



P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • ecoshasta.org

February 2023 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

Contact David Ledger at David@ecoshasta.org for more information or to sign up



[February 4 - Whiskeytown Shasta Divide Ridge Trail Hike](#)

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[February 25 - SEA/BLM Field Trip \(more info in article below\)](#)

[Thursday, March 9 - Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site Updates](#)

Volunteer Opportunities with SEA

If interested in any of these opportunities, please contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Field Trip Leaders

SEA needs volunteers to lead some of our field trips! This requires a responsible and reliable person with considerable hiking experience, who is able to judge the abilities of the participants on the field trips. Most hikes would be in the 3 to 7-mile range. Having knowledge of local plants is helpful!

SEA Board Members:

Shasta Environmental Alliance is looking for a new board member! We are looking for someone who is dedicated to preserving and protecting our natural environment and has the willingness to volunteer to actively work on SEA issues.

Earth Day Volunteers:

SEA is organizing Earth Day Redding Festival on April 22 and needs volunteers to help with the setup and running of the event on April 22!

New Earth Day Redding Event Website Up!

EARTH DAY REDDING

APRIL 22, 2023 CALDWELL PARK

SPONSORED BY SHASTA ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

We hope you will join SEA for our Earth Day Redding celebration, on Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Caldwell Park! Our [new Earth Day website](#) will house all information related to this event and more!

As you may have read last month, this exciting and educational event will have many organizations, agencies, and non-profits who will be focused on helping bring awareness and appreciation for our natural world to individuals of all ages. We have a wonderful, enthusiastic group of teachers, who are organizing activities for children, so it will be child-oriented in part, with many of the booths introducing their organizations to adults as well.

We're still seeking exhibitors so if you would like to have a booth at this event, please fill out our [exhibitor's form here](#). We also are in need of volunteers! If you would like to help organize or volunteer for the event, please reach out to David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Free Shade Tree Interest Form

We're still accepting applications for free shade trees!

If you'd like a free shade tree to be planted in your front yard, you live in Redding, and own your home (or you know someone who would like one and meets this criterion), please fill out the interest form. Click the link below for more information and to apply!

We would also love it if you would help spread the word about this project!



Join us for a SEA/BLM Field Trip

Shasta Environmental Alliance and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will host a walk-and-talk field trip on the West Side trail system to look at recent fuels reduction work on Saturday, February 25 at 9 am. In the last few months, many people who hike and bike these trails have seen drastic changes to parts of the trail system. This is an opportunity to walk through various project zones and talk about different treatments' short- and long-term impacts. We will look at untreated areas, more aggressively thinned areas, and modified treatment areas. Each zone has pros and cons - and talking through it on the ground helps to explain the ins and outs of fuels management and ecosystem management. We hope to see you there!

This is an opportunity to learn from experts in the field. Hike leaders, Laura and Brooke, are experienced ecologists concerned about protecting native plants and wildlife on BLM lands. Garrett is an experienced BLM Fire Management Officer. They will discuss the pros and cons of various fire treatment areas that we will walk through; from no fire treatment to heavy clearing. Your questions will be answered about fire recovery and the plants and animals of the Westside Trail complex during this walk-and-talk.

Meet at the Westside Trailhead at the end of Kilkee Drive on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 9 am. This will be an easy two-to-three-mile walk. Bring good walking shoes and a water bottle. Light showers mean we will continue, but heavy rains will cancel.

For more information, contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

New Native Plant Signs on Sacramento River Trail



New native plant signs will start appearing on the Sacramento River Rail Trail over the next month and a few are already up! SEA President David Ledger re-wrote the script for the signs and SEA paid for them to be made. BLM is doing the hard part; they are installing new posts for some of the signs and they selected all of the photos.

SEA was contacted by David Byers, a BLM employee new to this area with endless ideas and energy, who is working on trails with outdoor groups to get more of the public out to enjoy the outdoors.

He is handling all the details and working on getting these signs up.

If you want to see them, they start on the paved trail just past the Keswick Boat Ramp and are spaced out along about a mile of the trail. The wording is written for those with little plant knowledge. It is a great way to learn a few of our area's native trees and shrubs!

Hike Report: New Year's Day Hike: Cheers to 2023



This New Year's Day hike graced us with clear, sunny skies and mild weather, bringing together 19 people, with an age range from about 25 to 82, for SEA's hike on the Westside Trail to celebrate the new year!

We had the chance to identify several native plants on the hike to the top and observed the fire treatment that had recently taken place. Sadly this fire treatment, as written about in our January SEA Newsletter, involved extensive removal of toyon shrubs, which is a vital winter food source for animals, and resulted in many other plants being removed. We found two plants in bloom along the trail, Lemmon's Ceanothus and Coyote brush. The manzanita shrubs observed were not mature enough to produce flowers just yet.

Once we reached the top, we celebrated with a small cup of wine, more than a few homemade cookies, and a toast to 2023!

We were honored to have longtime as well as new friends join us on this hike to kick the new year off right! Cheers to 2023 and to more conservation and preservation of our environment!

Hike Report: Lower Sacramento Ditch Trail



Shasta Environmental Alliance led a field trip on the BLM'S Lower Sacramento Ditch Trail on a cold January 21 morning. The ground was still frozen on parts of the trail, but everyone was warmed up after the first 10 minutes of hiking.

This trail follows part of an old water ditch, but a lot of it follows an old narrow gauge railroad track that hauled quartz from north Redding to the copper smelters now under

Shasta Dam. The trail, which escaped the Carr Fire, has varied habitats of oak woodland and

chaparral. A section of the trail has an overlook providing views of Keswick Lake and surrounding mountains, which our group truly enjoyed!

Along the way, we identified various trees and shrubs with only a few manzanita shrubs in bloom. Herbaceous plants starting to emerge were wavy leaf soap plant, Phacelia, and Pacific snakeroot. The two ferns on the trail were gold back fern and narrow-leaf sword fern. Everyone seemed to have a great time on this four-mile hike, our second field trip of the year!

Hike Report: South Fork Mountain Road



On the morning of January 25th, a group of us went on this fairly easy five-mile hike. It was a cool sunny day and we hiked on a closed service road overlooking Whiskeytown Lake with spectacular views of snow-covered Shasta Bally and the surrounding mountains. Luckily, we had the area to ourselves!

We identified many native plants along the way and observed the recovery of the area from the Carr Fire. There were three flowering plants: deer brush, paintbrush, and one California pink plant that usually blooms in summer and into the fall. Except for the first mile, the entire way is a moderate slope and easy for most everyone.

Tesla EV Charging Stations Installed at Turtle Bay



Tesla has now installed eight Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Turtle Bay parking lot and it is already bringing a lot of cars off I-5 for a quick charge. Redding Electric Utility (REU) already has four charging stations installed next to the Tesla stations.

It didn't take long for Tesla drivers to discover Redding's charging stations as they show up on the screen of all Teslas with maps of charging stations on I-5 and other freeways. Two young men traveling from the Bay Area to Washington were kind enough to show me their Tesla's screen and they had mapped out stopping every 200 or more miles for a quick 15-minute charge. Tesla is the best-selling EV in the United States and their charging stations at Turtle Bay are owned and maintained by them.

Unfortunately, a Rivian EV ran over an REU-run charging station while the vehicle was charging, leaving only three functioning REU charging stations. When that happened and due to the possibility of electrocution from exposed wires, the driver had to remain in the vehicle until an REU crew arrived to turn off the current. An REU spokesperson said it could be several months before the station could be replaced due to a backlog in the supply chain.

To charge an EV at an REU station, drivers have to pay 20 cents per kWh which is the equivalent of paying \$1.43/ gallon of gas, according to the REU website.

The additional charging stations at the Turtle Bay-adjacent Sheraton Redding Hotel are operating but they charge a hookup fee in addition to the electricity needed to charge the vehicle. Guests of the hotel tend to use these charging stations for overnight charges of their EVs.

Fountain Wind Project is Back



The Fountain Wind Project in the Montgomery Creek–Hatchet Mountain area is now being revived by CurrentGen after the project had originally been rejected 5-0 by the Shasta County Planning Commission and 4-1 by the Board of Supervisors. Since that time the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance essentially banning any industrial-sized wind farms in Shasta County. However, the California legislature recently passed a new law (AB209) placing all large-scale wind and solar projects over 50MW under state

jurisdiction, taking it out of the hands of the County.

CurrentGen removed all proposed turbine sites from Hatchet Mountain, north on Highway 299. This area is especially important to the Pit River Tribe: in previous county meetings, there was a large opposition to any turbines in ancestral Pit River tribal areas which includes areas where CurrentGen wants to place turbines south of Highway 299.

You can comment on this project by going to the California Energy Commission website ([here](#)). Only one comment in favor and one against have been submitted at this time. It is important to submit your comments

Up to \$20k in Rebates for an EV Purchase

According to the Redding Electric Utility's (REU) website, up to \$20,000 in rebates are available for Electric Vehicles (EVs), however, before making a purchase it would be best to contact your accountant or a reliable website to make sure your car would qualify.

Below is an excerpt from REU's website on available rebates:

State: California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project - up to \$4500

Hydrogen Fuel Cell - \$4,500

Battery-Electric - \$2,000

Plug-in Hybrid - \$1,000

For more information: <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng>

Federal: Federal Tax Credit - Up to \$7500 while funding lasts. For more information, visit: fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml

[Plugstar.com](https://www.plugstar.com) is a great online resource to find available rebates, identify EV vehicles that qualify, and find nearby dealerships.

Redding Tree Ordinance Committee Update

By David Ledger

The first three meetings of the tree committee have gone quite slowly; we are just now hashing out the preamble to the ordinance which in most tree ordinances is usually just a general tribute to the various aspects of importance trees are to the community. The real meat of the ordinance is in the following sections and the main determinant of whether the ordinance encourages preserving as many of our native trees as possible and when that is not possible, to require mitigation. Most of the committee appears to be in favor of increasing Redding's tree canopy, but divisions will undoubtedly occur as the details are worked out.

If true mitigation is required when trees are removed during construction, the work of the committee will be a success. The Planning Department can at times be under considerable pressure from developers. A strong ordinance will make it easier to preserve trees or mitigate their removal.

SEA President David Ledger will be giving a PowerPoint presentation to the Tree Committee on February 6th at 5:30 in the Community Room next to the City Council Chambers. Members

of the public can comment at the end of the meeting or email their comments to Development Services Director Jeremy Pagan at jpagan@cityofredding.org

The original Tree Ordinance was developed by a committee composed of primarily developer interests and two members of the public. That committee was formed by then Development Services Manager, Jim Hamilton and also included six Planning staff members. They came up with an ordinance that has little teeth and has resulted in a continued loss of Redding's native oaks and a reduction of Redding's tree canopy. Fortunately, the current committee has a broader spectrum of the community and should come up with a much better ordinance as most California cities have.

In the last year or two and within the parameters of this weak tree ordinance, Planning Manager Lily Toy started requiring more mitigation of native oaks or their preservation. A stronger ordinance will make it easier to require tree mitigation and the preservation of native trees.

This will require a balance of allowing development to occur while making mitigation for tree removal high enough that the City can maintain or increase its tree canopy. For example, with a stronger tree ordinance in place, Costco may have had to pay perhaps \$100,000 in mitigation fees for the removal of 20 acres of oak woodland, much less than other many other California Cities would charge, but this would be a small part of this multimillion-dollar project and it still would have moved forward.

Two other recent examples of free rides companies got for oak woodland removal: The Churn Creek Market Place on Churn Creek Road removed 700 to 900 oak trees without any requirement to preserve a single tree. The new Les Schwab tire shop and self-serve carwash just to the north on Churn Creek had some 160 healthy oak trees with the number of oak trees preserved at zero. This development and Costco's build across the freeway severely damaged the beautiful aesthetic buffer of trees at the entrance to Redding.

Thank you to our donors!

\$25 to \$99

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\$500 to \$999

Becky Bestwick, Mark Martinek, Karen Little

\$1000 & Up

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**We couldn't do this work without your support!
Please consider donating to SEA today!**

You can go to ecoshasta.org to donate!
If you prefer to send a check, our mailing address is:

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