



Butte County Resource Conservation District Newsletter, Summer 2014



Highway cleanup volunteers find rewards amongst trash

By Sam Rossi

In November 2013, the Butte County RCD along with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) adopted a four-mile stretch of Highway 99 through the Caltran's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Drive on Highway 99, near its junction with Highway 162 E, you will see new signs promoting work done by these organizations to keep Butte County roadways litter free.



Left to right: Kelly Peterson, RCD District Manager, and Mary Thompson, RCD President

Since the program's inception, over 130 volunteer hours have been spent to remove approximately 40 large bags of trash! Volunteers have helped remove everything from plastic bags, soda cans, and coffee cups to fragments of rubber and debris from along the shoulder of Highway 99. Aside from trash, volunteers have occasionally found some beneficial items including gift cards, crumpled-up ten and twenty dollar bills, and even perfectly new sporting equipment.

As if offering our volunteers hidden treasures wasn't enough, some motorists even honk their horns when passing along volunteers to offer encouragement. The gesture has proven to amplify the group's morale while trudging through thick grass and

- Upcoming Events -

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Day

August 20th, 2014 @ 8 am

Meet at the intersection of Highway 99 and Highway 162 in the dirt parking lot west of Highway 99.

Volunteers are needed from **8 a.m. – 11 a.m.** to help cleanup litter and make a positive statement to visitors and residents regarding litter along Butte County roadways.

Great Sierra River Cleanup Day: Feather River, Butte County

September 20th, 2014 @ 8 am

Join the Butte County RCD and Feather River Recreation & Park District in Oroville to take part in the state wide cleanup of our rivers! Contact Sam Rossi, Conservation Associate, at buttecountyracd@gmail.com, or 530-534-0112 x 125 for more information.

sometimes ankle deep mud in search of that next fast food wrapper; however, the occasional ear piercing honk often jerks us from our reverie. All in all, the RCD could not be more pleased with all the support – be it loud honks from passing motorists, or snacks and refreshments for the volunteers donated by Oroville's Grocery Outlet and Raley's.

Tuesday, July 15th, 2014 was the seventh Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Work Day. **Wednesday, August 20th, 2014** will be our eighth Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Work Day to continue this valuable work! Interested volunteers should meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Highway 99 and Highway 162 in the parking lot west of Highway 99. It is recommended to wear long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy boots.

Bring your own food and water; safety gear and work supplies will be provided. The work is usually from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., but don't feel obligated to work the entire three hours if you have other pressing matters. Any amount of time is truly appreciated. Who knows you might just find a new treasure!



Left to right: Rachael Bryson, Navit Reid, Scott Turnquist, and Dan Taverner

Apply to be the RCD's new AmeriCorps Conservation Associate

Apply today to become a Member of the 2014 - 2015 Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) and serve with the RCD. Applications are due by **August 1st, 2014**.

The RCD and SNAP are seeking enthusiastic, conservation-minded people to commit to a 11 months of service, protecting natural resources and working to create sustainable communities. During the year, SNAP members serving at the RCD will gain skills and technical training, mentor with outstanding environmental leaders and receive an education award at the successful completion of service. For more detailed service descriptions, please visit <http://sierranevadaalliance.com/programs/sierra-nevada-ameri-corps-partnership/join/>.

For more information please contact:

Lynn Baumgartner, Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Program Director: 530-542-4546 x 305 or lynn@sierranevadaalliance.org or visit www.sierranevadaalliance.org

- BUTTE COUNTY -

DROUGHT UPDATE

As of July 17, 2014

Reservoir % capacity:

Lake Oroville = 39%

Areas with wells going dry:

South and west of Chico, Durham, and foothill communities

Find quick and easy ways to save water:

<http://saveourh2o.org/>

For more information on Butte County conditions:

<http://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/DroughtInformation.aspx>

The Great Sierra River Cleanup

After initiating our River & Trail Cleanup Program in January of this year, the RCD has received a great deal of support from communities throughout Butte County to help restore the Feather River's natural beauty. Since January, over 70 volunteers have helped the RCD remove hundreds of pounds of trash from shorelines, river banks, and bike trails in Oroville, Ca. The program has accomplished a great deal and has big plans going forward.

The RCD has recently partnered with the Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD) to organize the region's Great Sierra River Cleanup Day which is held in conjunction with the state wide Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20th, 2014. This will be the first year the RCD co-hosts the event on the Feather River in Oroville. The FRRPD has done a great job coordinating the annual event and the RCD is eager to help.

Anyone interested in volunteering should go to one of three volunteer check-in stations anytime between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The RCD and FRRPD will be providing volunteers with cleanup equipment and

snacks at Oroville's Centennial Park which is located at the end of Lincoln St. along the Feather River, Bedrock Park, and Riverbend Park. The two organizations plan to focus the cleanup efforts on the section of the river between the Table Mountain Blvd. Bridge and the Highway 162 E Bridge.

The RCD has made it a point to partner with local groups over the past year to cleanup the community's treasured river and is now asking for help. The RCD and FRRPD would like to know if there are other locations along the Feather River that could use attention and may be incorporated in the September 20th event. Also, if you or your business would like to be involved in any way please contact Sam Rossi, Conservation Associate, at (530) 534-0112 x 125 or buttecountyrcd@gmail.com. Join us and anticipate more information concerning the details of the event in August.



Staff from the Butte County RCD takes shelter with some of the volunteers following a rainy River & Trail Cleanup event in March, 2014.

- OTHER WAYS TO HELP -

We are currently seeking donations from local businesses to help provide food and water for volunteers on future work days. Donations include:

- Any \$ amount
- In-kind donations

Please see the section titled "How to Donate" for more information on donations and how your support helps us!

- Partner Reports-

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Oroville Office

If you are interested in developing a conservation plan for your land please come into the NRCS office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way Suit A, Oroville, Ca 95965 or call Dan Taverner, District Conservationist, at 530-534-0112 x 120. Conservation plans are currently being accepted for projects that begin next year, so visit the NRCS Oroville Office to begin the process.

USDA Farm Services Agency Oroville Office

The Butte FSA County Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2014 County Committee Election for the Durham-Richvale-Paradise area!

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties.

They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination from FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

If you have any questions please contact Billy Merritt Jr., County Executive Director, at 530-534-0112 or billy.merritt@ca.usda.gov.

About Butte County RCD

Since 2002, the Butte County RCD has worked with and acted as a liaison between willing private landowners, organizations, and agencies (especially the USDA NRCS) to offer a variety of programs that meet land management goals while also working towards natural resource and agriculture conservation objectives. These efforts are not only beneficial to the unique plant communities, pristine waterways, and diverse wildlife populations Butte County has to offer; they are also regarded as cost-effective management practices by local landowners.



Kelly Peterson, District Manager

The Butte County RCD has partnered with local, county, regional, state, and federal organizations to successfully complete projects related to forestry, fire prevention, erosion control, grazing, wildlife restoration, agriculture, land conservation, invasive species control, and environmental education in an effort to educate the

public, manage lands, and conserve natural resources. Kelly Peterson joined the Butte County RCD team in 2011 as the District Manager and has worked diligently to secure the Butte County RCD's important role in the county.

Director Highlight

The Butte County RCD is governed by a five member Board of Directors; one from each supervisory district. The Board is made up of local land owners, ranchers, and farmers. Directors are appointed by the Butte County Board of Supervisors on their strengths as active partners in the conservation community.



Colleen Hatfield is our third Board Member to be featured in our "Director Highlight" section and serves as a Director. Colleen is a landscape ecologist and professor in the CSUC Biology Department. Her primary research focus is relationships between watershed conditions and

ecological responses. Colleen has worked extensively in collaboration with private, non-profit and government entities. She grew up on the Colorado farm that her grandfather homesteaded and she continues to have a strong tie to the land. Through her background experiences, Colleen is aware of the challenges and hurdles facing today's land managers whether they are farmers or natural resource managers. Natural resources and land conservation are central to her core values. Colleen also serves on the board for the Northern California Regional Land Trust.

Directors:

Mary Ann Thompson appointed by Bill Connelly
District 1
Wes Gilbert appointed by Larry Wahl
District 2
Colleen Hatfield appointed by Maureen Kirk
District 3
Terrell Storm appointed by Steve Lambert
District 4
Dave Lee appointed by Doug Teeter
District 5

Associate Directors:

Rob Mackenzie
Bill Kellogg

Can We Survey You About Our Newsletter?

We here at the Butte County RCD are interested in receiving your feedback concerning our newsletter. The survey is one short question that would substantially help the future of the AmeriCorps partnership and secure conservation projects here in Butte County! Please follow the link below to take our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7KTSY9T>

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 22nd, 2014. The meeting is from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is held in the Butte County Farm Bureau Conference Room at 2580 Feather River Blvd in Oroville. An agenda is posted in the lobby of the Butte County Administrative Offices, at # 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, California. Public comment is encouraged!

- How to Donate -

Go to the Butte County RCD's website (<http://buttecountyrcd.org/>) and click on the green box found on the left margin just below the heading, "Resources".

In appreciation of your contribution your name and/or name of your business will appear on the RCD's website and promotional materials as a valued partner, as well as a hyperlink to your personal and/or business website(s) depending on your level of support. All donations will receive a follow up letter describing how the donation was specifically used.

Remember, the Butte County RCD is a not-for-profit organization that survives on contributions large and small. That being said, any amount really does help the Butte County RCD improve Butte County natural resources for all. Donations also help the critical projects drafted by the AmeriCorps member by supporting the continued funding of the RCD's partnership with the SNAP program.

Contact

If you would like to join our mailing list please contact Kelly Peterson at bc-rcd@carcd.org. If you have any other questions concerning your community and the Butte County RCD, please feel free to contact us!

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The Butte County Resource Conservation District Thanks You!



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