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February 2025 Newsletter

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SEA & Community Events



Blue Gravel Mine Trail Walk

Sunday, February 9th, 10am - 12pm

Sign up for this field trip:

<https://forms.gle/oaEJmqPMdumEHUe7>

Boulder Creek Area Walking Field Trip

Sunday, February 16th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Sign up for this field trip (15 person limit):

<https://forms.gle/vnvWsZFgfM6hLT7E8>

Habitat Loss at Turtle Bay

Photo to the right: River side, on your left as you walk to Sundial Bridge. There was formerly blue elderberry, western redbud, toyon, and California Rose here. Photo below: The north side of the walkway to Turtle Bay

City crews have cut more shrubs around the trails at Turtle Bay. If you walk on the sidewalk towards the Sundial Bridge after leaving the parking lot, you may notice the shrubbery that is missing on the west side of the walkway.

SEA used to lead many field trips here and after identifying the many native plant shrubs that the Turtle Bay Museum planted years



ago just to the east of the service road, our walk leader would take a group to the other side of the service road and identify the huge blue elderberry shrub, the redbud, California rose and the toyon tree that grew there. No more - they were cut to the ground and one of the toyon shrubs was cut to look like a sickly small tree.



In the first photo, you can see all the tree trunks and no understory as all of the shrubs have been removed and a loss of habitat and hiding place and food store for birds and other animals, and in the second photo, you can see where the shrubs once were. There is no fire hazard here, there is a river on one side, and a trail, sidewalk, and road on the other side, and a large lawn area on the upstream side, as close as the plants are to the river they would be hard to burn with all the water in them.

If you walk around the Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary loop, they have cut back the blackberries and other plants about 4 feet. The problem is, each time they do their weed whacking they will cut down a shrub or two, each time slowly reducing the habitat value. There was a white-leaf manzanita near the east side of the museum I used to identify and explain its importance and attributes on my field trips. No more, they cut that one down too. It is probably also to *improve* the view of the river, who needs manzanita?

Where is Redding's New Tree Ordinance?



Photo: The stumps of three large redwood trees in front of Umpqua Bank that have been recently cut down

SEA has been working on a new tree ordinance since when we incorporated as an organization in 2017. On Dec 5, 2022, the first meeting of the Redding Tree Committee was established and SEA Board members Aleta Carpenter and David Ledger were on the committee. We met until April 17, 2023, when a motion was made requiring mitigation only for "candidate trees." Candidate Trees are a subjective judgment and usually make up zero to two percent of the trees in development, meaning no mitigation will be required for cutting down native oak trees. SEA President David Ledger made a counter motion at that meeting to require mitigation for all native trees over 6 inches in diameter. It was defeated 4 to 5 and the motion for mitigation of just the candidate trees passed 9 to 3, a complete failure of the Tree Committee to require mitigation for the removal of trees, reflecting in part, that some people didn't know what they were voting for and most who did. It was a victory for developers and business as usual.

Now the Planning Department may bring a new ordinance to the Planning Commission on February 25, postponed many times, for them to debate and vote on - over two years since the City Council formed a Tree Committee. Next summer drive through the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot and note how many trees are missing from planters or dead - at least 30. Then notice how many trees don't look like they will not make it through the summer - perhaps more than 30. Then look at how many shadeless crepe myrtles trees are in the parking lot.

Drive by Umpqua Bank on Pine Street, three 30" redwood trees have just been cut down. SEA is trying to confirm this, but we think it was because the roots got into the sewers. Why can other cities in California grow a forest of street trees but Redding only seems capable of cutting down a forest of oak trees for Costco and growing a huge heat-absorbing black asphalt parking lot in its place? While cities up and down the state of California have strict tree ordinances, including Shasta Lake and Chico, Redding City leaders do not care about trees, nor do most of the people in Redding except when looking for a shaded parking space. Trees can cool a city as much as 12 degrees from the summer heat. Yet after one of Redding's hottest summers on record. Redding is making no progress on increasing its tree canopy and we are losing the battle.

If you care about the increasing heat in Redding, we ask and encourage all of you to send a letter to the Redding City Council asking that they urgently enact a new tree ordinance that will preserve more of our oak trees and build up Redding's tree canopy.

Redding City Council emails: mlittau@cityofredding.org; jmunns@cityofredding.org; eresner@cityofredding.org; taudette@cityofredding.org; pdhanuka@cityofredding.org

Opposition Letter for Lassen County

Wood Pellet Plant Signed



Photo of the proposed site for wood pellet plant

SEA, alongside a broad coalition of environmental and climate action groups, including major groups like the Sierra Club, is opposing Golden State Natural Resources' (GSNR) plan to build the largest wood pellet production project in the U.S. This project would threaten forests, pollute communities, and worsen climate change.

GSNR aims to construct two wood pellet plants in Tuolumne and Lassen counties and a shipping facility in Stockton, producing 1 million megatons of pellets annually for export. Despite being marketed as “clean energy,” burning wood pellets emits 1.5 times more CO₂ than coal. Similar logging in the southeastern U.S. has already devastated forests and wildlife. SEA and its partners are fighting to stop this harmful project. View the letter that the coalition (including SEA) has signed [HERE](#).

If you'd like to learn more, check out our article from last month's newsletter [HERE](#).

[Hawes Amusement Park](#)

[Community Meeting Recap](#)

Photo: Amusement Rides at Hawes Ranch

The residents who live near the proposed Hawes Ranch and Amusement Park had a public meeting at the Anderson Grange on January 28th, bringing out Supervisors Matt Plummer and Corkey Harmon to hear their concerns. It was an education session for many of the 60 or so people there and many of the residents expressed their frustration



with the noise, lights, traffic, and more from Hawes Rock and Country concerts and many other events. They stressed to the supervisors that they aren't opposed to the harvest festivals Hawes has every year, it is the carnival noise, the concerts, the lights, the go-karts, and the traffic. You have to commend Plummer and Harmon for showing up at about 6:30, they had been at a board of supervisors meeting since 9:00 am.

The hearing by the Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled for February 25th, but this is a moving target. We will send out an action alert when we can confirm a meeting date.

What a Win: Sáttítla Now a National Monument!



Photo: High Hole Crater and Burnt Lava Flow, California. (USDA Forest Service photo courtesy of Bob Wick)

SEA celebrates the designation of Sáttítla Highlands National Monument, announced by President Biden on Jan. 14! This 224,676-acre monument in northern California protects tribal ancestral lands, rare wildlife, and the headwaters of vital waterways.

Home to the massive Medicine Lake Volcano, Sáttítla holds deep cultural and geological significance. Its dark skies, stunning landscapes, and diverse recreation opportunities make it a treasure for all to enjoy.

This designation honors history, protects nature, and preserves the wild beauty of Sáttítla for future generations!

Trip Report: Battle Creek Field Trip

Photo by Lisa Ross

We had a good crowd for our January 11th field trip at the Battle Creek Coleman Fish Hatchery and Coleman Powerhouse. Over 30 people attended, but that included a few children and two dogs.

As we drove to the Hatchery, there was a pickup with a large trailer parked on the bridge over the Sacramento River and a man in the back of the trailer was throwing dead



salmon into the winter. As we were walking through the fish hatchery he arrived and told us he was a volunteer at the Hatchery and they throw some of the dead salmon back into the river to return the nutrients that would have been released should the fish have swam upstream.

At the fish ladder next to Battle Creek, the water was so high that some fish could make it over the top of the dam you see in the fall which prevents the fish from overtopping it and forces them to use the fish ladder to the holding tanks where they are later sacrificed and fertilized to provide fish eggs for the hatchery. Still, there were a few fish in the holding ponds.

A new bypass has been built through the hatchery that allows native fish to winter and spring run salmon to swim upstream and hopefully return the once thriving fish population there. This also keeps them away from the fish ladders.

Next, we drove upstream, parked at a locked gate, and walked up to the Coleman Powerhouse. Water for this electric powerhouse comes down a huge pipe about 6 feet wide from the Coleman Forebay some 200 feet in elevation up the hill. This water comes from the south fork of Battle Creek and is transported via canal and aqueduct across the north fork of Battle Creek to the forebay and on down to the powerhouse. We identified many native plants on the trip. This is an area of south Shasta County where there are many California juniper (*Juniperis calironica*), which usually grow as a shrub or a small tree.

Currently, efforts are underway to remove 5 of the small hydroelectric dams, (two of which are not working), and several diversion dams that are blocking the fish from spawning in this cold water creek. The Bureau of Reclamation is in charge of the project and many agencies and groups including SEA are involved.

Great Land Preservation News!

The Bureau of Land Management has acquired 250 acres of land along the Sacramento River in the Sacramento River Bend area in Tehama County. This is a part of the continuing work BLM has been doing to acquire important lands for public access and to preserve important habitat areas from development. This way the public and nature benefit. We will update this story in a future newsletter. Thank you BLM!

Thank You to Our Donors!

Acorn (\$25 to \$99)

Stacey Alexander, Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalano, Gibson Collard, Megan Conn, Susan Crandell, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Jane Elmore, Aileen Genoff, Carolina Girimonte, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Diane Hawthorne, Robert Hixon, Hazel Hughes, Janice Hunter, Kay Johnson, Kay Kosko, Michael Koturba, Suzzie Lang, Alan Lefler, Terri Lhuillier, John Livingston, Lee Macey, Diane Madgic, Robert Madison, Victoria McArthur, Jim Milestone, James Nelson, Doug O'Brien, Geneva M Omann, Viktoria Peterson, Kathleen Pyle, Cathy Reifelt, Joan Richards, Brigitte Robertson, Joann Roskoski, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Alexa Singer-Telles, Jamie Spielmann, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

Seedling (\$100 to \$249)

Muffy Berryhill, Bernadette Bose, Laura Bradley, Steven and Kathleen Callan, 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, Jim and Sharon Jerge, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Jan McEwan, Donald Owen, Kristen Schreder, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

Young Oak (\$250 to \$499)

Alan Ernesto Phillips, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Lisa & John Kelsey, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Oak Tree (\$500 to \$999)

Mary Belking, Ray Pfister & Lisa Ross

Oak Woodland (\$1000 & Up)

Don and Laurie Burk, Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey, Kit Harvey, Drs. Link & Cooper

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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

