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SEA Newsletter August 2021

Sunrise Redding Plans Climate March to City Hall Tuesday, August 10, 2:30 pm

The local hub of the nationwide youth-led Sunrise Movement is planning a climate march and drive-along from the Sundial Bridge to Redding's City Hall. The two-mile trek will occur on August 10 at 2:30 and will end outside the Planning Commission meeting slated for 4:00 that day in the City Council chambers. Supporters can march or meet marchers at City Hall at 3:30 for the rally. The group is marching in the heat of the day to highlight the extreme heat generated by climate change and the contingent drought and wildfire conditions that plague Northern California for half the year. Youth from Sunrise Redding are asking the Planning Commission to take action on a new tree ordinance. A strong tree ordinance would protect the city's old growth trees, a vital ally in the fight against human-driven climate change and sources of shade for Redding citizens. Sunrise Redding also wants the City Council to prioritize new electric charging stations and solar projects, and to stop approving new gas stations in non-industrial parts of town, in keeping with the state's mandate to go all-electric over the next decade. For more information, contact Dash Waterbury at sunriseredding@gmail.com or 530-209-2964.

Let's support our local youth climate change activists and show up at City Hall! David Ledger



Dash Waterbury speaking at Chico Urban Forest Summit

Fountain Wind Project

Following a 9-hour Shasta Planning Commission meeting at Shasta College, the Fountain Wind Project was defeated by a 5-0 vote of the Commission. The meeting was attended by about 400 people, most opposed to the project, especially the Pit River Tribe, as this is their ancestral land and they have lost so much since the arrival of white settlers; they were determined not to lose what they consider desecration of their sacred sites.

Other issues included fire. Because the wind turbines would be up to 679 feet high, it would be too dangerous to use air tankers to fight a fire burning near the turbines. Two retired pilots who used to fly firefighting planes testified that it would be unsafe to fly low enough near the turbines to make water drops. Another consideration was that it is a low wind area nationally, and the previous company that had started it had abandoned it and sold it to Fountain Wind. Another issue was that the company was recently formed and had never built any solar or wind farms. A 50% interest in three solar installations purchased from First Solar was the only renewable energy the company owned.

The owners of Hatchet Mountain wind turbines, Pattern Energy, were opposed to the project because they stated the "wake" from the turbines would lower their electricity output. The 25-minute testimony from Pit River Tribe member Brandy McDaniel was very moving. Residents of Moose Camp, a community of 50 cabins, also spoke. For an excellent story on the hearing, go to <https://shastascout.org/with-fountain-wind-appeal-pending-pit-river-tribe-continues-battle-for-their-sacred-sites/>

The wind farm proponent, CurrentGen, has appealed the decision to the Board of Supervisors, but a hearing date has not been set.

ACORNS NEEDED! – if you can find them!

SEA will be doing some acorn planting again late this year and next after the next rains. We need your help collecting acorns. We are looking for acorns from the following oaks: **valley, blue, black, and interior live oak**. How to collect: Collect only in natural areas without horticultural plants to avoid possible diseases unless you take them directly from the tree. Wait until the acorns are mature which is when they separate from the cup easily or are starting to fall or turn brown. If any are dropping, they are probably all mature and.

Acorns (Cont.)

you can pull direct from the tree. Only put *one acorn type in each bag* and include a leaf so we can confirm the identification. Due to the drought, there will not be a large crop this year and they will mature late. Trees are putting all their energy into just staying alive. Oak trees sequester large amounts of CO₂, and planting acorns is a small part of a worldwide movement to combat climate change by planting trees. For more information contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org.

Silver Bush Lupine Seed Giveaway



We have some drought tolerant silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) seeds, native to this area, that are available to all SEA supporters for free. These are a perennial lupine that grow to a small shrub and are native to our area. We will include planting instructions with the seeds.

They were donated by Lang Dayton, who has many in his yard. He says they grow in an area of his large yard where nothing else would grow. These are drought-resistant plants that will not require water once established. Email us at ecoshasta@gmail.com if you would like some and we will mail you a packet. You can provide nectar and pollen for our local pollinators.

Incense Cedar Planting This Fall

SEA was donated 46 incense cedar seedlings by Ricky Satomi, Forest Advisor for UC Extension Cooperative. These are a tree native to this area, and we plan on planting them in a conifer area near Shasta Lake this fall after sufficient rainfall. We have obtained permission from Bob Hixon, who owns the 2200-acre Lightning Canyon Ranch near Shasta Lake. This will be a fun and fairly easy half day of work including driving time. All of our efforts in planting trees are part of a worldwide effort by many organizations to sequester as much carbon as we can to reduce global warming. More carbon sequestration!

Environmental Champion Awards to Honor Local Environmentalists

Shasta Environmental Alliance will be hosting its Second Annual Environmental Champions Awards event in November to honor those individuals working to

Environmental Champions (Cont.)

protect the environment in the greater Shasta County. SEA is accepting nominations to honor people in areas such as climate change, forest or woodland protection, animals, water, and air. Environmental stewardship awards will go to:

- A. A local high school student
 - B. An environmentalist in the Shasta County area
 - C. A government agency staff person whose work goes above and beyond their job description.
- For more information, email ecoshasta@gmail.com.

Holiday Market

A new Holiday Market shopping center, gas station, fast food outlet and mini-storage business at the corner of Hartnell Avenue and Shasta View Drive met final approval by the Redding City Council on. This parcel has 285 oak trees on it, and the Planning Department required a 1:1 ratio of planting new trees for every blue oak tree removed on the 12+ acre project.

Four Council members made statements indicating that they wanted to see better mitigation of trees, and at the end of the meeting asked when Planning will finish a new tree ordinance. A fifth Council member sent an email to SEA expressing support for a new ordinance.

Whiskeytown Trail Management Plan

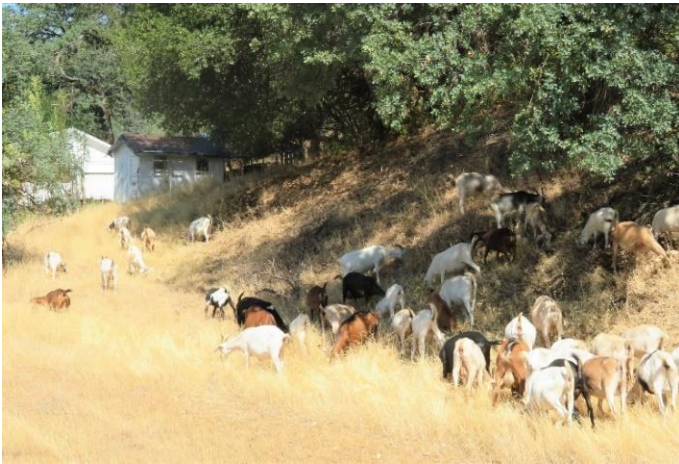
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area had its new Trail Management Plan out for comment. SEA sent in comments and opposed the use of ebikes on all trails in the park unless they are paved. Ebikes capable of going up to 20 mph will be allowed on trails. This is a leftover decision from when Ryan Zinke was Interior Department Secretary before he resigned under an ethical cloud.

SEA opposes bikes because they could be a danger to trail users and would ruin the outdoor experience for all. We supported keeping open the biologically diverse Davis Gulch Trail, which is the first trail to open in the park. The Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society also supported keeping open the Davis Gulch Trail. SEA also urged the Park Service to include the High Route Trail along the mountain ridge to the south of Shasta Bally. Jim Milestone began the planning stage of the trail when he was Park Superintendent. This trail would give park users a high-country experience, and at 5000 feet, it will be cooler in the warmer months.

Goats Grazing in Redding: Herbicide-free weed and brush removal

After the Carr Fire, Council Member Julie Winter advocated for an ordinance allowing goat grazing for fire reduction the City of Redding, which was adopted in 2019. This is an herbicide-free natural way to clear underbrush and weeds. The City started using goats to clear Open Spaces in Redding in 2019. They are used extensively in the hills of Oakland and on about 900 acres of the East Bay Regional Park to keep down fire fuels. If left penned in an area long enough, they will do a good job. One problem with goats in riparian areas is they don't distinguish between important plants and non-natives, which is why they should be limited to chaparral and oak woodlands. They do like poison oak!

The last photo on the opposite column shows reducing fire hazards by thinning, brush removal, and cutting of lower limbs. A fire started from the roadside should not have flames high enough to reach higher branches. Bringing in the goats keeps grasses down and fire hazards low.



The goats in the above photo were just released into this area of high weeds on Canyon Drive.



This is a hillside on Canyon Drive that was cleared by goats in just a few days.



This hillside on Buenaventura Drive was brushed and thinned by CalFire, and the remaining trees limbed up. This year goats were used to eat the dry grass and resprouting shrubs.

Help SEA on Oak Woodland Restoration Project

We will be watering our oak seedlings again on August 11 at 8 a.m. and could use volunteers again. We will also be pruning some of the oak trees that have sprouted from the root crown to develop them into a tree by eliminating multiple sprouts. We will be carrying the water in jugs by wheelbarrow to BLM land just west of Redding. If we get the usual number of volunteers, we can be done by 9:30 before it gets too hot. This will be the sixth watering for the summer. If you can help, email David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com.

Native Plant Identification Field Trip Mill Creek Area, Whiskeytown NRA Saturday, August 7, 8 am

SEA will be leading a field trip centering on the identification of common trees and shrubs of riparian and mixed conifer areas on Saturday, August 7 at 8 a.m. at Mill Creek/Camden House area in Whiskeytown NRA. This will be an easy 1 1/2 mile walk on fairly level ground lasting about 90 minutes. This is a great way to learn our local native plants. Walk leader David Ledger will teach participants identifying features of about 30 trees and shrubs and given a handout with key identification features of 35 trees and shrubs. This is an easy walk for all levels. *Due to the highly contagious Delta variant, you must be fully vaccinated to attend.* Limited Space: For more information and to reserve a space, email david@ecoshasta.org. Excessive heat/smoke may cancel.

Heart Lake Hike, Mt. Shasta Area Saturday August 14 9:30 am

This is a three-mile up-and-back hike west of the town of Mt. Shasta with an elevation climb of 850 ft. and fantastic views of Mt. Shasta. Uneven trail in parts which does require good balance. Due to COVID, we will not be arranging carpooling, but you can meet at Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot at 8 a.m. and drive up to Mt. Shasta. We will also check out another short trail in Mt. Shasta. To reserve a space and for more information, email david@ecoshasta.org.

What has SEA been doing in June and July?

1. Met via Zoom with Senator Padilla's Northern California representative Roberto Rizo and 15 other North State environmental leaders.
2. Submitted written and verbal comments on the Fountain Wind Farm.
3. Submitted written and verbal comments on the Holiday Market shopping center to the Planning Commission and Redding City Council.
4. Submitted written comments on Whiskeytown NRA Master Trail Plan
5. Watered oak seedlings four times.
6. Spoke at the Forestry Institute for Teachers, also representing Sierra Club.
7. Attended two meetings of the USFS Shasta County Regional Advisory Committee as a member.
8. Sent letter to Shasta County Code Enforcement over water pollution issue.
9. Surveyed Oregon Gulch to ensure fencing for OHVs is still secure on slopes; so far so good.
10. Sent comments to Shasta County Public Works requesting they try to preserve valley oaks in Deschutes Road widening projects.
11. Worked with Shasta Chapter of CNPS to develop plant signs for the Sacramento River Trail.
12. Commented on a project removing blue oaks to the Redding Board of Administrative Review.
13. SEA signed on to letter asking Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to permanently remove consideration of Shasta Dam Raise from Bureau of Reclamation plans.
14. Sent a number of emails to City Council members.
15. Met with new Redding Development Services Director Toccarra Nicole Thomas.

16. Sent numerous letters to Redding Planning Department regarding various projects that removed native oak trees.
17. Sent numerous emails to Shasta County Planning regarding Fountain Wind.
18. Attended all day Zoom strategy training session with north state environmental leaders.
19. Sent emails and letter of comment to all Redding Planning Commissioners.
20. Attended educational Zoom meeting on oak woodland restoration by California Releaf.
21. Attended Chico Urban Forest Summit.
22. Answered many groups' and individual emails and phone calls regarding environmental issues.
23. Led three field trips: Spring Hill Trail, Mt. Shasta; Salt Creek Trail, Redding; Prospect Peak, Lassen Volcanic National Park.

SEA needs your donations:

Thank you to those listed below who have donated!

\$25 to \$99

Jamie Spielmann, 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 and Collette Streight.

\$100 to \$249

Mary Mitchell, 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 Olive

\$250 to \$499

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

\$500 to \$999

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 online at our website at
www.ecoshasta.org.**