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January 2025 Newsletter

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SEA & Community Events



Coleman Diversion Dam on South Fork Battle Creek
Photo: California Water Boards

[Battle Creek Field Trip](#)

Saturday, January 11th at 9 am

Sign up for this field trip:

<https://forms.gle/Q1Kk77vVCS9P6Jmy6>

Calling All Earth Day 2025 Groups!



Shasta Environmental Alliance is hosting another free Earth Day Festival at Caldwell Park on **Saturday, April 19, from 11 AM to 4 PM**. This year's theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," highlights the importance of renewable energy and the power of collective action for our environment. Learn more about this theme at earthday.org.

If you're a part of a nonprofit, community group, government agency, or school, we would love to have you come and table at our event! This event will remain non-commercial, except for food vendors. Again this year, we kindly ask all exhibitors and food vendors to avoid bringing single-use plastic items.

Want to get involved? Nonprofits, community groups, public agencies, and schools are invited to host booths at the following fees:

- Nonprofit/community exhibitor fee: \$30
- Public agency fee: \$60
- Schools: Free

Please sign up through our vendor education at the following link:

<https://seashasta.org/exhibitor-application/>

For booth registration or questions, contact david@ecoshasta.org.

Fight Climate Change, Protect our Forest

Environment: Stop Wood Pellet Plants

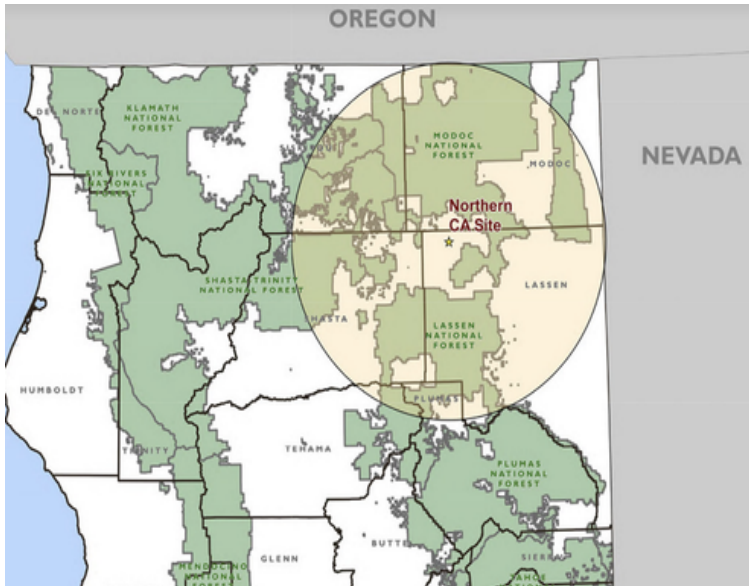


Photo: Map showing the 100-mile radius that the Lassen County plant will collect wood from

Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) is seeking approval for the largest wood pellet production project in the country, from Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), whose affiliate is the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). SEA is working with a broad coalition of environmental groups and community organizations to oppose the project, which would pose threats to our forests and the health of

people living near these polluting plants.

The GSNR Forest Resiliency Demonstration Project would construct and operate three facilities: two wood pellet production facilities, one in Tuolumne County and one in Nubieber in Lassen County, and a storage and shipping facility in the Port of Stockton. Together the facilities would produce 1,000,000 megatons (MT) of wood pellets per year that then would be exported to burn in power plants overseas. The Project would also authorize “wildfire resilience and forest restoration” projects on a programmatic level, which would provide over 890,000 MT of roundwood for the facilities per year.

The economics of these wood pellet plants is simple. Various countries in Europe and Asia have declared electricity produced by burning wood pellets to replace coal in former coal-powered plants is “clean energy” and companies get special handouts for producing “clean energy” in addition to the income from producing electricity. By the time the forests are logged, the wood is transported to production plants that turn them into wood pellets by chipping and grinding the wood, heating it to get out the moisture, pressing it into wood pellets, and shipping it across the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, it will have released 1.5 times as much CO₂ as coal to produce the same amount of electricity and the carbon sequestering trees is gone.

The British learned centuries ago that clearcutting forests to power steam locomotives with wood was inefficient and that using coal which burned much hotter was much more efficient.

Companies such as Drax, which owns many current and former coal plants, are supporting the proposed plant for Lassen County. This logging for wood pellets in the southeastern United States has clear-cut much of the private forest land taking out the carbon in the forest, destroying habitat for wildlife as well as producing a considerable amount of pollution.

SEA is working with many environmental groups locally, regionally, and nationally to stop this plant in Lassen County. For more information, you can go to these websites:

<https://www.wildcalifornia.org/post/donate-to-epic-to-help-stop-dirty-mega-biomass-project>

Much of the article came from the Environmental Information Center (EPIC)

<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/rita-frost/drax-coming-california-forests-partnering-gsnr>

Trip Report: Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve Field Trip

Photo by Doug Mandel

Lisa Ross led a joint SEA/CNPS field trip of 16 people on a trail at the Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve southwest of Redding in early December. This was an easy walk of about two miles on a new trail the Preserve had built which followed a seasonal stream. Lisa, Secretary of the Preserve, explained the work they have been doing there



and their plans to rid the area of invasive plants and plant native plants including milkweed and lupines in their place. There is one hillside that was once covered with blooming lupines every spring, but it is now thick with three to four-foot-high yellow star thistles following the Carr Fire.

As this was December, a few plants were hard to identify and it took the combined wisdom of a few of us for some of those plants. On this new trail, we saw a surprising number of plants that aren't on the older established trails of the Preserve. Don Burk, President of the Shasta Chapter of CNPS, identified the names of about 30 plants that are not on the current Horsetown plant list.

Lisa and her husband Ray told us of the trials the Preserve had bringing in a concrete picnic table and bench up a narrow foot trail. The field trip ended by walking up Clear Creek to look at the riparian areas and hear about the importance of Clear Creek restoration to salmon and steelhead trout.

This was an enjoyable walk with a friendly group of people on one of the few new trails in the area. A great SEA hike led by Lisa!

Sáttítla National Monument Status Meeting



Photo: Just one-half of the audience at the meeting in Weed by Doug Mandel

Article by David Ledger

JUST RELEASED: President Biden more than likely to make Sáttítla a National Monument! [Click here to read more](#)

There was no need for organizers in support of the National Monument status for Sáttítla (Medicine Lake Highlands) to worry about the turnout at the public hearing by the Department of Agriculture and the Klamath

National Forest at the College of the Siskiyou. The December 7 meeting in Weed had a standing-room-only crowd at times and lasted for five hours so everyone could testify. Most people in the audience were in favor and most were from the Pit River Tribe.

Two Mt. Shasta Council Members spoke out in favor and two Siskiyou County Supervisors spoke against Sáttítla. Many opposed thought it would change their opportunity to hunt or ride snowmobiles which it won't. It will eliminate any mining of lava rocks, better protect archeological sites, and with Pit River Tribe input limit "healthy forest" logging and protect the wildlife habitat.

They had a meeting a day earlier of various stakeholders and SEA was invited to the nongovernmental organizations (NGO) meeting of about 15 people and the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Superintendent of the Klamath National Forest, and a representative for Senator Padilla were there. They let each NGO member share their concerns during the hour-plus meeting. Separate meetings were held for elected officials and extractive industries such as logging companies.

At the meeting, I was surprised to see quite a few SEA supporters in the audience including one man from Weaverville and three SEA board members. I drove up with Doug Mandel of Ghost Pine Native Plant Nursery who wrote a letter of support and spoke at the meeting as did I. The Pit River Tribe gave away free T-shirts and Indian tacos. Overall, it was a fun and uplifting experience. CNPS was there in force including the state Executive Director Jun Bando and many staff members. One CNPS employee called me on the drive up to make sure I was coming and put down my name and Doug's as a speaker so we didn't have to wait for hours.

Now we wait for 18 days. The public meeting was the last step of many in developing a recommendation for National Monument Status. If President Biden doesn't declare it in the next two weeks, the Pit River Tribe and other tribes will have to wait four more years before starting all over if there is a "friendly" President in office.

Thank you to all who signed petitions, wrote emails, or spoke out in support and worked on this noble effort!



Trip Report: New Year's Day Hike

Photo by Doug Mandel

We had another great turnout for our annual SEA/CNPS field trip up the Westside Trail to the "Top of the World," the highest hill in



the trail complex. With 28 people, we had a wide range of physical abilities so after the first mile the group began to spread out over the trail but eventually most of the group made it to the top where we shared some wine and a toast to the New Year.

We only found one plant in bloom, coyote brush, both the male and female plants. Prior to the Carr Fire, manzanita was almost always in bloom, but the plants hadn't grown tall enough to produce flowers. We did see the common goldback fern just now growing back on a bank that used to be thick with the plant. Toyon has recovered nicely and provides winter food to help birds and other animals survive through the winter.

Thanks to Lisa Ross for bringing fresh baked cookies and Yo Sadohara for bringing wine and small paper cups for our annual New Year's toast. This is always an enjoyable hike with new friends made, old friends reunited, and it makes most of us make sure we stay in shape to easily hike to the top.

Open Letter: Citizens/Residents Against Millville Plains Gun Range



We are citizens who are very concerned about the many possible dangerous outcomes of the proposed shooting range (to be located in Millville). We are pooling our efforts in an attempt to compel Shasta County to conduct a responsible, accurate Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before proceeding with development. We would also like the county to reconsider the re-zoning decision for the purpose of public safety.

We believe that the dangers of the proposed gun range pose excessive risk to the entire community. Whether you are concerned for environmental damage, public safety, or wildfire risks, we all agree that this gun range, as proposed, will not be in a safe location.

The hearing date for our challenge to the Millville Plains Gun Range is approaching. It is currently scheduled for **January 14, 2025 at 9 am**. Judge Hanna said he does not expect to rule from the bench that day but will issue a ruling at a later date. We'd love to see community support at the hearing! The more a court case is watched the more careful a judge will be in his decision.

Updated information on the progress of the suit and additional information about the risks and

concerns associated with building this gun range are available at our website:

<https://stopmillvillegunrange.com/>

We understand this is a busy time; we're all receiving countless financial appeals. However, we would appreciate it very much if you can help us with a donation of any size to help cover our legal fees. The proposed gun range will affect us all; we need your help to continue the legal challenge. You can donate at our [GoFundMe page](#), or choose the "Donate" link at the top of our [webpage](#) on our site.

Respectfully,

Anderson/Millville Residents opposing the Millville Plains Gun Range

Hawes Ranch Meeting Cancelled



Photo: Mountain of dirt piled up at Hawes Ranch by David Ledger

As many of you may know from our Action Alert, a hearing on the proposed Hawes Ranch Amusement Park came up with little warning from the Planning Department. The notice for the public hearing at the Board of Supervisors came out with a 10-day notice from the date of publication in the Record Searchlight. Most of the neighbors and concerned area residents only received notice by mail four to seven days before

the hearing. It almost appeared that the Planning Department wanted to have the least amount of people learning about the hearing and being able to attend. Holding the hearing six days before Christmas was just icing on the cake.

This is a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and they almost always require a 20 to 30-day notice, so this would have most likely led to a successful lawsuit if challenged. Everything about the Hawes amusement project has had many violations of zoning, building, health and safety, and fire code violations over the years. One Fire

Department citation to the Hawes Ranch had 10 fire code violations listed, some were multiple violations of the same code, so much more than 10 violations in all.

Several years ago the Planning Commission approved a Negative Declaration (NegDec) under CEQA meaning no need to even study whether there was any need to protect the environment. This is on a parcel of land that ran into the water of the Sacramento River where there are five protected species with a riparian oak woodland. Usually, NegDec's are only declared on bare land that previously had a building on it or was under one acre in size. This zoning change is 145 acres.

Because of SEA's letter and other comments since that meeting, without notifying SEA, the county sent out an environmental consulting firm that found monarch butterfly caterpillars on some milkweed. These are species the USFWS is now taking comment on for listing as threatened.

SEA and many residents wrote emails and phone calls of complaint and met with Supervisor Tim Garman in Anderson and he relayed our complaints to county staff. Garman will be running for Kelstrom's seat in District 5 in two years. I think he picked up more than a few votes.

Thank You to Our Donors!



We Couldn't Do This Work Without You.

Please consider donating to SEA!

You can go to 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