



P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org)

## March 2021 Newsletter

### More Acorn Planting by Volunteers

Shasta Environmental Alliance has volunteers planting blue oak acorns in areas of severe burn around Redding, as well as a SEA crew consisting of Melissa Harbert, Gibson Collard, John Livingston, Derle Gilliam and David Ledger planting and watering acorns in the Westside Trail area with fencing and small berms for watering. We planted 23 acorn sets with fencing. We also planted scattered gray pine seeds.



Daryl and Penny Harris, along with members of the Shasta County Green Party, planted about 40 acorns near the south River Trail with about 160 acorns

distributed to others to plant elsewhere. They also collected 15 pounds of trash. Penny and Daryl went out another day with neighbors Mari Applegate and Eleanor Rasmussen and planted about 200 acorns along the north River Trail.

Pat Lind of Shasta Lake was responsible for getting about 300 acorns planted in the City of Shasta Lake area. All acorns were provided by SEA and were treated to prevent the spread of pathogens, and then refrigerated for stratification.

Thank you to all our tree planting volunteers. Native trees provide habitat and sequester CO<sub>2</sub>. We plan on doing this for several more years.

### SEA Volunteers Needed!!!

Would you like to help SEA? We could use volunteers in many areas: Mass media and social media; letter/email writing, writing articles for our newsletter, newsletter editor, creek cleanup, help organizing cleanups, watering the oak trees in the summer and more. If interested, email us at [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com).

## Battle Creek Alliance vs Cal Fire Timber Harvest Plans

One of our supporting organizations, Battle Creek Alliance (BCA) is suing CalFire in Tehama County Court over its approval of Timber Harvest Plans (THP) in the Battle Creek watershed which BCA states is cumulatively damaging the health of the watershed which Cal Fire is not taking into account when it approves THPs. CalFire has a separate division from fighting fires called the California Board of Forestry which approves Timber Harvest Plans on private land.

Between 1997 and 2016 over 64,500 acres of clearcut logging have been approved by CalFire in the Battle Creek watershed. By taking regular water samples in the watershed over a 10 year period BCA has found markedly increased sedimentation downstream of clearcuts than in areas upstream. The removal of vast amounts of trees is reducing the diversity of the forested areas, turning them into tree plantations of just a few species of trees. If you click on the following link you can find an excellent article explaining the problems in the area. The removal of vast amounts of trees is reducing the diversity of the forested areas, turning them into tree plantations of just a few species of trees. If you click on the following link you can find an excellent article explain the problems in the area.

<https://medium.com/stop-clearcutting-ca/david-and-goliath-timber-lawsuit-70f2a6b62b0f>

BCA is run by Marily Woodhouse on a skeletal budget. To donate, go to [www.thebattlecreekalliance.org](http://www.thebattlecreekalliance.org)

## California Facing Low Water Supply

The Bureau of Reclamation has released current water supplies available for water contractors. Agriculture 5% of supply, municipal and industrial 55% of supply for north and south of the Delta, with certain exceptions for districts in the Delta and eastern San Joaquin Valley. This is for federal water only and adjustments will be made as the seasons progresses. North of the Delta supplies are dependent primarily on Shasta Lake storage which currently is only at 50% of capacity. Wildlife refuges will receive 75% of their allotments.

## Oregon Gulch Restoration and Protection In Progress



**Bethel Global Response work crew.**

SEA is moving forward with efforts to keep OHVs out of the 380 acres of City of Redding-owned land in Oregon Gulch. Board Member Jim Milestone, who is in charge of the project, surveyed the area with the help of his son Sheridan, whose drone aided in finding areas to block off. A steep hillside where dirt bikes were riding, causing winter erosion and sediment run off into Oregon Gulch Creek, was selected as a test area. Travis Menne of the City of Redding Community Services, which owns the property, arranged for volunteers from Bethel Global Response to do the work as part of their community outreach.



**One of five fence barriers installed in February**

With help from Bill Kuntz and David Ledger, supplies and equipment were purchased and brought to the site where we met eight volunteers from Bethel Church.

### **Oregon Gulch (Cont.)**

Holes were dug and treated posts were placed in the ground at the base of a steep ridge. Then cables were strung between the posts and clamped together. Fencing was attached to the posts so no one could accidentally drive down the hill and not see the cables. Similar fencing was placed at the top of the same ridges. We could not have done the work without the hardworking crew from Bethel Church.

It didn't take a week for several sections of the fencing to be pulled out of the ground, so Jim, Bill Kuntz and Brian Crane went back with concrete to replace the fencing. Jim, David, and Board member Stacey Alexander went back in a week; everything was still up and we strengthened the fencing some more.

Future plans call for more sections of fencing to be placed and berms of wood held down by steel stakes to be placed in areas where gullies have developed to stop further erosion. We also plan to place six-foot sections of concrete barriers near illegal entry areas.

A big thanks goes out to Jim Milestone for planning and organizing this project, thanks to his years of experience managing several National Recreation Areas, including Whiskeytown NRA.

*This project is being funded by a grant from the Bower Charitable Foundation based in Hayfork, CA.*

## **Redding City Council directs Planning Commission to Review Tree Ordinance**

At the March 2 Redding City Council meeting, the Planning Department was directed to review the current tree ordinance for updating and changes. This will take a few months, as the City is in the process of hiring a new Director of Resource Management. Thank you to Council Member Julie Winter for bringing this to a vote on the City Council.

Be prepared to write emails of support to the Planning Commission in a few months when this comes up. Public input is extremely important. SEA will keep you informed of the time and date the Commission meets and when to send in your emails. You can also sign our petition by going to:

<https://www.ecoshasta.org/redding-tree-ordinance-2/>  
If you live in Redding city limits, please list your address.

## Asphalt Plant and Crystal Creek Mining Expansion Project near Keswick

A proposed expansion of the Crystal Creek mining operation on Iron Mountain Road in Keswick, 1.5 miles north of Highway 299, is currently under review by the Shasta County Planning Department. The asphalt plant will be operated 24 hours per day 5 days a week.

The Initial Study was released on February 19 and already a neighborhood group has formed to oppose the project due to the noise, lights, traffic and disruption of their neighborhood. They now circulating a petition opposing the project and a copy is available to sign at Jay's Market in Shasta.

Under this proposal, the expansion of the aggregate mining operation would be from the current 250,000 tons per year to 500,000 tons per year, as would the hours of operation, and yearly blasting maximums. The estimate life of the mining operation would increase from Year 2072 to Year 2099. Up to 200,000 tons per year of aggregate mined will be used in the production of asphalt. Currently there is not an asphalt plant at the site.

The noise, lights, and fumes will have a significant effect on the wildlife of the area. The expanded operation noise will affect the nearby trails, specifically Middle Creek Trail, French Fry Trail and Trail 58. Increased truck traffic will affect trail users, especially bicycles on Iron Mountain Road.

Written comments on the revised scoping and Initial Study comments will be accepted by Shasta County any time during the 30-day scoping period until March 22. Then work will begin on drafting and EIR. Send comments to Tara Petti at (530) 225-5532 [tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us) Make sure your comments are critical of the project, not of County employees.

Other information can be found at the Shasta County Planning Department. Or by following this link [https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/resource-management-docs/eir/crystal-creek-aggregate/2021-documents-for-recirculation/cca\\_initial-study\\_february-2021.pdf](https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/resource-management-docs/eir/crystal-creek-aggregate/2021-documents-for-recirculation/cca_initial-study_february-2021.pdf)

### Illegal Tree Cutting?

We have made several complaints to the Redding Planning Department regarding what we see as

### Tree Removal (Cont.)

violations of the Redding Tree Ordinance, but the response from the City has not always been complete.

You may have seen the story on KRCR-TV regarding removal of trees on Park Marina Drive between the two ponds. In the story, landowner Chris Kutras told KRCR he had been working with the City on the tree removal. A call to the City revealed that no tree removal permit was issued by the City. A Public Records request, and a talk with a Redding Fire Department (RFD) inspector revealed that RFD did not have anything to do with the tree removal. A complaint to California Fish and Wildlife did not bring a response of any kind from that agency.

Many of the trees on the flat area were tree of heaven (Ailanthus), under six-inch wide, and legal to cut without a permit. However, about 15 or more important oak trees over six inches in diameter and far from any power lines were cut at the south end of the large pond. Driving east on Highway 44, you will see a few sparsely spaced trees at the at the southern end of the large pond that will provide little habitat for wildlife. As yet we have heard nothing from Planning but they are not allowed to go on private property even if not posted without permission.

**Tidmore Lane:** SEA made a complaint on some tree removal on land near the McConnell Foundation in May 2000. Many months later the Redding Planning Department finally did get the owners to take out a tree removal permit months after the fact. Apparently, the owners were not given any fine for the tree removal or has relayed that fact to SEA. Unfortunately getting projects through the planning process seems to be much more important than fines for violations of the tree ordinance. Fortunately, Kim Niemer is the new Planning Manager and things should improve in the future

Now we still have questions on several other areas. The clearcutting you see on Oasis Road is legal and will unfortunately continue, since much of this area has been already approved for clearcutting without mitigation requirements years ago. Hopefully a new tree ordinance can reduce this type of tree removal significantly. Redding developments are cutting down trees and burning them faster than we can plant acorns! If Redding had its own Urban Forester as Chico and Sacramento do, and a new tree ordinance, we could start increasing Redding's tree canopy.



## What is the Carbon Tax and Dividend?

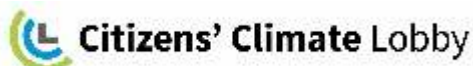
Carbon Fee and Dividend is a policy proposal intended to charge producers for the costs of burning fossil fuels that are borne by society. Economists say it is the best first step to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.

Carbon Fee and Dividend policy works like this. A fee is placed on fossil fuels at the first point of sale, as near as possible to the well, mine, or port of entry. This fee starts at \$15 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions and increases each year by \$10 per ton. This will require far less bureaucracy than pollution-point (power plants, factories, etc.) regulation monitoring and enforcement. All of the net proceeds are then divided up and provided to American households, equally per person, as a monthly “carbon dividend.” About 58 percent of taxpayers would receive more in their dividend payments than higher energy prices would cost them. A border carbon adjustment is placed on carbon-intensive goods imported from or exported to countries without an equivalent price on carbon. This adjustment discourages businesses from moving to more permissive regimes and encourages other nations to adopt similar carbon pricing.

A predictably increasing carbon fee will send a clear market signal that will unleash innovation and investment in technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also encourage climate-friendly consumer behavior while helping families cope with the cost of the transition. A bill was introduced in the House proposing this policy. For more information go [HERE](#).

*Submitted by Tamra Plaga of Redding Citizens Climate Lobby. You can contact her about their monthly meeting at [tplaga@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tplaga@sbcglobal.net)*

**CitizensClimateLobby.org**  
*Political Will for a Livable World*



## Upcoming Field Trips:

### **SEA Native Plants Basics, Short Field Trip Saturday morning, March 13**

SEA will be leading this short 90-minute field trip on a level trail in Redding to learn native and non-native trees, shrubs and wildflowers with an emphasis on pollination and seed dispersal strategies of the plants. Due to COVID, this will be limited to eight participants and masks are required. It will be on easy level terrain with about a one-mile walk. To reserve a space, email walk leader David Ledger at [dledger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net).

### **Whiskeytown Native Plant ID and Fire Recovery Walk Thursday Morning, March 18**

SEA will be leading this walk on a botanically diverse trail that suffered a severe burn in the Carr Fire. We will identify native plants and their fire recovery strategies. An extensive plant list will be given to walk participants. Due to COVID, this will be limited to eight participants and masks will be required but may be removed when socially distant. This will be on a level two-mile roundtrip walk. To reserve a space, email walk leader David Ledger at [dledger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net).

### **Spanish Broom Removal, Sacramento River Trail Saturday, 9 am, March 20**

SEA will be removing some of the smaller invasive Spanish Broom on the River Trail with hand loppers and pruning saws, as well as hand pulling, as most of the plants are small. This is following the work of Randy Smith who previously led many Spanish Broom removal work crews. Spanish Broom is very difficult to remove once established, and crowds our native plants while providing little food for native animals. This will be a short two- to three-hour work session. Please bring water, gloves and any hand loppers if you have them. This restoration will require masks, although they can be removed if working at a distance from others. You will have to sign a liability waiver from the City of Redding. Please notify David Ledger at if you are able to participate at [dledger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net).

## **Shasta Land Trust Table Mountain Wildflower Outing Saturday, March 27**

The Shasta Land Trust will sponsor a field trip to Table Mountain near Oroville on March 27. This botanical hotbed draws people from Sacramento to Redding for its annual amazing wildflower display. This is one of the SLT's Wildways Events to raise money for saving Shasta County land from development. Participants will be provided with a lunch and plant list. The walk is not steep but is uneven terrain. Due to COVID, carpooling will not be organized, and masks will be required except when social distancing on the field trip. Leaders will be Chris Harvey, Bob Madison and David Ledger. For more information, contact Kayla Finck at [kfinck@shastalandtrust.org](mailto:kfinck@shastalandtrust.org) or call 530-241-7886.

**Thank you to the following individuals who are helping us with our work!**

### **\$25 to \$99**

Julie Winter, Derle Gilliam, Catherine McKnight, Sabrina Hofkin, Allan Craig, Miki Catalano, Ellen Sugg, Dan Scollon, Bob Madison, Tom O'Mara, Peter Alexander Linda Samuels, Belinda Higuera, Penny & Daryl Harris, Jonathan Foster, Shirley Flynn, John Deaton, Dawn Bieser, Ellen Sugg, Donald Yost, Margaret Beck, Kathy Grissom, John Livingston, Muffy Berryhill, Buck and Sue Lang, Richard Ramos, Cathy Reisfelt, Kathryn McDonald, Alexas Singer-Telles, Jim & Gayle Citta, John Springer, Steve and Cathy Callan, Gary Lauben, Ellen Suggs, Sharon Kennedy, Andrea Hughes, Janice Hunter, Jeff Morrow, MaryAnn McCray, Collette Streight, Tricia Hamelberg, Karen Hazeltine and three anonymous.

### **\$100 to \$249**

Mary Beldon, John Springer, Donald Owen, Mark Martinek, Cathy and Jon Lefler, Lisa Kelsey, Dan Greaney, Barbara Featherstone, Doug Mandel, Susan Weale, Aileen Chris Gray, Pamela Sanchez, Connie Word, Aleta Carpenter, Anonymous, Karen Foss and Shelly Swanson, Dave Korman, Ron Dykstra, David Zoll, Bill Oliver, David Ledger, George and Darlene Horn, Linda Materson, Mark and Molly Wood, Judy Salter, Shasta County Green Party, California Oak Coalition

### **\$250 to \$499**

Doug Craig, Bea Currie, Lang Dayton, Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson, Peter Waller

### **\$500 to \$999**

Karen Little, Chris and Billie Harvey, Shasta Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Don and Laurie Burk, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon.

### **\$1000 & Up**

Chris and Billie 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 going to our website at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org).

*NOTE: Three people have stated they received spoofing emails signed by me from Shasta Environmental Alliance asking for gift cards for veterans. These types are kind of common on the internet. ALWAYS check the email address of the sender and you will see it is a bogus one. Never click on a link in emails such as this no matter who they are from.*

## **Below: View from Oregon Gulch ridge**



**Above: Oregon Gulch ridgetop**