



## Butte County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2008



*Butte County Resource Conservation District is leading the progress of working landscape and open space management in the county through unique and influential partnerships for the benefit of the citizens, the environment, and the economy.*

Our motto is cooperation, not regulation

### Welcome New Associate Directors!

The Butte County Resource Conservation District welcomes Bill Kellogg, of Kellogg's Ag. Service, and Robert W. Mackenzie, of Mackenzie Land Law, to our team! Bill and Robert have joined the board as associate directors. Bill comes to the RCD as a former Soil Conservation Service employee and has worked with local agriculture for over 30 years. Bill and his wife live in Paradise. Rob practices law in Chico, in the areas of land use, real property and environmental law. Rob was a Chief Deputy County Counselor in the Butte County Counsel's Office for ten years and advised the Butte County Water Commission and the Butte County Land Conservation Act Committee. Rob and his wife live near the farming community of Dayton.

### NRCS and BC-RCD Offer Post-fire Technical Assistance

In the weeks following the numerous fires in Butte County the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BC-RCD) have offered post-fire technical assistance to landowners affected by the fires. The NRCS and the BC-RCD have completed over two dozen site visits, primarily in the Concow area. Major concerns expressed by landowners have been erosion control, water quality, and tree mortality.



Humboldt Fire - Jason Haley/Chico Enterprise Record

As part of the post-fire technical assistance BC-RCD has created a post-fire restoration guide. This guide was made available to residents of Butte County and has been shared with Western Shasta and Santa Cruz County RCD's. The Bank of

America has generously donated the printing cost for 7,000 of the brochures to aid distribution. BC-RCD is selling certified weed-free rice straw as a soil mulch for erosion control. BC-RCD and NRCS have participated in the local assistance centers as well as outreach meetings throughout the county. The brochure and other post-fire resources are available on the website at [www.buttecountyrcd.org](http://www.buttecountyrcd.org).

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Butte Creek Implementation Project Meeting**

BC-RCD is holding a public Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the road project as well as receive information about citizen monitoring and BC-RCD Earth Team participation. Please feel welcome to come and learn more about the Butte Creek Implementation Project on **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm** at the Forest Ranch Community Center, 15807 Forest Ranch Rd, Forest Ranch, CA 95942.

#### **Sierra Oro Farm Trail Passport Weekend 2008**

October 11-12 \$20 per person includes free tasting at all 25 venues. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.sierraoro.org](http://www.sierraoro.org).

#### **EQIP and WHIP Cost-Share Deadline Approaching**

Applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are being accepted for funding consideration in fiscal year 2009 from **now through October 31st**, 2008, at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Oroville. The conservation programs are competitive and provide technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers for natural resource improvements. The priorities for funding are ranked locally by the BC-RCD stakeholders and local work group. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY!**

#### **CWA Convention to be held in Butte County**

The California Women for Agriculture state convention is coming to Butte County! The Convention will be on January 9-11 in Chico. For more information contact Colleen at 533- 1473.

### **BC-RCD is Breaking Ground!**

The BC-RCD and our partners will be breaking ground this month! The rural roads project has scheduled erosion control treatments on three sites in the Upper Butte Creek watershed. The remaining three sites will be completed in 2009. These native surface roads have been identified as having both chronic and episodic erosion which transports fine sediments into Butte Creek and its tributaries. The fine sediments choke the gravel creek beds where salmon spawn. Storm proofing of these roads include culvert replacement, out-sloping, and installation of rolling dips which will treat the soil erosion.



Field tour of 2008 implementation sites

The Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees are meeting in early September to participate in the project as well as receive information about monitoring and NRCS Earth Team Participation.

### **Butte County Weed Management Area Sweep Out Broom Brochure**

Forest Ranch Broom Education & Eradication Program (BEEP) has created an educational brochure describing how to identify and remove broom as well as problems caused by this invasive weed. For more information about how you can get involved contact BEEP at (530) 892- 8726.



French Broom Seed Pods- BEEP Brochure

### **New Partnership with Duck Unlimited**

The US Bureau of Reclamation Water-Use Efficiency Program has approved a grant proposal from the BC-RCD and Ducks Unlimited to replace two redwood siphons at Rancho Llano Seco. This project will complete the multi grant project's survey and design, environmental documentation and permitting, and construction of a new water conveyance system. Two deteriorated redwood siphons constructed in 1926 and 1,600 feet of the associated water conveyance channels will be reconstructed. The work should conserve thousands of acre feet of water per year. This will reduce diversions from the Sacramento River and Butte Creek, and make more water available to support spring run salmon and steelhead in Butte Creek and the Sacramento River and Bay Delta system.



Water loss from leaks in siphons – Ducks Unlimited

### **BC-RCD Master Lease**

The California Department of Fish and Game and BC-RCD have entered into a master lease agreement for two ranches in Butte County. Both properties will continue to be grazed by local cattlemen. As a result of the master lease, the BC-RCD will hold the lease payments in trust so that the funds to be remain locally available for needed repairs on the property. Similar Master Lease programs are currently in place with the Sierra Valley and Dixon RCD's and are accepted by all as great partnership.



DFG's Table Mountain Ranch is included in the BC-RCD Master Lease Agreement

