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SEA Newsletter February 2022

Redding's Disappearing Oak Woodlands

One of the last surviving gray pine/oak woodlands along Airport Road will soon disappear. A 250,000 sq. ft. warehouse will be constructed on the 39-acre site and 890 trees will be cut down and most will likely end their life in one big burst of CO₂ at Wheelabrator in Anderson. There is one gray pine 54" in diameter and a 33-inch-wide oak tree among many 40+" diameter gray pines. Almost every tree will be removed based on the landscaping plans. (The Planning Department has not responded to SEA's request to see if more than eight trees will be saved.)

The developer will be required to plant 129 replacement trees, almost all natives and the landscaping will be done using native plants, which is new for Redding. However, it will take perhaps 100 years for the trees to grow and replace even 15% of the sequestered CO₂, and the habitat is permanently lost.

CEQA requires the cumulative effects of development to be taken into consideration in mitigation. Since SEA's founding in 2017 we have never seen an Environmental Impact Report done for any project on Airport Road. This was going to the Board of Administrative Review (BAR), but following complaints to several City insiders it has not appeared on its agenda. Because of its size, SEA feels it should be heard by the full Planning Commission. The project can be found on the Planning website under [Airport Road Distribution Center](#). Comments can be sent to Planning Manager Lily Toy at ltoy@cityofredding.org. Wintu Audubon and the California Oak Coalition have also opposed the weak mitigation measures.

For this issue, we have included an article on the **Shasta Land Trust** which is protecting area lands from development by arranging with willing landowners for permanent conservation easements placed on their large ranch properties. Next issue we will profile the **Friends of Shasta West** who stopped the proposed asphalt plant near Keswick with the support of many of your letters of opposition.

SEA Green Volunteers

SEA has been lucky to have many hard-working volunteers for our acorn and tree planting, and especially watering in the summer. We planted and caged about 80 acorns near the Westside Trail and in Oregon Gulch. This involved digging up the soil and staking and caging to keep out deer. Twenty-five acorns we planted in January had to be watered over the summer due to the drought. Last December we planted and caged over 50 acorns as well as numerous others without cages.

SEA now has over 60 blue and valley oak seedlings in 14" deep narrow "deer pots" that can be planted this fall. We also have 21 buckeye trees, 30 silverbush lupines and about 70 more various native plants for fall planting season.



Tree planting crew at Lightning Canyon Ranch. From left: David Ledger, Ray Pfister, Lisa Ross, Bob Madison, Yo Sadohara, Cris Harvey. Photo by Doug Mandel.

SEA Green Volunteers (Cont. from page 1)

At Shasta Lake we planted 42 incense cedar seedlings on the 2100-acre Lightning Canyon Ranch. These were 12- to 20-inch-tall seedlings that we planted in partially burned areas from the Salt Fire. On the way up at the corner of the property we stopped to look at the Bag of Bones rock from Native American lore.

Other volunteers gathered many acorns with Margaret Beck gathering many bags of blue oak acorns left on my front porch. Thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers!!! We hope we did not forget anyone of you.

Oregon Gulch

We also want to thank Jim Milestone, Bill Kuntz and Brian Crane for many hours of work putting up fencing (and replacing), scouting the area for placement of concrete barriers and having the 20 barriers delivered by truck at 4000 lbs. plus each. Young volunteers from Bethel Church help Jim and Bill with installing the fencing barriers. Acorn planting at Oregon Gulch was done by John Livingston, Derle Gilliam, Kathy Grissom, David Ledger and Doug Mandel. The Bower Charitable Foundation provided funding for the fencing and barriers.

Additional volunteers for Acorn, Tree Planting, Watering and Collecting and Spanish Broom Removal include: John Livingston, Cherie Gans, Kathy Grissom, Doug Mandel, Derle Gilliam, Becky Beckwith, Cailey Baker, Marti Weidert, Lisa Ross, Ray Pfister, Chris Harvey, Bob Madison, Yo Sadohara, Melissa Harbert, Gibson Collard, Tom Morehouse, Sarah Brady Jarret, Janet Wall, Patricia Bratcher, Margaret Beck, Ashley Dickison, Lang Dayton, Melissa Harbert, Daryl & Penny Harris, Cherie Gans, David Gans, Doug Mandel, Lisa Ross, and Ray Pfister.

Volunteers Needed:

SEA could use a newsletter editor and a treasurer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact david@ecoshasta.org.



Kathy Grissom and John Livingston preparing soil for acorn planting and cage with helper. (Photo by D. Ledger)



Jim Milestone directing placement of barrier. Photo by Bill Kuntz.

Turtle Bay Development Plans

By David Ledger

The proposed sale of Turtle Bay is currently on hold. In the interim we have been meeting with leaders of Wintu Audubon, Sierra Club, Native Roots and the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society to discuss strategies, although each group has its own outlook.

Thanks to many SEA supporters, there are 285 pages of written and email comments sent to the City Council and almost all are opposed to developing the area. Unfortunately, the Asphalt Cowboys and the Redding Rodeo Association have jumped on board, as has Viva Downtown Redding and many monied interests in Redding.

Turtle Bay (Cont)

The opposition was so strong that the City has released its own survey in hopes of not being overwhelmed by the deluge of opposition. With the survey you will see a map (via the City Manager page) with huge thick red X's on the natural areas and riparian areas. This is the same map that has been shown at City Council meetings and the four workshops on the Turtle Bay development, with verbal statements that none of this area will be developed. They are correct, none of this area will be sold or developed *until* one or more days *after* the sale of the Civic and Rodeo grounds and related property.



The above map the City of Redding developed after many community concerns. The red "X's" denote lands not currently for sale and have no lasting legal protection for future development.

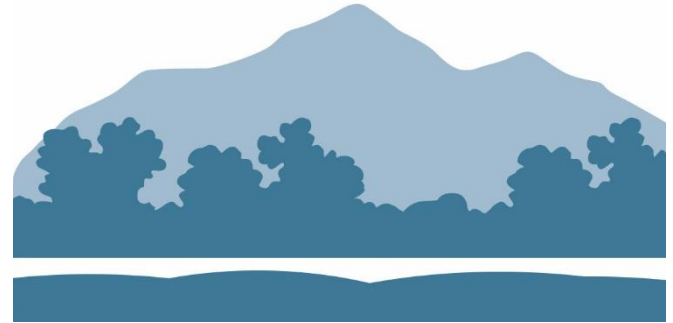
Then there may be no protection. The land could be sold, leased, or "improved" with the developers' proposed boardwalks, restaurant over the river, zipline, artwork along the river, dog park, beer gardens and more. At a minimum, expect large wide concrete lighted walkways if not the boardwalks, trees cleared for "viewing platforms" etc. In reading the developers' proposal and in their verbal presentations, you could not see or hear the word nature, environment or tree.

SEA strongly urges you to fill out the anonymous [SURVEY](#) or email your comments anytime to Mayor Schreder at kschreder@cityofredding.org. SEA will send out an action alert when we get word of an upcoming City Council vote on the issue. Your emails ARE important, you can still send in opposition, make your voices be heard. (See Asphalt Plan Nixed above, or Fountain Wind defeated from Dec,)

Shasta Land Trust: Preserving and Protecting Local Lands

By Sabrina Smelser

SHASTA LAND TRUST



Shasta Land Trust is proud and grateful to spotlight the successes of our growing organization throughout 2021. Over these past months, our dedicated cohort of staff members, donors, and volunteers protected a record number of ranches, wildlands, and culturally significant areas throughout Shasta County.

Last summer brought the official conservation of **Paige Ranch**, a beloved family farm in Fall River Valley that is home to migrating birds, fish, and many mammals amidst 207 acres of wild rice fields and waterways.

September brought the completion of a project in Bella Vista that secured a 184-acre haven for California native plants, monarch butterflies, and queen bees known as **Valley's End Nature Preserve**.

November was especially busy as our list of conserved areas grew by two once more. Within the **Hat Creek Watershed**, a 790-acre expanse of grasslands and forested wildlife habitat with great cultural significance to the Illmawi band of the Pit River tribe was officially protected. The Land Trust was honored to participate in the returning of these ancestral homelands to their original stewards.

Shasta Land Trust (Cont.)



Part of Hat Creek land returned to Pit River Tribe.

In November we succeeded with the conservation of **Ross Ranch**, a 854-acre living laboratory for ecological education, sustainable agriculture, and future public access to hiking and birdwatching.

We rounded out the year with the protection of approximately 135 acres of forested lands within McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. The land is home to an array of wildlife and plant life, and hosts several hiking trails including the PCT

With these achievements in the rearview, we have turned our focus towards a new hand of critical conservation projects, as well as the growth of our field operations and staff.

In line with our commitment to limiting off-road presence and greenhouse gas emissions, we will soon be using drones to gather field data in remote regions. Additionally, we have welcomed a new team member aboard who is helping to actualize the Land Trust's goal of providing environmental education opportunities for local youth. Shasta Land Trust celebrates this busy year and looks forward to the next, always recognizing all partners and supporters who make the work we do possible.

For more information on the Shasta Land Trust, go to their website at www.shastalandtrust.org.

SEA New Year's Day Field Trip

Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) held its first field trip of the year on New Year's Day. Fifteen hikers showed up at 9 AM in 39 °F weather to take this four-mile round-trip hike up Westside Trail to the "Top of the World" in West Redding. On the way, walk leader David Ledger identified many of the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants along the trail, all of which are nicely recovering from the Carr Fire.

Only the coyote-brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), white-leaved manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida* ssp. *viscida*), and scattered fragrant cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium beneolens*) were in bloom, but many plants were identified by their leaves, last year's seeds, and growth form, such as buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *cuneatus*), Pacific hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), and gold-backed fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*). Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) was prolific on the trail, its bright red berries providing food for robins, bluebirds, and bears.



A toast at "Top of the World" by SEA hikers. Photo by Doug Mandel. Wine by Yo Sadahora.



View on the trail of toyon and Mt. Shasta Photo by Jose Hernandez

SEA Needs Your Support

Thank you to all those listed below for your generous donations!!!

\$25 to \$99

James Aven, Margaret Beck, Muffy Berryhill, Melinda Brown, Anita Brady, Dawn Breser, Steve and Cathy Callan, Richard Christoph, Jim & Gayle Citta, Edward Couch, Allan Craig, Lang Dayton, John Deaton, Shirley Flynn, Carol Forster, Jonathan Foster, Derle Gilliam, Sandy Harrison, Jose Hernandez, Diane Hawthorne, Bruce Hillman, Kathy Grisson, Janice Hunter Buck & Sue Lang, Alan Lefler, John Livingston, Bob Madison, Kathryn McDonald, Catherine McKnight, Mary Mitchell, Tom Morehouse, Geneva Omann, Richard Ramos, Cathy Resfelt, Bridgett Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielmann, Ellen Sugg, Alexas Singer-Telles, Denise Williams, Kris BertelsonWilliams, Julie Winter, Don Yost, 6 anonymous.

\$100 to \$249

Mari Enis-Applegate, Mary Belkin, Aleta Carpenter, Shelly Cesaro, Karen Foss, Cheri Gans, Chris Gray,



Yo Sarohara planting incense cedar near Salt Creek on the Lightning Canyon Ranch. Photo by Lisa Ross

\$100 to \$249

David Haskell, Bob Hixon, George and Darlene Horn, David Klasson, David Korman, Kathy & Jon Lefler, Doug Mandel, Diane Madgic, MaryAnn McCrary, Donald Owen, Virginia Phelps, John Springer, Janesa Wilder, Connie Word, Linda Wright, 2 Anonymous

\$250 to \$499

Mari Ennis Applegate, Karen Foss, Jim Nelson, Don & Laurie Burk, Barbara Featherstone/Jim Nelson, Doug Craig, Bea Currie, Lang Dayton, Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson, Peter Waller

\$500 to \$999

Shasta Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Don and Laurie Burk, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon.

\$1000 & Up

Chris Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic, Karen Little

If we missed your name, please let us know!!!

You can donate to SEA by mail at PO Box 993777. Redding, CA 96099 or online at our website at www.ecoshasta.org.



Chris Harvey planting incense cedar at 2500' elevation on Lightning Canyon Ranch. Photo by Lisa Ross.

Shasta Environmental Alliance Upcoming Events

Sacramento River Bend Area

Saturday, February 5, 9:30 am

This field trip will be a 3- to 4-mile easy to moderate hike in the BLM Sacramento River Bend Area in Tehama County about 20 miles south of Redding. This will be a native plant-focused field trip. Walk leader David Ledger will identify the plants along the trail. This is a beautiful area and usually has lots of birds, so bring binoculars if you are a birder. Due to high COVID rates, you must be vaccinated and have had booster shots. We will require masks when we meet at the trail head, but not when walking on the trail. Limited to 15 people. To reserve a space and for trailhead location email David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org.

Turtle Bay Educational Walk and Nature Walk on proposed land sale

Saturday, February 12, 9 am

SEA will be leading an educational field trip around Turtle Bay to discuss the possible threats of the intense development proposed for Turtle Bay and its effects on the wildlife and plants along the Sacramento River. We will identify the native plants and birds of the area, walking from the Redding Rodeo grounds, and completely around the Bird Sanctuary. Due to high rates of the Omicron variant of COVID in Shasta County you must be fully vaccinated and have your booster shot. For more information and to reserve a space, contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Oregon Gulch Native Plant Walk

Saturday, February 19, 9:30 am

This native plant identification field trip will take place at Oregon Gulch, an undeveloped natural area of 380 acres of city owned land in Southwest Redding. This hike will be an easy to moderate 3 to 4 miles on undeveloped trails of uneven

Oregon Gulch Hike (Cont.)

ground with several short steep climbs. This is a great area to learn our native plants and birds. SEA will provide participants with a list of native plants on the property. David Ledger will be walk leader and identify native plants on the hike. Dogs on leash okay. Sprinkles or light rain bring umbrella, heavy rain cancels. Because of the high COVID transmission rates, we are requiring vaccination and booster verification. For more information and to reserve a space, contact david@ecoshasta.org

BLM Cloverdale Trails

Saturday, March 5, 9:30 am

This will be an easy four-mile fieldtrip on the BLM Cloverdale Trail area west of Redding near Igo. SEA led a field trip here last year, but part of this hike will be on a different section of the trail on part of the loop and will include the overlook of the Clear Creek canyon. SEA will provide a plant list for the many wildflowers that should be blooming. Well trained dogs on leash okay. Sprinkles or light rain, bring an umbrella, heavy rain cancels. Limited to 15 people, to reserve a space and for more information, contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org.



Redbud in bloom in floodplain of Oregon Gulch