educate the public about the Spenceville Wildlife and Recreation Area about the need to preserve Spenceville as a wildlife and recreation area.

The Spenceville Wildlife Area, an 11,813 acre wildlife preserve, managed by the California State Department of Fish and Game, is a treasure that should be celebrated and protected for present and future generations.

Friends of Spenceville was founded to combat the threat of a major dam that would flood the Spenceville area. Currently the group is fighting a proposal to build 5,100 homes adjacent to the Spenceville area. Along with other significant impacts due to the remote location of the Yuba Highlands development, the project will generate greatly increased traffic in the area. The primary access to the development is proposed to go south through Spenceville on Smartville, Waldo, and Long Ravine Roads. linking the development with Lincoln, Roseville and Sacramento.

Forest Issues Group

Contact: Don Rivenes, Acting Executive Director
Address: PO Box 1334, Nevada City CA 95959
Phone: (530) 478-0117
Email: rivenes@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.forestissuesgroup.org

County: Nevada, Placer, Yuba
Issue Focus: forest

Volunteer Opportunities: (contact Forest Issues Group)

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: The Forest Issues Group (FIG) is an organization made up of citizens committed to a healthy Tahoe National Forest. FIG provides community education and public review of U.S. Forest Service management of the Tahoe National Forest.

FIG focuses its on-the-ground activities on the public lands of the Tahoe National Forest. However, we are also concerned with the U.S. Forest Service management planning on National Forests, and the other Sierran Forests, and how this management and private timber sales impact the Tahoe National Forest.

Sierra Club – Motherlode Chapter (Sierra Nevada)

Contact: Charlie Chisholm, Group Chair

Address: PO Box 1042 Nevada, Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-2033

Email: charles.chisholm@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada/>

Counties of Activity: Nevada, Yuba

Issue Focus: all

Public Events: hikes, walks, and outings for seniors, families and experienced hikers, monthly meetings

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts Donations: Yes

Description: Are you concerned about environmental issues in Nevada, Sierra and Yuba Counties? We have an active Sierra Club group, offering local outings for seniors, families, and experienced hikers. We hold monthly meetings featuring speakers as well as camaraderie. We publish a bimonthly newsletter to keep you informed on local issues and to give you an opportunity to express your concerns. We are involved in the community, participating in local issues that affect our environment: mining, forestry, toxins, population, land use issues, as well as such recreational activities as hiking, canoeing, picnics, a fall run through the colors, and potluck dinners.

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Contact: Christina Sherr, President

Address: PO Box 1937, Grass Valley CA 95945

Phone: (530) 478-5741

Email: sherrs@infostations.com

Website: www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com

County: Nevada, Placer

Resource Focus: land use, wildlife and habitat

Public Events: Christmas Bird Count, Annual Rice Field's trip, public meeting presentations

Volunteer Opportunities: event planning, school slide-shows

Accepts Donations: yes

Description: Sierra Foothills Audubon Society's mission is to work within our community to promote appreciation of and protection for birds and their habitats.

Our education efforts include slide shows to groups (primarily senior housing developments) and bi-monthly presentations at public meetings. We give presentations to Elementary Schools and offer a program at the county Fair. We support educational activities for youth at the Placer Nature Center. We average over two public field trips per month, including the handicapped-accessible beginning birder trips at Roseville's sculpture park, and our annual rice fields' trip to view migrating waterfowl. Special events for the year included the four Christmas Bird Counts within our Service area.

Conservation activities include joining with other environmental organizations to oppose sprawl housing projects in Placer and Nevada Counties and the Yuba Highlands 5,100 homes project that is proposed adjoining the Spenceville Wildlife Area, which is habitat to the threatened California black rail. The Forest Service's plans to apply herbicide to an area recovering from the effects of the Cottonwood fire has caused us to join with other organizations to prevent this unnecessary application of herbicides to our forests. We also provide funds to research programs for state threatened California black rails and Tri-colored blackbirds.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

Yuba County Board of Supervisors

Mailing Address:

915 8th Street Suite 109,
Marysville, CA 95901

Phone: (530) 749-7510

Website: <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/bos/>

Senate Representative – 4th District:

Counties Represented: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba counties

Website: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4/>

Assembly Representative – 3rd District

Counties Represented: Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Sierra Yuba, Nevada, Placer

Website: <http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/index.aspx>

STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

California Invasive Plant Council

Contact Name: Doug Johnson, Executive Director

Address: 1441-A Walnut St. #462 Berkley California 94702

Phone: 510-843-3902

Email: info@cal-ipc.org

Website: www.cal-ipc.org

County: Statewide

Issue Focus: Invasive Plant Management, Habitat Protection

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: Annual conference in October, plus training field courses year-round

Description: Protecting wildlands from invasive plants through research, restoration, education and advocacy. We are a membership organization, with 1,000 natural resource managers, researchers, and restoration volunteers statewide.

California Native Plant Society

Contact Name: Tara Hansen, Executive Director

Address: 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, California 95816

Phone: 916-447-2677

Email: cnps@cnps.org

Website: <http://cnps.org>

County: Statewide

Issue Focus: Native Plant Protection, Education and Conservation

Group Type:

Accepts Donations: Yes

Public Events: CNPS Conservation Conference in 2012; Education Program offerings year-round; Chapter educational programs, field trips and restoration activities throughout the state

Description: Protecting California Native Plants through education, advocacy and science. We are a statewide membership organization with 33 chapters and 10,000 members.

California Watershed Coalition

Contact Name: Michael Wellborn

Phone: (714) 932-8689

Email: michael@watershednetwork.org

County: Statewide

Issue Focus: State policy and legislative issues

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts donations: Yes

Public Events: 2009 California Watershed Forum

Description: A coalition of non-profit entities working on statewide policy issues.

Center for Biological Diversity

Contact person: Justin Augustine

Address: 351 California Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94104

Phone: 415-436-9682 x302

Email: jaugustine@biologicaldiversity.org

Website: www.biologicaldiversity.org

County: Statewide

Issues Focus: Endangered species, wildlife and habitat, watershed quality, global warming, land use

Volunteer Opportunities: Yes

Accepts donations: Yes

Description: The Center is a non-profit, public interest, conservation organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through applying sound science, policy and environmental law. The Center has over 40,000 members many of whom reside in California.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Phone: Toll Free: (877) 257-1212

Email: geninfo@sierranevada.ca.gov

Website: <http://sierranevada.ca.gov/contact.html>

County: Statewide

Description: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.

The Pacific Forest Trust

Contact person: Laurie Wayburn, President

Address: 1001-A O'Reilly Ave, San Francisco, CA 94129

Phone: 415-561-0700

Email: pft@pacificforest.org ; lwayburn@pacificforest.org

Website: www.pacificforest.org

County: Statewide

Issues Focus: Forest conservation; forestry; land use; global warming; forest and climate policy

Group Type:

Volunteer Opportunities: PFT often has summer internships available

Accepts donations: Yes

Public Events: PFT hosts an annual dinner, the Forest Fete, every year (September)

Description: PFT is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining private forestlands for their wealth of public benefits, including wood, water, wildlife and a well-balanced climate. We own and manage forestland and hold conservation easements in California and the Pacific Northwest. In collaboration with landowners, forest managers, public agencies and others, PFT has led the development of forest climate policies and projects to achieve substantial benefits for the climate through conservation and stewardship.