



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

## **March 2024 Newsletter**

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Volunteers Needed

Thank you to our donors!

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# UPCOMING SEA EVENTS



*Photo by Doug Mandel*

For more information about SEA-hosted events, email [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

## **Clear Creek Trail Clean Up**

*Saturday, March 9th at 9 am*

*Meet at Clear Creek Gorge Overlook parking lot*

## **Water's Gulch Trail Field Trip**

*Saturday, March 23rd at 9 am*

*Meet at Chase Bank on Dana Drive, Redding to carpool*

## **Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up (hosted by Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)**

*Saturday, March 23rd at 9 am (if rainy, the date changes to March 30)*

*Meet at Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve Parking Lot*

## **Shade Tree Planting**

*Saturday, March 30th at 9 am*

*Meet at the CVS parking lot at Buena Ventura and Placer Street*

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# VOTE! Tuesday, March 5th



Primary elections are being held on Tuesday, March 5 and you can mail in your ballot now or vote in person on Tuesday at your precinct polling place. These are very important elections for the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Districts 2, 3, and 4, and a recall election for Kevin Crye in District 1. There are also primary elections for President, Senate, state senate, and Congress as well as one state and two local Initiatives.

As a nonprofit we cannot endorse any candidates or initiatives, however, KRCR-TV, the Record Searchlight, [Anewscafe.com](http://Anewscafe.com), and [ShastaScout.org](http://ShastaScout.org) do have election guides and recommendations. You can also go to the League of Women Voters [here](#).

This is an important election; your vote does count!

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## Redding General Plan Update

At the February 27th Redding Planning Commission meeting on the Redding Final EIR and draft General Plan 2045 did not get a majority vote and on a 3 to 3 tie it passed it on to the City Council without a majority approval. Commissioner Partin had to abstain from the final vote due to a conflict of interest. The GP was changed over several meetings following input from the community, with weak and unenforceable language such as “strive to” and “consider” removed. However the previous city attorney submitted a clause in the introduction to the GP, that weakened the entire plan which Commissioners Greene and Hatch objected to, while Commissioner Middleton wanted several changes to the plan on other issues.



Here was the language that two commissioners found objectionable.

*“As such, terms used in this document such as “require”, “shall”, “prohibit”, “protect” and similar words are not intended, for purposes of policy implementation or general plan consistency*

*determinations, to provide absolute certainty, direction, urgency, or otherwise dictate precise and immediate actions.”*

This language was inserted to make the interpretation of the GP malleable to unforeseen circumstances according to the city attorney. To SEA this takes away much of the strength of the GP and the protections that many citizens who spent many hours providing input during the GP focus groups. Fortunately, the many comments from the public, both written and oral were responsible for eliminating much of the previous weak language in the General Plan.

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## Medicine Lake National Monument



*Little Medicine Lake photo by Michael McCullough Creative Commons*

There is currently an effort underway, led primarily by the Pit River Tribe to make up to 200,000 acres of the Medicine Lake Highlands a national monument. This requires petitioning President Biden and the Department of the Interior which many groups are now doing to show that many area citizens and organizations support national monument status for the area.

This mountainous area is currently a part of the Modoc National Forest although the Bureau of Reclamation does control some of the subsurface rights. It is a mountainous area of geologically recent volcanoes and lava flows and forested areas consisting of about 200,000 acres. Medicine Lake is in the caldera of the Medicine Mountain shield volcano.

This area is important to many area tribes including the Pit River and the Modoc and every summer traditional ceremonies are held in a special area there. The National Register of Historic Places has designated a 113-square-mile area as a Medicine Lake Highlands Traditional Cultural Area.

The area is under threat by multi-national corporations seeking to use the water of the area for geothermal energy development which local groups such as the Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center working with tribes and environmental groups have been fighting against for years. The area has pristine waters that could be threatened by extensive drilling and use of the cold waters that feed important streams and Shasta Lake. If fracking is involved, pollution

of this water supply could easily result and be permanent. Habitat destruction of the local forests for roads and clearing for high voltage powerlines would be another detrimental effect.

The state California Native Plant Society, which was very involved in working toward Walker Ridge (Molok Yuluk) being included as an expansion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument contacted SEA to get involved in this important preservation effort which also ties in with California's 30/30 plan. The SEA board has voted to send a letter of support for national monument status to President Biden.

Currently, the Pit River Tribe is leading the effort. For more information and to sign the petition, go to the Pit River Tribe petition on Medicine Lake [here](#) and the Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center [here](#).

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## No Gun Range: High Plains Shooting Range

The High Plains Shooting Range proposed by Supervisor Patrick Jones is still not a done deal as the neighbors who will be affected by it have taken Shasta County and the Board of Supervisors to court over the inadequacies of the project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) The



neighbors have stated that the county should have developed a full Environmental Impact Report for the project instead of the lower standard of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The lawsuit also states birds, plants, and vernal pools were all grossly inadequate.

SEA also sent a letter to the Shasta County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors that we found the biological review severely lacking and that the required protocols of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife CDFW were not followed. Many other groups and individuals sent in letters and made statements at the Board of Supervisor hearings opposing the project.

The neighbors have pooled their money together and hired Don Mooney, a CEQA attorney from Davis, pooling several thousand dollars each together and also started a GoFundMe site where they have collected almost \$16,000. However, this lawsuit could easily cost over

\$30,000. The neighbors are reaching out to others who are opposed to this gun range to donate to their [GoFundMe site HERE](#). They stated all excess funds, if any, would be donated to local environmental groups. If you have a large amount you want to donate and don't feel comfortable donating via GoFundMe, you can send in donations directly via check made out to their attorney Don Mooney. For mailing info, email [NoMillvilleGunRange@gmail.com](mailto:NoMillvilleGunRange@gmail.com), and they will give you the attorney's address.

Almost all of the people who live in the area are not wealthy, most are working people or retired who bought the land because it was cheap and a quiet rural country area to build their homes and raise children. They did not expect this to become a commercial gun range with shooting contests of up to 500 people per event and overnight RV camping. The project will have handgun ranges, skeet shooting, and a high-powered rifle range. While currently only on 150 acres of land, like many of these projects such as the Hawes Ranch, they will just grow.

This is an important case because, with the current Board of Supervisors, it seems the Planning Commission is choosing to be quite lenient when approving some projects. If successful, this will make the county more likely to strictly follow CEQA. This may also make the City or Redding take note when approving massive oak tree removal for various projects in the area such as the great oak tree removal on what was once a beautiful entrance to Redding on 1-5.

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## Bark Beetle Talk Recap



SEA held a public meeting at the Redding Library in February and attendees were treated to a fascinating journey into the realm of forest insects by retired US Forest tree health expert and entomologist, Dr. Donald R. Owen. With a wealth of experience and expertise, Don delved into various aspects of native bark beetles and other forest insects and their place in our forest ecosystem. He explained their life cycle and behavior as well as how climate change is affecting their populations.

SEA did make a video of this interesting talk which you can access on our new YouTube channel by [clicking here](#).

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# Trip Report: Cloverdale Ecology Field Trip

On February 10th we had a perfect day for a field trip on BLM lands, west of Redding near Igo. Cool dry weather, friendly people, and no rain.

This field trip, which BLM ecologist Brooke Thomson led, had 22 people on it, so about the maximum you can have that allows people to hear what the leader is explaining. Brooke went over the various fire treatment plans they will be using, reducing the shrubs and dead wood on the ground, while leaving the large logs to provide habitat for small animals and to return nutrients to the soil. After this, BLM hopes to be able to do small broadcast burns on occasion to mimic the natural fires that would come through chaparral every 20 to 100 years. Brooke was patient with all the questions she received about BLM work in this area.



We walked to an overlook of a 300-foot deep steep canyon Clear Creek has dug for over thousands of years. At the overlook, Yo Sadohara spotted a silverback fern in between the rocks. It is a very uncommon plant in this area and seems to do best near rock outcroppings. On the way back David Ledger led part of the group back and identified various plants on the way with help from CNPS Rare Plant specialist Don Burk.

We had requests for SEA bumper stickers, so we will bring a few on the Trail 58 field trip on February 24th if you're interested in getting one.

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## Trip Report: Trail 58



*Photo by Doug Mandel*

It was perfect weather for the SEA/CNPS field trip on BLM's Trail 58 just west of Redding on Saturday, February 24, with cool weather, sunny skies, and crystal clear views of Mt. Shasta and the surrounding area. This trail used to be an oak woodland with scattered shrubs, but since the Carr Fire, it is now all chaparral with scattered gray pines and a few canyon live oak that survived the fire.

This trail which roughly follows the south side of Middle Creek is an area of active gold mining during the gold rush. A large part of the trail follows an old water ditch used by gold miners which still has the fallen remains of a huge old pipe and flume in one small canyon if you look carefully. There is one steep uphill section that eventually meets the Middle Creek Trail at the south end of old Shasta.

Botanically, little was blooming except for many Henderson's shooting stars. We did see many examples of oracle oak and resprouting black oak, interior live oak, and canyon live oak. Many of the knobcone pines have reached six feet tall and lesser amounts of gray pines were in the two to four feet range. Other plants we saw included coyote brush, willow dock, Pacific sedum, Lemmon's ceanothus, redberry, and many toyon of which the American Robins had eaten almost all of the fruits. Many soap plants are leafing out and mountain jewel flowers could still be identified by last year's seed pods (siliques) and leaves, and way too many invasive Spanish broom shrubs along the creek. Overall, an easy-to-moderate hike in perfect weather.

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## 2024 Redding Earth Day Festival

### EARTH DAY REDDING

April 20th • 11AM-4PM • Caldwell Park



Free  
Event



Music  
Food  
Booths



Kid's Activities

Upcoming Events Calendar

Secure Bike Corral

at [seashasta.org](http://seashasta.org)



Patricia L. and David K. Kimball Fund of



As the 2024 Redding Earth Day Festival draws near, we are buzzing with excitement for a day dedicated to environmental celebration. This event promises a day brimming with activities for all ages, honoring our local environment, and advocating for sustainable practices. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20th from 11 am to 4 pm at Caldwell Park and join us for this free, family-friendly event!

The Festival is committed to raising awareness about environmental issues in our area while also showcasing the community organizations taking steps to make our earth better. There will be many booths, from the Winnemem Wintu tribe and Whiskeytown Environmental School to the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Attendees will have the chance to connect with local nonprofits, community groups, and government agencies at informative booths. From learning about ongoing conservation efforts to discovering opportunities

for active involvement in environmental initiatives, these exhibits will offer valuable insights and resources to those participants about making a positive impact on our environment.

Families with children will find a wealth of educational activities tailored to inspire a love of nature and deepen understanding of our environment. With interactive projects and hands-on demonstrations, kids of all ages can learn about environmental conservation in a fun and engaging manner, igniting a sense of stewardship for the planet.

The Festival will feature three food vendors, two with vegetarian options, and a bike corral (a secure area where attendees can park their bikes) hosted by the Shasta Wheelmen, encouraging everyone to make the day a greenhouse-gas-free experience.

For more information and updates, visit [seashasta.org](http://seashasta.org) or [follow us on Facebook!](#)

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## Volunteers Needed: Do Your Part to Keep Redding Green!

**Oak Seedling Program:** Starting in late February we will need to increase the fencing around the seedlings we planted as they are outgrowing their cages. We will also be putting burlap on the fencing, cutting back some of the brush, and pruning back multi-sprouting black and interior live oaks. On a related note, BLM recently told us a volunteer monarch butterfly group wants to plant milkweeds on the parcel we are working on. Contact [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

**Earth Day Volunteers:** SEA is organizing Earth Day again this year in Caldwell Park on April 20, we can use volunteers to help on the day of the event and in the organizing. For more information, contact [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com)

**Sulphur Creek Cleanup:** We will have another annual cleanup of trash on a section of Sulphur Creek. This is an easy two-hour work session in a beautiful setting on an isolated section of Sulphur Creek in late April with creek levels determining the exact date. If you would like to volunteer, contact [david@ecoshasta](mailto:david@ecoshasta) or follow [our website](#) or [our Meetup.com site](#).

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# Thank You to Our Donors!

**\$25 to \$99:** Muffy Berryhill, Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalfano, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Ailene Genoff, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Robert Hixon, Janice Hunter, Kay Johnson, Kay Kosko, Michael Koturba, Suzzie Lang, John Livingston, Lee Macey, Diane Madgic, Robert Madison, Victoria McArthur, Jim Milestone, James Nelson, Geneva M Omann, Cathy Reisfelt, Brigitte Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Jamie Spielmann, John Springer, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

**\$100 to \$249:** Laura Bradley, Aleta Carpenter, Linda Castagnoli, Lang M. Dayton, Allan Craig, Paula Dulak, Mari Ennis-Applegate, Karen Foss, Derle Gilliam, Kathleen Gilman, Green Party of Shasta County, Karen Hazeltine, George Horn, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Donald Owen, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

**\$250 to \$499:** Don and Laurie Burk, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

**\$500 to \$999:** Mary Belkin

**\$1000 & Up:** Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey

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## Please consider a donation to SEA!

You can go to [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org) to donate!

*If you prefer to send a check, our mailing address is:*

***Shasta Environmental Alliance***

***P.O. Box 993777***

***Redding, CA 96099-3777***

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