

April 2023 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

APRIL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

So many exciting events this month from both SEA and other local organizations!

Please see seashasta.org/events for more information or

[click here for a printable version of this schedule!](#)

Permaculture Influence

Hosted by: Shasta Master Gardeners

April 1, 10am-12pm, \$5 fee

Garden of Hope - 3626 Railroad Ave, Redding

Learn self-sufficient and sustainable agricultural practices at our workshop. There will be a \$5.00 charge to cover materials and seeds. This workshop is sponsored by Shasta College, UCCE, and Providence International.

Millville Plains Wildflower Driving Field Trip

Hosted by: SEA

April 2, 1:30pm, Free

To carpool, meet at Chase Bank - 974 Dana Dr, Redding

This will be a drive-and-stop tour of Millville Plains and a walk through the vernal pools near the old Lumber Jack. We will stop and identify plants along the road in Millville Plains and then stop at the vernal pools in Redding on our return.

Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary Walk

Hosted by: Wintu Audubon

April 6, 9am-11am, Free

Meet at Turtle Bay, in front of Branch House Riverfront Bistro

Join Wintu Audubon Society for a walk on a mile of the Sacramento River Trail through the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary. Spring migration will be revving up as swallows, warblers, and orioles begin to stream northward to their breeding grounds.

Buckeye Water Treatment Plant Tour

Hosted by: SEA

April 6, 9:30am, Free

To carpool, meet at the CVS parking lot on Placer 3375 Placer St, Redding

This field trip will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up. To reserve a space, email david@ecoshasta.org. This plant treats water coming from Whiskeytown Lake from a penstock that runs from the lake, through Old Shasta, and continues on to the Keswick Power Plant on Iron Mountain Road. City staff will give us a complete tour and explanation of the operation of the plant.

Birding with Friends

Hosted by: Wildlife Society – Sac Shasta Chapter & Shasta Wildlife Rescue

April 15, 10am-12pm, Free

Meet at Shasta Wildlife Rescue, Anderson

The Shasta Wildlife Rescue will give a talk around 10 AM on wildlife rescue, what to do if folks find injured wildlife, and maybe show an education animal, if available. Once that is done, we'll break up into smaller groups and go birding around Anderson River Park.

Geology of Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve (HCCP)

Hosted by: Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

April 15, 10am

This hike meets at the yellow steel gate, on the south side of Clear Creek Road, about 6 miles west of highway 273 (1 mile east of the HCCP parking area)

Kody Shellhouse, a geologist with the BLM, will take us on a two-mile stroll along old roads and trails near HCCP.

Native Plant Garden Tour

Hosted by: Doug Mandel, Master Gardener

April 16, 1pm-2pm, Free

Meet at North Valley Art League, Redding

Native plant garden tour of the Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden at the North Valley Art League Gallery. Doug Mandel, a Master Gardener, native plant specialist, and founder of Ghost Pine Native Plant Nursery, will lead a tour of this garden at Carter House.

Plant and Community Ecology Walk

Hosted by: Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

April 16, 9am

Meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road

We will learn to identify some key plants (both native and invasive) in the landscape and how they relate to the community and ecosystem. We will walk along the trail short distances and take time to explore the plant community around us. All ages are encouraged to come explore the ecology of Clear Creek with BLM's Laura Brodhead.

Film: Kiss the Ground

April 19, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Free

Redding Library - Community Room

Come watch Kiss the Ground- a film in which “activists, scientists, farmers, and politicians turn to regenerative agriculture to save the planet’s topsoil, and combat climate change.”

REDDING EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

April 22, 11am-4pm, Free

Caldwell Park, Redding

Join us for a day of fun and environmental education at the Redding Earth Day Festival! There will be multiple booths, art displays, and many earth-friendly activities for all ages! Ride your bike to the event and use our bike corral to make it a fully, eco-friendly day!

Film: One Word - Sawalmem

April 26, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Free

Redding Library - Community Room

Come watch One Word- Sawalmem- a film “of great power and purpose... an uplifting, internationally-acclaimed, Native-directed short film that’s good for the whole family to watch. The 20-min film is based on one single question: What’s one word from your sacred language that changed your life and that you can offer to the next generation as medicine to heal our relationship with the Earth? The film is an exploration of the answer given by Michael “Pom” Preston of the Winnemem Wintu tribe of Mt. Shasta.”

McClure Trail Field Trip

Hosted by: SEA

April 29, 9am, Free

To carpool, meet at Chase Bank - 974 Dana Dr, Redding

The McClure Trail is near the Ishi Wilderness area above Paynes Creek and hosts a diversity of plants closer to those commonly found in the Sierra Foothills south into Nevada County. This is a four-mile out-and-back moderate-difficulty trail that traverses different habitats, ending at a meadow at the North Fork of Antelope Creek.

Native Plant Identification and Uses

Hosted by: Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

April 30, 1pm

Meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road

Join native Wintu, Ted Dawson, on a spring walk while he locates, identifies, and explains medicinal and general uses of native plants. Today's presentation includes making a natural poison oak remedy. Bring a jar with you to take some home!

Check out the Earth Day Festival's KIXE ad

KIXE has been generous enough to create an ad for our 2023 Redding Earth Day Festival! You can check the ad out [HERE](#). Thank you so much KIXE! Keep an eye out for other partnered events with SEA and KIXE in the future.

Thank You Redding Electric Utility

Thanks to Redding Electric Utility (REU) for sponsoring the SEA-organized Redding Earth Day Festival! This has allowed us to be able to promote the Festival and create a space where all will be able to enjoy learning more about our environment.

Redding's New Draft General Plan has Serious Weaknesses

By David Ledger

The Redding Planning Commission and the public have finished reviewing and commenting on the last drafts of the new General Plan at its March 28th meeting. Now the Planning Department will put on its finishing touches before sending it to a consulting firm that will finish the work and produce a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The final sections of the draft General Plan have some serious weaknesses in many sections - so much so that it should be called "Not a General Plan" if this is how the final version looks. The major problem with the new General Plan is wording that severely weakens the previous one so much as to make it seem meaningless. For example, in just one element of the Plan, the word "strive" is used over 20 times, and "consider" is used almost 60 times. In contrast to this, many California cities use the words "protect," "shall," "must" and "require." The draft Plan seems to be specifically weakened so that much of it will not be enforceable.

As I understand it, the directive comes from the City Attorney's office to include this language. This is most likely to weaken any attempt for a successful lawsuit against the City for not

following its own General Plan. Will it cause a possible a lawsuit against the City by the State of California or other groups?

SEA urges all concerned citizens to write to the Redding City Council about this effort to further weaken the General Plan. [Contact them via email HERE.](#)

Below are just a few sections/examples that were weakened and “strive to” added.

NR1C: ~~Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation created during and after construction activities to the fullest extent practicable, using Best Management Practices (BMPs).~~ **Strive to** control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

NR4A5A: **Strive to** conserve all "special-status species" within the Planning Area. Ensure implementation of statutory protection for these species and require appropriate mitigation if disturbed. ~~Minimize the disruption of sensitive habitat caused by new development by encouraging innovative design and site planning and establishing performance standards for habitat protection.~~

NR4B5B: **Seek to** minimize the disruption of habitat containing special status species by encouraging innovative design and site planning and establishing performance standards for habitat protection. ~~Work to preserve and enhance fisheries.~~

Goal NR6: ~~Protect “Special Status” plant and animal species;~~ **Strive to** preserve and protect creek corridors, riparian areas, vernal pools, and wetlands

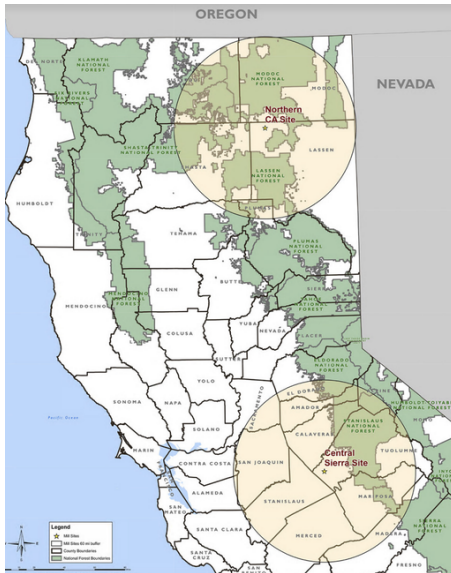
Redding Community Services Maps Proposed Oregon Gulch Trails

Redding Community Services, working with a trail consultant, has mapped out some hiking and biking trails in 380-acre Oregon Gulch in southwest Redding. These are preliminary trails that will be released to the public in May for open comment. Some trails are for both bike and walking, one is exclusively for walking and several steep downhill sections are exclusively for mountain bikes.

This is a preliminary proposal and some trails may be removed as it appears there are too many to provide any kind of a quiet nature experience. Besides opening this area up to the public, the trails will inhibit OHV's from the area that have been causing considerable erosion problems over the years. SEA has installed many barriers to reduce OHV encroachments.

The Trail Maps will be released in May for public comment

Wood Pellet Facility Proposed



A massive wood pellet facility is being proposed for Nubieber in Lassen County that will take in wood products within a 100-mile radius of the plant on public and private lands. The wood pellets will then be shipped to former coal-burning plants in Asia to meet greenhouse reduction goals.

The problem is that it will be devastating not only to our local forests. Using wood pellets for electricity generation has produced more CO₂ than burning coal for the same amount of electricity produced. (1)

While this plant will be in Lassen County, it will affect the forests and woodlands of Shasta County. The proposed wood pellet production facilities are projected to produce one million metric tons of wood pellets each year (700,000 tons/year at the Lassen facility and 300,000 tons/year at a similar facility in Tuolumne County.) This weight is dry weight, which would be double the number of fresh logs and chips brought to these facilities when green.

In the southeast forests of the United States, wood pellet facilities have been clearcutting fast reaches of private lands for wood pellets to ship to former coal plants in Europe. It has been estimated that wood pellets shipped to Europe produce 1.5 times as much greenhouse gases as coal taking in the energy used from harvest to shipping dried wood pellets to Europe. This helps European companies meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals as these are rated as renewable energy.

You can watch a documentary on forest clearing for wood pellets in the US southeast for free just search: [Burned: Are trees the New Coal?](#) (Note: Sometimes the link changes.)

This project just finished the scoping comments and will have a draft environmental impact report within 6 to 12 months and is something our group should oppose, joining many other environmental groups.

Enviva wood pellet plant in North Carolina



(1) See e.g. Mary S. Booth, *Trees, Trash, and Toxics: How Biomass Energy Has Become the New Coal*, *Partnership for Policy Integrity* (Apr. 2014), Table 1 at 16, <https://www.pfpi.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/PFPI-Biomass-is-the-New-Coal-April-2-2014.pdf>

Photo by Dogwood Alliance

Trip Report: BLM Fire Treatment Walk



Photo by David Ledger

The Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) and BLM Carr Fire Treatment field trip finally took place, after a cancellation due to snow, on the Westside Trail on February 18 and was attended by a group of over 20 people. This was originally to be a joint field trip with two Bureau of Land Management Ecologists and Fire Management Officer Greg Dunn

leading the walk and discussion. However, Greg Dunn led the field trip alone as the two ecologists were unable to make it due to illnesses, one with Covid. (It's still out there)

Greg did an excellent job, explaining the treatment of an area following a fire pointing out how the vegetation will look in 5 to 10 years. He explained the various treatments, science, and philosophies behind each in the Wildland Urban Interface, or WUI, as it is often referred to.

They will be coming back for a second treatment in this area and will treat it by pruning back the leaders of the many black and interior live oak trees that are re-sprouting from the root crowns so all the growth will be concentrated in one of two leaders forming trees.

One area of treatment that we visited was extreme with almost everything cut, while in other areas scattered shrubs were left for wildlife habitat and erosion control. The group had a lot of questions for Greg and he handled them well. People were still asking him questions as we headed back to our cars. The only disappointment was that we did not get the perspective of an ecologist, but that will have to be left for another field trip.

An area of concern as far as wildlife habitat in the area now is that the McConnell Foundation owns a number of parcels of land in the Westside Trail area and they will be starting their fire treatments later this year, as well, further affecting the trail and habitat for native wildlife

Buckeye Water Treatment Plant Tour



During the Carr Fire: Photo from Treatment Plant Operator

Shasta Environmental Alliance has arranged for a tour of the City of Redding Buckeye Water Treatment Plant in the hills north of Old Shasta and above Keswick Reservoir on Thursday, April 6, 9:30 am. We will meet at the Holiday Market parking lot near CVS at Placer and Buena Ventura at 9:30 to carpool/caravan to the plant.

This plant treats water coming from Whiskeytown Lake from a penstock that runs from the lake, through Old Shasta and onto the Keswick Power Plant on Iron Mountain Road.

City staff will give us a complete tour and

explanation of the operation of the plant. This plant also sits above the Spring Creek Reservoir storing water draining from Iron Mt. Mine.

The plant was kept running by city staff during the Carr Fire as it burned on both sides of it and onto the town of Keswick and Redding. For an excellent article on how city staff saved the plant as the Carr Fire burned around it Google: Treatment Plant Operators: The Unsung Heroes of California's Carr Fire Buckeye Water Treatment Plant Tour. Go to events at ecoshasta.org for more information and email david@ecoshasta.org to reserve a space.

Tree Mitigation Required on Clear Creek Road





Photo of lot in 2019 from Google and 2023 by David Ledger

By David Ledger

In February a proposal for a commercial marijuana grow and processing facility for a parcel on Clear Creek Road next to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trailhead for the Gold Dredge Trail was brought to the Board of Administrative Review (BAR). The project was proposed to have a Mitigated Negative Declaration meaning that environmental issues were not significant and could be mitigated without an environmental impact report (EIR).

Because it is next to a public trail land where the BLM and other agencies had been doing extensive restoration work planting willows and other plants, I went to the BAR meeting and suggested that valley oaks be planted in place of proposed red maples which are a tree from the eastern US. The developer readily agreed, but because the tree survey was not submitted the hearing was continued for several weeks. In the interim, I visited the project site and found that only 7 trees were remaining while the developer's map showed 19 trees. I took pictures of the remaining trees and when the agenda packet for the meeting was released, the required mitigation was to plant three 15-gal. valley oak trees for each tree removed.

As the developers had not submitted a proper tree survey, Planning Commissioner Brandi Greene made a Solomon-like decision and required a 3:1 ratio of replacement trees due to the difference between the developer's map showing 19 trees and only seven actually remaining standing. This was an excellent decision as it starts to slowly set a precedent for mitigation for the removal of trees. This land had previously been dredged, it was zoned industrial, but mitigation was made for the removal of the oak trees.

Last year Planning Manager Lily Toy required a 1:1 mitigation for the removal of blue oaks on the Holiday Market project on Hartnell Avenue. Not adequate mitigation, but working with a poorly-drafted tree ordinance, this is moving the needle forward in preserving our local oaks or mitigating for their removal. Hopefully, the new Redding Tree Committee will come up with an ordinance that will require adequate mitigation when oak trees are removed.

To Be Rescheduled: Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site Update

Even with the snowstorm on March 9, 2023, nearly a dozen people came to the Redding Library to attend an update for the Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site. Unfortunately, part-way through the meeting, the library had to close its doors and we had to end the meeting abruptly. We hope to host this offering again so that the public can get all of the information and a full update on the Superfund site and the work that has gone into its clean-up and the challenges it still faces.

Please keep an eye out on our [SEA calendar](#) or on the [SEA Facebook](#) for updates about when this rescheduled event will take place!

Trip Report: Nomlaki Trail Field Trip



Photo and article by Don Burk

On March 25, a small group of plant enthusiasts reveled in the botanical delights of the Nomlaki Trail in southwestern Tehama County. The trail meanders through chaparral habitat featuring streams, rock outcrops, serpentine soils, and post-August Complex wildfire regeneration. We identified nearly 90 species of plants on this joint SEA/Shasta Chapter CNPS field trip – and the best is yet to come!

Although an abundance of fritillaries and fawn lilies were in bloom, even more were in bud, just waiting for a warmer day to roll out their floral displays. The trail is on exposed slopes with no shade, so plan to get out in the next few weeks to catch the peak of the blooming season while avoiding the intense heat

We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.) Commentary

This commentary by WATER does not necessarily represent the opinion of SEA or any supporting organizations. We are publishing this at their request and welcome any opposing commentary.

SEA Eco-Network member from Siskiyou County, We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.), has written an analysis of this question, entitled “Why Environmental Groups Must Oppose War,” delving deeply into relatively unrecognized motivations for war clearly linked to environmental issues. The article has been published online at CounterPunch. To read the full article, click here:

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2023/02/23/why-environmental-groups-must-oppose-war/>

Thank you to our donors!

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