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Guardians of the Earth: The Hanford Land Trust

by Susan Sears

John and Priscilla Hanford knew they could protect their own environment as long as they lived, simply by refusing the overtures of logging interests and real estate subdividers, and by providing fire protection and brush clearing.

But what would happen after they were gone?

We have all seen examples of what can happen to pristine lands when their owners are no longer the guardians of these special places. These environmental treasures end up being logged and/or subdivided, eventually losing their appeal and being permanently transformed into something totally different: reserved for the use of only a few people, many of the trees and most of the animals forever banished.

The Hanfords have placed their forested lands in a conservation easement, the first of its kind in Paradise, by grant deed to the Northern California Land Trust. This assures them that the land they so love will be protected forever.

The Hanfords arrived in Paradise in the late 1950s and soon began looking for acreage. When they found a 22-acre parcel on the steep, wooded slopes below Pentz Road, high above the West Branch of the North Fork of the Feather River, they knew they had discovered a truly unique and special place.

Here they built their home in 1960 and continued to raise their three children. The children have grown and moved away but the land has "grown," in a sense. Over the years, the Hanfords have purchased additional contiguous parcels as they became available, increasing their domain to approximately 120 acres.

A trail descends to the river, and many organized groups of children and adults have hiked on the property. This trail connects to a flume; from here, it is possible to hike the approximately eight miles downriver to Kunkle Reservoir.



Sandy Hanford and her niece Lucy Whitmore

The idea of conserving this land was always on the Hanfords' minds. They contacted The Nature Conservancy 18 or so years ago, but that entity, wasn't interested at the time, stating they didn't need land of this kind.

John was frustrated. "I didn't want to see all the work that I'd done get turned into something commercial. I mean, working all these many years, then dying off and seeing somebody come in here and turn it into a real estate development."

In the early days, these kinds of land trusts and easements didn't exist, or they were very remote.

The Hanfords began reading about the use of land trusts to protect properties.

Then, when the Paradise Ridge Land Trust started, approximately five years ago, they contacted the Hanfords. Priscilla said, "Jean Crist had walked on our trail with the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, and she knew our property."

Meanwhile, Chico had started its Parks and Preserves Foundation, and Paradise got the idea from Chico. Since Crist had walked the land and knew of the Hanfords, concerns, the land trust organization approached the Hanfords. Priscilla said, "They asked if we would be interested in exploring this, and we said yes. It was a no-brainer."

The Hanfords worked through the Northern California Regional Land Trust - formerly Chico Parks & Preserves - of which the Paradise Ridge Land Trust is a member.

The first step for the Hanfords was to sit down and decide how much they wanted to preserve, and for what purposes, and what limits they wanted to place on the use of the land.

According to Priscilla, "We have documents that go on and on and on. We wanted the land preserved for its enjoyment."

The land is still private property, so the access to the land is basically for educational or organized day programs, for example an Audubon group that wants

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Club News

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Successful Holiday Party and Fundraiser!

Bravo to the contributors and purchasers at the bake sale and silent auction in December, 2001. More than \$1000 was raised to help meet our local group expense. Thanks to all who helped arrange and work on the dinner, bake sale, and silent auction. Special thanks to Mike Smith for the wonderful program on "Agrotourism in Cyprus."

Our treasury needed the funds. If you have ideas for future fundraisers please contact Kevin 894-

About this Newsletter

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For submissions, comments and inquiries, please write to Sierra Club, Post Office Box 2012, Chico CA 95927 or contact the content editor Susan Sears at 530-532-0149 or the copy editor Louise Casey at 530-872-9159.

For advertising in the Newsletter, please call Goodie Sweatt, 530-849-3988. For changes in membership address (which also affects the address for receiving the newsletter by mail) please write to Sierra Club Member Services, Post Office Box 52968, Boulder CO 80328-2968; sending a mailing label for the old address will speed the process.

Submission Guidelines:

Please include name, phone, and address with each submittal. Short, single topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. A one week extension is available if the submission is sent by email and advance advisory has been provided that the article is forthcoming. Submissions will be returned if specifically requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The right is reserved to edit all submissions for

WebSites



Yahi Group Web Site

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Motherlode Chapter Web Site:

www.motherlode.sierraclub.org

From the Ex-Com

What's the Ex-Com?

The Executive Committee, or Ex-Com, consists of five individuals, elected by Yahi Group members. Each Ex-Com member serves a two-year term of office, with some terms expiring every year so that there are always some experienced members. If you continue to see the same names on the Ex-Com year after year, that's often because no one else has volunteered for the positions. Any Yahi Group member can be nominated to the Ex-Com so if you'd like to participate, just let us know.

Ex-Com meetings are held monthly and all Sierra Club members are invited to attend. At the meetings, we make decisions about whether to take positions on local issues, review the month's correspondence, and learn more about what's happening in our area regarding environmental issues such as forestry or urban planning. If there's something happening in your community that you want Yahi to know about or take some action on, we encourage you to contact one of us and attend an Ex-Com meeting to discuss the issue.

What have we done lately?

Last month, Christy Strauch became the newest Ex-Com member with Joanne Gerson and Kevin Birkes reelected for another term.

After hearing a presentation by the Save Our Gateway group, we agreed to contact Paradise residents asking them to support the efforts to stop the proposed Skyway Mall project. Recently we've also officially opposed the proposed legislation that would allow the Chico City Council to sell portions of Lindo Channel and written several letters to the Chico Park Commission regarding the upcoming Upper Bidwell Park Trail System Environmental Impact Report.

Mike Smith has recently left our area. His work as Yahi Group Webmaster, newsletter editor, Political Chair, liaison to Sierra Club National, and his extensive historical knowledge of local Sierra Club activities will be greatly missed. Newsletter production will continue under the joint efforts of Louise Casey and Susan Sears, along with other members of the new Publications Committee. John Showers has offered to represent us at the Plumas County Resources Advisory Committee and Susan Sears is following the Oroville Dam Relicensing process on our behalf.

What are some current projects?

We're planning to update the Yahi Trail Guide, which describes a number of hikes in our area. Several of the trails mentioned in the current version were destroyed by fire last year. Please contact Louise Casey at 872-9159 if you want to help.

We'll continue to follow the Paradise Skyway Mall issue and may comment on the Chico Manzanita Ave. road widening proposals and the Humboldt Rd. Burn dump remediation plan, and will continue to participate in the ongoing discussion about funding sources for Chico's parks and creekside greenways.

We're no longer an official sponsor of the Upper Bidwell Park monthly trail maintenance, but the

Yahi Group of the Sierra Club

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Newsletter Distribution

Getting Involved

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Statement by Sierra Club Yahi Group Regarding Upper Bidwell Park and Its Trail System

(Letter to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission, City of Chico)

We are mindful that Bidwell Park and its trail system will outlive us. We have a commitment to the protection of the land for the enjoyment by future generations. Our decisions today must be far-sighted.

1) The purpose of the trails is to provide safe, enjoyable access to the Park in a manner that protects the natural environment and wildlife by avoiding sensitive areas and reducing erosion impacts.

2) As the user pressure on the existing trails has grown, maintenance has not kept pace. The result has been a breakdown of the trails in the planned system and a network of unplanned user trails that result in significant deterioration.

3) We support continued access by the wide range of user groups. This creates special challenges, but these problems must be solved in the course of managing the trail system and preventing a breakdown.

4) Regarding solutions, we suggest the following:

a) The park budget needs to reflect a significant increase in staff and funding intended for trail maintenance. That commitment needs to be made now, regardless of the outcome of the discussion regarding new or changed trails.

b) In general, we support use of existing trails over the building of new trails since the old trails would probably continue to be used.

c) We support the goal of no net increase in trail mileage, thus an equal amount of the trails should be closed for any amount added.

d) We support the present trail manual and its use in guiding decisions for trail maintenance and the

Do You Have a Special Interest?

Yahi Group has several vacancies for committee chair positions. For most of these committees, there is no specified work to do. It depends entirely on the interest and available time of the chair and any committee members.

The current committees and chairpersons:

Calendar Sales - Joanne Gerson

Chapter Delegate - Steve Green

Conservation - Christy Strauch

Environmental Education - Jean Crist

Forest Issues - Stephen Sayre and Jean Crist

Membership - Gerda Lydon and Joanne Gerson

Newsletter - Louise Casey and Susan Sears

Outings - Alan Mendoza

Outing Leadership Training - Alan Mendoza

Phone Tree Coordinator - Joanne Gerson

Population Growth - Tanya Henrich

Program - Gerda Lydon

Publicity - Skip Wayland

Urban - Betty Volker

Webmaster - Louise Casey

Vacant Committee Chair Positions:

Agriculture

Air Quality

Aquatic Resources

Biodiversity

Clean Water

Computer

Endangered Species Habitats

Energy

Environmental Justice

Fundraising

International Lands Management

Volunteer Opportunities

If you'd like to contribute to Sierra Club efforts, please contact Christy Strauch at 891-0500 or christy@shocking.com. These are some of the areas where the local Yahi Group can use your help:

1. volunteer to be on the Yahi Trail Guide committee or to suggest/walk/write up trails to be included in the Guide
2. volunteer to make new displays for our booth at the Endangered Species Faire
3. volunteer to help with the Stop Skyway Mall project
4. volunteer to attend specific meetings of City Councils, Town meetings and other public meetings where we know an important issue will be discussed. This is an observer role with a phone call or e-mail to the

Bidwell Park Trail Maintenance

Sponsored by Parks Department

On the first Saturday of each month, you can help keep Bidwell Park beautiful. Plan to join other interested people to maintain the trails in Upper Bidwell Park on any of these days: March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1. This activity is suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Volunteers should meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots (and appropriate clothing if the weather is inclement).

Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the



Photo Courtesy of Janie Teague-Urbach

Sierra Club Yahi Group Spring 2002 Meeting Schedule

The Yahi Group will hold its Spring meeting and potluck dinner on May 9 at 6 PM in the Conference Room of the Chico Public Library, East First Avenue and Sherman in Chico. There will be a short awards ceremony during the dinner. Following the meeting at 7:30 PM will be **Hetch Hetchy Valley: Yosemite's Lost Twin**, a slide show and video program presented by Ron Good. Questions? Call Gerda 343-9277 or Betty 345-7205.

The Executive Committee generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 PM at members' homes. All members are welcome to

Member Profile

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Member Profile: Phyllis Lindley

"Like ions shot from the sun, the week-enders radiate from every town - The retreat of the wilderness under the barrage...is no local thing - Ant-like he (the homo sapiens) swarms the continents."

Aldo Leopold, 1949, "A Sand County Almanac"

Although Aldo obviously recognized over-population as a factor in the field of environmental conservation, he never really fingers it as *the* most significant factor that needs focusing on.

However, long-time environmentalist / Sierra Club member and recently-arrived Chico resident Phyllis Lindley does.

And according to an article in a recent, local newspaper, "Chico is growing quickly. Last year's census results reported it grew by 49.6 percent over the last 10 years..."

"Most of the time it boils down to population," Lindley said, "that, along with our wasteful consumption...are the cause of many of our problems."

"[But] I think dealing with growth is going to make all the difference. If we don't get a handle on that...[We're] going to have a lot more problems."

Lindley was born into, and has lived most of her life in, an environment which seemed to suit her Aries spirit - adventurous and pioneering.

One of two girls sired by a U.S. Naval officer, Phyllis "moved around a lot as a child" with her family.

"It was a good experience," she said, "because we always got to live on the coast somewhere. Also, moving from coast to coast all the time, it gave me a good sense of just how much world there was out there."

"But going through the Panama Canal as a kid was really exciting," she said. "I still remember that clearly."

They finally settled in Berkeley, California, while she was in junior high, when her father retired. She graduated from high school and enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley at the age of 16, graduating four years later with a bachelor's degree in international relations.

Then, in her mid-'20s, she had the experience that essentially steered the rest of her life into the environmental movement.

She took a back-pack trip to a high-Sierra camp around Yosemite National Park.

"After that," she said, "every vacation I've ever taken has been back-packing in the mountains. And 99 percent of those have been in the Sierras."

"It was basically just a love of those mountains, the Sierra Nevada," that got me into ecology, she said.

For much of her young-adult life, she moved all over the country following one job after another, everything from advertising to labor relations.

She joined the Sierra Club in the early '50s in New York, when Dave Brower was helping get the first Atlantic Coast Chapter started.

Phyllis returned to California permanently in the mid '50s, partly due to her mother's health and partly just because "California has always been home."

She went back to U.C. Berkeley and, in a year's time, earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife management.

"That was really interesting," she said, "because I got to study under Starker Leopold, the son of Aldo Leopold."

The elder Leopold is the author of "A Sand County Almanac" which has kind of become "the bible of environmentalists," she said. "He (Starker) was a really neat guy."

Obtaining employment as a naturalist with the Audubon Society, she spent the next decade or so teaching plant ecology during the summer at either Donner Summit - northwest of Lake Tahoe - or in the Wind River Mountains near Dubois, Wyoming, and urban ecology during the winter in Oakland, where she maintained her home.

"I guess you could say that was my career if I ever had one at all," she said.

Finally, in the early '70s, she embarked on an adventure that would not only epitomize her life as an environmentalist, but also led to what, Phyllis feels, is her biggest contribution yet to the movement.

She and a friend of hers quit their jobs, sold their homes and bought their own little piece of unspoiled wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest (northwest of Clear Lake).

"That was, and is, my life," Phyllis said. "It was great. We didn't even have electricity for the first three years. We really felt like we were living in harmony with the land."

She said they did everything themselves, from cutting and stripping the trees that eventually became their log-cabin home, to growing their own food "because we couldn't get to town," to installing their own Pelton Wheel [a kind of electricity-producing turbine] and solar panels.

"One of the staffers I'd worked with at Audubon always used to say going to the mountains wasn't escaping from city life, it was 'escaping to reality.' Well, that's what we were doing," she said.

While there, they used their experiment in harmonious living to teach and help others as well. Work parties" from various environmental organizations would come and help them with whatever needed doing at the time. In return, she



Phyllis Lindley

and her friend joined other work parties to go help them with their individual endeavors.

Also while there, Phyllis got involved in the establishment of the Snow Mountain Wilderness area, for which she would later receive an award from the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The significance of this, she says, is that being designated as a wilderness area affords "considerably more protection, by law, than just being part of a designated national forest, including the exclusion of mechanized traffic."

"Wilderness areas have strong Congressional protections whereas national forests are for public use," she said. "All kinds of extractive things can happen there [in a national forest]."

Phyllis said the feat was a "long, l-o-n-g tedious process," requiring her and others to speak at governmental hearings on both coasts over many years. That most important phase of her life lasted approximately 30 years, she said, and still isn't really over.

"I started moving to Chico permanently the year before last," she said, "and I'm still not totally moved out [of her old place]." Nonetheless, even though she's only been a permanent Chico resident for less than a year and despite the fact that she's rapidly approaching her eighth decade of life on this plane of existence, she's already (and still) digging in to make a contribution.

She's presently assisting in the formation of hiking trails in Upper Bidwell Park and is credited with starting a recycling program in the retirement community in which she now resides.

"I'm basically an optimist," Phyllis says, "I kept looking at the litter and said to myself 'Now that I

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For the Love of Flowers

I was touched by a December 2001 news article stating that "Afghans, under new regime, reclaim their love of flowers." It is evident that plant-dependent people would have a special fondness for flowers, not only because drought has reduced that 2001 Afghanistan land into a parched dustbowl, but plant habitats have taken an additional jolt from bombs and warfare. I can't imagine how many plants and animals have succumbed to B-52 blasts.

It is difficult to imagine any kind of religious government disregarding the wish of people to enjoy flowers. The article stated, "Under the Taliban's oppressive regime, there was no money given and no interest to public gardens in an area where nurturing beauty from the soil has a long tradition. Almost every adobe compound, no matter how humble, usually has at least one rose bush or flowering plant." I'm not sure how the alleged profusion of opium poppy plantations fit into the Afghanistan picture!

Scarcity makes the heart grow fonder. There is usually a keener appreciation of nature around cities where nature is less abundant and more difficult to access...or in desert places where the dry environment makes lushness less likely. Signs of the love of flowers extend all the way back to pioneer days—or even the Mayflower--when favorite plants were transported, across the sea, or across the wide open prairies in the covered wagon with a dream of transplanting plants and lives.

Many environmental organizations have their roots in the largest metropolitan areas where the desire to experience the out of doors—and the fear that those places will be lost to industry—has resulted in some elaborate outreach programs to "save our soils." The Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and the Wilderness Society are just a few of the environmental watchdogs that are often a pain in the neck of gung-ho expansionists.

Those who live in a land of abundant plants and wildlife have more of a tendency to take for granted that there is plenty, and even are more inclined to harvest what seems like a surplus. An "environmentalist" is often not welcome in regions that eke a livelihood from natural resources. No one wants their life style disrupted, even though that style might traditionally be from using timber, animals, minerals, or in Cajun Country, shrimp and aquatic life—resources that often are nearly depleted before there are alterations.

Establishing practical uses of our natural resources has been a major challenge, specially in the matter of National Forests. Aside from the fact that people have built homes deep inside "fire country," and that forests have been previously devastated allowing brushy conditions to accelerate—in addition to generally ignoring the fact that healthy woodlands need decaying wood to feed the living woods—there is a tendency to overlook the principle that National Forests are for the entire U.S.A. population including the wildlife that lives there. Those are not private forests to be

managed for a corporation, but public-owned assets existing to enrich the American landscape. Logging our National Forests should be the last consideration in forest management. It is galling that many of those timber contracts bring very little, if any, profit for the Forestry Service, which also means us, the taxpayers.

I was always impressed with John Muir's botanical journeys, especially his early explorations of Canadian border country and his efforts to find the rare orchid, *Calypso borealis*, and the story of when he found it, suggesting that he lingered for hours to hear what the flower had to say. "Orchids! Hush! We won't mention their names, for so rare were they, so delicate, so fragile, and so altogether lovely, that even to mention their names might frighten them away." When you get down there into the floral interior and examine the biological basis of a plant's existence, and observe its tenacity in surviving under perilous conditions, you become reverent toward life.

When you grow a flower, or admire a blossom in its natural habitat—or watch a bird—you are rising to an aesthetic level of appreciation that is hard for some people to understand. Yet, there is an

instinctive desire to look at beautiful things without eating or using them. Somewhere the caveman became civilized when he gathered blossoms to present as a gesture of friendliness and realized that there were values beyond the mere physical.

I watch gardener wife Jo tend her motley collection of plants in the backyard, and I know she is participating in an activity that has been reenacted down through the ages. For those who seek out the wildflower, or those who cherish pampered floral dependents, there is a common denominator of finding joy in living things and the associated habitats that nourish us all. May it always be so.

"But wheresoever we may venture to go in all this good world, nature is ever found richer and more beautiful than she seems...amply sufficient throughout the barest deserts for a clear manifestation of God's love." —John Muir

In all places and in all seasons

Save Our Gateway: Concerned Citizens vs. Juggernaut

A determined group of local residents and other concerned citizens have formed an organization to oppose the planned development of a 315,000-square-foot mall at the Skyway entrance to the Town of Paradise, to be located between the two sides of the Skyway.

According to Mike McLaughlin, the group's chairman, the Save Our Gateway Committee finds itself in an intense battle with a well-funded developer who has already demonstrated his ability to stay one jump ahead of his opposition.

Sacramento Developer Fred Katz of FHK Development describes the project as having a 174,000-square-foot "anchor" building (read: Wal-Mart?), fifteen shops made up in large part of franchise restaurants, a 100-room motel that would rise above the canyon rim, office buildings, a gas station, and parking spaces for 1,625 vehicles. Compare this to Chico's Wal-Mart building at 120,000 square feet and Paradise's Safeway shopping center with 275 parking spaces.

To mitigate the problem of increased traffic, the proposed development includes eighteen access points and at least six signal lights along its stretch.

Mr. Katz has already lined up some formidable allies at Chico State, Paradise Irrigation District and the Town of Paradise. To assist them in their fight, the Save Our Gateway Committee has gathered over 2,000 signatures from local residents who oppose this project, but the group must also

hire a knowledgeable attorney and land use experts.

At the present time, the proposal is in the Environmental Impact Report preparation phase. The project may come under the jurisdiction of Butte County or, if annexed, the Town of Paradise.

There are many environmental issues involved here in addition to the increased traffic and loss of natural scenic beauty: water supply, wastewater disposal and treatment, loss of small businesses in Paradise, to name only a few. Perhaps the most threatening of all is the potential for further development along the Skyway below the project on lands currently zoned "Unclassified" (read: "anything goes") by the County of Butte.

For those who live in Paradise and others who travel the Skyway, this project represents the destruction of a special way of life in a scenic environment. Many who signed the petition stated they had moved to Paradise to escape urban sprawl elsewhere.

According to Mike McLaughlin, other northern California communities, including Eureka and Grass Valley, have successfully staved off similar "gateway" projects. He feels this fight can be won, too, but is realistic about the need for local citizen involvement and participation. He tells us, "We need everyone's voice now."

For those who wish to send a contribution or add

Guardians of the Earth (continued from p. 1)

to hike, or a Native Plant Society group that wants to go down to the river, or a youth group on a trip organized through the schools, churches or recreation districts, but an *organized* group, with a leader, and with permission of the owners, whether it's the Hanfords or their heirs or successors or assigns.

This is very similar to lands in the Sutter Buttes. The property is private land, but many groups are granted permission to go in and hike, with a leader, taking care not to damage any of the environment.

Keith McKinley of the land trust organization initially surveyed the whole property and prepared a baseline report; a review of existing conditions must now be done on a yearly basis.

Only the undeveloped parcels are in the Hanfords' conservation easement. The house itself may eventually be owned by someone other than the Hanford family, but the land trust goes on in perpetuity. It is actually recorded as a deed of easement.

Priscilla explained how the land trust is administered. "The way these conservation easements work is that the grantor dedicates in advance a certain portion of money which is put into

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an endowment fund to basically police the uses."

The Butte County Assessor's Office was "totally



John Hanford and his granddaughter Lucy Whitmore

cooperative" when the Hanfords went to them to get maps and documents. Because the property has not changed hands, the conservation easement doesn't affect the property's valuation. What the County would lose in potential revenue from residential subdivision is not a money-maker for them, anyway, when the cost of providing services is factored in.

The conservation easement is basically the same concept as the Williamson Act, except that the Williamson Act provisions must be re-applied for every ten years, whereas this is in perpetuity.

John described the property's maintenance mostly as poison oak removal and cutting out small trees and brush: ceanothus, cascara, manzanita. Some trail improvement is presently done for training

purposes

by crews from the CCC facility in Magalia.

According to John, "This is a relatively young forest, and some trees will need to be removed to reach the optimum number of trees per acre. But," he added, "it doesn't have to be done. It could grow to be quite dense like a lot of the Tahoe forests."

The deed clearly states that the Grantee "has the right to do whatever is deemed necessary, based on conservation biology principles, to maintain or restore the soils, watershed, and historical natural ecosystem of the property."

"It really is a win-win," said Priscilla. "You can write the conditions of easement in any way you want, but you have to be sure that they are

Protecting Your Land's Natural Resources with a Conservation Easement

by Susan Sears

Conservation easements have helped thousands of families protect millions of acres of open space. With a conservation easement, you permanently protect your land without giving up ownership.

Information was obtained from the Paradise Ridge Land Trust and from the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization.

What is a conservation easement? A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (a private, nonprofit conservation organization) or government agency that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its conservation values.

How is the land protected? The conservation easement assigns responsibility to the Land Trust to enforce the protections forever, even when the ownership of the land changes.

How are conservation easements enforced? At the time the easement is created, plant and wildlife inventories are included with photographic information to provide a baseline for future monitoring. Annual visits are arranged by the Land Trust to ensure the conditions of the easement are being honored.

A stewardship fund is also created for each property to cover future expenses for monitoring, enforcing compliance, and any required legal defense of easement protections.

What are the financial benefits? If you donate a conservation easement that meets federal tax code requirements, the value of the easement can be treated as a charitable gift and deducted from income tax (to the extent an individual's particular

tax situation allows).

If you own land with substantial value, you may not be able to pass it on intact to your heirs. Selling all or part of the land for development may be the only way for them to pay the estate tax. Because a conservation easement reduces the market value of the property by reducing its development potential, inheritance taxes are also reduced.

Does a conservation easement grant public access to the land? Only if the protecting property owner specifies public access as a permitted use of the land.

Does a conservation easement restrict a landowner's ability to sell, develop, or bequeath land in the future? Land protected by a conservation easement may be sold, bequeathed or otherwise transferred at any time. An easement may apply only to certain portions of the property, for example preserving wooded areas while permitting development of the remainder.

How can I learn more? If you have land you would like to see protected for future generations, learn more about the options available to you.

Contact a land trust - they can put you in touch with attorneys, appraisers, accountants and land planners familiar with conservation easements.

Talk with your own legal and financial advisors - you should make decisions regarding the ownership and use and value of your property only after careful consideration and professional consultation.

Read further - The Land Trust Alliance sells several publications discussing easements and other conservation techniques. These include

Conservation

Spring 2002

Administrative Study to Greatly Increase Logging

In a hugely ironic twist, an experiment authorized by the otherwise environmentally benign Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework would allow more logging in northern Butte County (and parts of Plumas and Tehama Counties) than even the Quincy Library Group (QLG) asked.

In January 2001, a Record of Decision (ROD) was released on the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (a.k.a. the Framework) that was designed primarily to "Protect, increase, and perpetuate old forest ecosystems and provide for the viability of native plant and animal species associated with old forest ecosystems" and "... integrate fire and fuels management objectives with other natural resource management objectives" (ROD p.1). This Decision had its origins in the work done over the last decade aimed at protecting the California spotted owl (CSO) (ROD p. 1), and represents a new CSO strategy (ROD p. 51). These amendments to the Management Plans for eleven national forests of the Sierra Nevada "represent an ecologically based approach to assessing and managing landscapes on these national forests" (ROD p.2); and were widely hailed by environmentalists one of the best plans ever to come from the U.S. Forest Service.

Historically, Lassen National Forest (LNF) has been one of the most heavily logged in the U.S. Past high-grading left Lassen and most other national forests in the Sierra Nevada with a disproportionate share of its conifer forests in very small or medium sized trees and relatively few acres in old, large diameter trees (LNF LRMP Ch. 3 p. 32). This scarcity of old growth has caused species associated with such to decline so much that four once common species, the California spotted owl (CSO), the goshawk, the marten, and the great grey owl are now given the status of "sensitive" meaning their habitat must be managed to prevent further decline. Compounding the problem has been very effective fire suppression over the last ninety years, which has left a dense understory of flammable vegetation in much of the forest.

The Sierra Nevada Framework attempts to reverse both these trends by protecting and encouraging the regeneration of old forests while redirecting logging efforts toward the removal of smaller understory trees. This is similar to what the QLG proposed, except that they also want the forest canopy thinned (purportedly to slow crown fires, an unlikely outcome) and many group selections allowed (1/2 to 2-acre clearcuts) to increase the timber supply.

The Framework would allow canopy thinning in the Defense Zone (1/4 mile from structures) of the Urban Wildland Intermix (UWI). It allows westside conifers up to 30 inches dbh (in diameter at 4.5 feet high) to be cut there during vegetation and fuels treatment activities (ROD p.4). The Framework specifies that "fuel treatments will be located to minimize their effect on sensitive wildlife habitat," (ROD p.6), and "the highest priority for fuels treatments is in the Urban Wildland Intermix," (ROD p. 5).

The Framework also delineates Old Forest Emphasis Areas (OFEAs). In OFEAs, prescribed fire will be emphasized (ROD p.6), except where canopy cover and old forest structure loss would be expected due to excessive surface and ladder fuels, in which case

mechanical treatments may be used to cut trees less than 12 inches dbh (ROD App. A 40-41). In OFEAs it allows "incidental felling of trees between 12 and 20 inches dbh where required for operability", but does not allow reduction in canopy cover across a stand by more than 10 percent following mechanical treatments (ROD App. A 41).

In a major concession to allow the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Pilot Project to proceed on the Lassen, Plumas, and part of Tahoe National Forests, the Framework allows about 5000 acres of group selection, not to exceed 4000 acres in CSO habitat per year, as part of an Administrative Study (ROD p 50). "The administrative study would be intended to investigate the response of the CSO and its habitat, particularly populations of prey species and features of their habitat, to various levels of small silvicultural treatments," (ROD p.50).

In his Decision, then Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Bradley Powell wrote, "The new owl conservation strategy contained within this decision will be applied in the HFQLG (Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group) area. I have attempted to apply the greatest possible amount of management activity specified in the HFQLG legislation, consistent with the new owl conservation strategy. However, the entire level of management activity specified in the HFQLG legislation cannot be implemented without degrading owl habitat without increasing risk to owl viability. The provisions for excessive canopy closure reductions, large tree removals, and substantial acreages in group selection treatments are factors contributing to this conclusion," (ROD p. 51). The Quincy Library Group (and many others, mostly timber-industry related) appealed this Framework decision; but this January the decision was upheld (appeals were denied).

The Regional Forester gave considerable latitude to the Pacific Southwest Research Station in designing the Administrative Study. However, in order to "create the desired contrast for the Study" and "increase the chance of invoking a range of response" (Treatment Unit-1 Project scoping letter, p.2) some of the silvicultural treatments proposed are much harsher than would otherwise be allowed under the Framework standards and guidelines.

They have proposed three different Treatment Regimes ("three contrasting combinations of silvicultural treatments") and proposed to apply those to grouped watersheds called "Treatment Units". They came up with 11 Treatment Units, all within the QLG landbase, that met the criteria of being "large enough to likely contain roughly ten or more pair of spotted owls", contain a majority of non-wilderness public land, contain land that was accessible, and contain suitable habitat condition for old forest taxa. They then, supposedly at random, selected the assignment of a Treatment Regime to each of the 11 Treatment Units.

The first of these Treatment Units, TU-1, extends roughly from Butt Mountain in the north to Philbrook Lake in the south, and from Colby Mountain in the west close to where Yellow Creek exits national forest land on the east, with an arm extending SE along Grizzly Creek. That area includes the same land that the Lassen Forest Preservation Group protected in the



Log Down Near Jones Creek

past with a successful appeal of the Jonesville project.

TU-1 has been assigned Treatment Regime C, the harshest prescription, despite the fact that the whole area was designated as OFEA (or other similarly restrictive land allocation) by the Framework, except for some land near the town of Jonesville designated as UWI Defense and Threat Zones.

According to the TU-1 Project scoping letter (p.2), "In order to promote diversity in the age and structure of stands within the project area, and provide for an adequate timber supply for community stability as called for in the Act" the TU-1 project proposes to conduct group selection "on approximately 2,600 acres", in which "all trees less than 32 inches dbh would be cut" (p. 5)! Also proposed, "to improve suppression efficiency", are 11,400 acres of DFPZs (shaded fuelbreaks) along Forest system and county roads on National Forest land within this Treatment Unit, where trees up to 30 inches dbh would be cut.

The reasoning behind this "purpose and need" is faulty. According to the LNF LRMP (Ch. 3 p. 32) the number of habitat types on Lassen Forest is already very diverse and within-stand diversity is also moderate to high. Allowing the cutting of larger, fire-resistant trees that compose the forest canopy would tend to cause drier and more flammable conditions on the forest floor from increased wind and sunlight penetration and increased re-growth of brush species.

The upper diameter limits proposed for both group selections and DFPZs on this project are in violation of the Framework, which sets a maximum upper diameter limit of 30 inches within the UWI Defense

Zone and 20 inches everywhere else where logging is allowed. The Framework also requires that any mechanical treatments needed for fuels reduction in OFEAs should retain a minimum of 50 percent canopy cover (where it exists) (ROD App. A - 41); while the TU-1 Project proposes to maintain canopy closure at no less than 40 percent, where it exists (TU-1 Project scoping letter p. 3).

According to the Framework (SNFPA FEIS, Vol. 3, Chap. 3 part 4.4, p. 76), the best available research indicates that owl productivity is correlated with canopy cover of 50 percent or greater. By comparison, canopy cover of 40 percent has been described as only "marginally" suitable for owl

Administrative Study to Increase Logging *(continued from p. 7)*

foraging, and owl nesting stands generally have “at least 70 percent total canopy cover,” (Ibid., p.73).

Similarly, American marten generally avoid stands with less than 50 percent canopy cover (Bull & Heater, 2002), and are also sensitive to forest openings, tolerating a landscape that has no greater

(Continued on p. 8)

than 20-25 percent openings (USF&WS comments on draft QLG EIS).

The scoping letter for the TU-1 project states (p. 6) that “No treatments would occur in protected activity centers (PACs) for spotted owls or goshawks, spotted owl habitat areas (SOHAs), and habitat management areas for carnivores (HMAs)”.

That would meet the Framework requirements that limit stand-altering activities in such areas to reducing surface and ladder fuels through careful prescribed burning. However, a painstaking comparison of the project map to maps showing the locations of those old-forest-associated-species habitat areas reveals that the creation of the DFPZ network proposed for this project includes one intrusion into a SOHA (in T26N, R6E, Secs 21 & 22) and six intrusions into HMAs (habitat and travel corridors for American marten), including into already too narrow ‘bottlenecks’ in those migration routes! Once again, in their rush to facilitate logging, the Almanor Ranger District has shown a sloppy disregard for accurate delineation and protection of previously designated old-growth-associated-species habitat.

Not even mentioned in the scoping letter is that Treatment Regime C calls for later Area Thinning in 30 percent of the Treatment Unit, which would include cutting in all diameter size classes in order to in effect greatly extend DFPZs along broad ridges and south and west aspects. Since there is no provision for Area Treatments in the HFQLG Act, this project instead proposes that “in some areas, width of proposed DFPZs exceeds one-quarter-mile to take better advantage of landscape features and increase DFPZ effectiveness,” (TU-1 Project scoping letter, p.4).

Another worrisome aspect of the TU-1 Project is that it proposes many group selection cuts and some new roads into both a roadless area that has been identified by the California Wild Heritage Campaign as the large Humboldt Summit Potential Wilderness Area and into a small roadless area around Snow Mountain in northern Butte County that connects in a narrow corridor to the larger Chips Creek PWA to the east. Unfortunately, because these roadless areas were not identified in previous Forest Service roadless area inventories, there is currently no provision for their preservation.

Those wishing to intervene in this disaster should comment on both the TU-1 scoping and the whole Administrative Study. Writers should ask that an EIS be done on the whole Administrative Study (not just on each individual Treatment Unit project) because of the potentially negative cumulative impact to old-growth-associated species. The Administrative Study will affect over 500,000 acres of national forest lands, and over half the lands included in the QLG EIS.

Less intensive Treatment Regimes, should be

considered and evaluated that don't have such a likelihood of extirpating those species (and their prey base) being studied. Scientists and land managers have an ethical responsibility not to cause unrecoverable harm in the pursuit of knowledge. The Study (and this project) should include analysis of at least one or more treatments that minimize the use of logging and instead emphasize prescribed fire. These should include analysis of methods to reduce the spread of noxious weeds, as called for in the Framework.

Treatment Regimes B & C should not include later Area Treatments (or expanded DFPZs), since those are not authorized under the HFQLG legislation, which the Study is ostensibly designed to evaluate. The QLG EIS Errata specified that DFPZs should be approximately ¼ mile in width, not ¼ to ½ mile.

Treatment Regimes B & C must include a recognized strategy for protecting the CSO. The QLG Act (Section 401(c)(3)) explicitly states that the QLG

project must be “consistent with ... the standards and guidelines for the conservation of the California spotted owl as set forth in the [CASPO policy] or the subsequently issued guidelines, whichever are in effect.” Despite this requirement, Treatments B and C fail to comply with either the SNFPA owl strategy (e.g., applicable diameter limits and canopy closure requirements) or with the old CASPO guidelines.

More care should be taken to make sure that maps are accurate and that proposed treatments do not further degrade habitat for species associated with old forest, especially the marten. Converting so much more of the forest into early seral vegetation would not only hinder travel and genetic renewal of the American marten, but also make it much more difficult to encourage re-colonization of the northern Sierra by the Pacific fisher (another goal of the Framework).

Wherever possible, roadless areas (even those not previously inventoried) should not be violated. The Forest Service is unable to maintain all the roads it

Yahi Group's General Outing Information

The following information is intended for people who have decided to take or are contemplating an outing that has been organized by the Yahi Group of the Sierra Club. The information is based on the Group's established policy (available from the web site or from the Outings Committee Chair); it will be supplemented by trip specific information and by the outing leader.

Transportation: There is an active interest in car pooling, but leaders cannot organize car pools to Sierra Club outings. All trips begin and end at the trailhead, which is not necessarily the initial meeting place. Any car pool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers.

Riders are expected, as a matter of courtesy, to reimburse drivers to cover the transportation expenses of the trip. A customary amount is 6 cents per mile per passenger depending on the vehicle, the number of passengers, and the road conditions. This is only a guideline.

Membership in Sierra Club not required: Outings are open to the general public unless otherwise indicated. If you enjoy the outings, it is hoped that you will see the value of joining; application information is available on the back page or on the web site.

Fees and costs: Occasionally an outing announcement will indicate a cost. Unless the announcement specifically indicates that outing is a fund raiser, the cost indicated is only that which has been estimated to cover trip expenses.

Sign-up: Most activities do not require advance sign-up; it is merely necessary to show up at the designated time and place. For those outings where advance sign-up is requested, a call to the leader will initiate the procedure. If fees or deposits are needed, the sign-up is not considered complete until those have been paid. Deposits may not be refundable; please inquire at time of making payment.

All activities: These are group outings. It is important that participants follow the instructions of the outing leader. Please be sure you are in adequate physical condition to undertake the activity you choose (see classifications for guidance). If you are unsure of the difficulty of the trip or of your ability, check with the leader before deciding to go. The outing leader may decide to disallow the participation of an outing applicant if the leader concludes that the applicant's reduced preparation or capability may negatively affect the outing for the rest of the group.

Hiking and Day Activities: Bring lunch, water, and essentials, as well as reimbursement money for your driver. Wear boots or sturdy shoes.

Dos and Don'ts: Plan to carry out anything you carry in. Pets are not allowed unless the trip specifically indicates "pets permitted". No firearms. No electronic music devices.

Young people: Please consult with the leader for a decision as to whether the outing is appropriate for a youth, whether accompanied by an adult or not. Any person under 18 not accompanied by a parent must have a written parental authorization to give to the outing leader. Forms may be obtained in advance from the outing leader or from the Outings Committee Chair at 872-0419. The completed form is required to provide for emergency medical care if needed.

Getting Out

Spring 2002

Participating in a Sierra Club Outing

If you're thinking of coming on a Sierra Club outing in the outdoors, here are a few helpful hints on what to bring and what questions to ask of the leader.

First of all, it's usually a good idea to call ahead of time even though the meeting place and time are published. Doing so will allow you to find out what the terrain will be like, when you'll return, what level of conditioning is required, whether any special items should be brought along and what, if any, costs are involved. Calling the leader in advance also helps the leader because it gives her or him an idea of how many people to expect and tells them they should wait for you at the meeting place if you're a little late.

When going on an outing, such as a hike, don't assume you should leave essential items at home because the leader or assistant leader will have them along. You may become separated from the group or decide to leave early on your own. Key items to always carry, besides the standard water, food and footwear, are matches (for starting a fire), a working flashlight, a whistle, a rain jacket, a knife/pocket knife, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, a hat, a few basic first aid items (moleskin, bandaids, gauze pads, ibuprofen), a compass and a pen (for writing a message or taking notes). It is very unlikely you would need most of these items on a group outing, but having them along will give you a much greater sense of safety.

Two other useful things to bring to the trailhead

are an emergency number (so the leader will know who to call if you are injured) and comfortable shoes and socks to change into after the hike. Nothing feels better after a hike than being able to take off your boots and slip into clean socks and shoes.

Some optional items that have proven lifesavers in the past are toilet paper, a walking stick, bug spray, a camera, binoculars, wildflower guides, a safety pin, light gloves and a wool cap (on cold days your body temperature drops quickly when you stop for lunch). If you're a map freak, you can print out a free topographic map of the outing location by going to internet sites such as topozone.com. If you are on medication, it is also a good idea to tell the leader so that they will have that information in case something happens to you.

Also don't forget your trail etiquette. Let the leader stay in front of the group. Carry out everything you bring in (orange peels take a long time to break down), no smoking, no radios, stay on the trail (don't take shortcuts), no littering, no swearing and make a special effort to make those on their first outing feel welcome.

For those wanting to be helpful, bring along a plastic bag for collecting garbage on the trail. To combat boredom, if the group is moving too slowly for your tastes, do some basic trail work as you go along--knock fallen branches and debris off the trail, clean out water bars and smooth out holes in

Yahi Spring 2002 Outings

March 2002

Saturday, March 2 - Cross Country Ski Backcountry Tour (grade 2, class B). This is for people who own ski equipment. We'll go where the snow is good. Bring skis, boots, poles, appropriate clothing, lunch, water and \$ for drivers. Call leader for time and meeting place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Saturday, March 2 - Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us

Sunday, March 3 - Table Mountain Wildflower Walk/Kite Flying (grade 1, class A). Come see the gorgeous spring wildflowers that attract thousands of visitors annually. Walk among the fragrant blooms; lunch next to a lovely waterfall; kite fly to your heart's content or laze among the colorful blossoms. Wear sturdy boots, sunblock or a hat. Bring a delectable lunch and water. Kites are optional; lawn chairs recommended. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9:30 A.M. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549, Asst. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Saturday, March 16 - Lassen Park Snowshoe Hike (grade 2, class B). Trailhead near the Lassen National Park Chalet. Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery on a moderate snowshoe walk in Lassen



Snowshoe Hike at Lassen Park

Park. Bring snowshoes, boots, layered clothing, lunch, water and \$ for carpooling. Storm cancels. Approx. 180 miles round trip drive. Call leader for details and meeting place. Leader: Kevin, 894-0438.

Saturday, March 16, 11 AM - Wildflower Tour on Bidwell Ranch (grade 1, class A). Docent-led wildflower and wetland walk on the "Ranch" in Chico. Meet at Wildwood Park (at the entrance to upper park) This will be an easy stroll lasting about two hours. Wear boots or old shoes as the

Directions to Meeting Places

Chico Park and Ride. From Highways 99 and 32, go east on 32 and make an immediate left onto Fir Street (it's only about 100 yards from Highway 99). We meet in the lot closest to the freeway.

Paradise Albertson's: The parking lot is at the corner of Wagstaff and Clark Roads; we meet in the northwest corner.

Horseshoe Lake parking lot (the old Rifle Range parking lot): Take East Avenue or Manzanita to Wildwood Avenue (the entrance to Upper Bidwell Park). Continue along the paved road over all the golf course speed bumps. When the speed bumps

Hike Classifications

These are general guidelines. If there are questions, ask the outing leader.

Distance Rating

Grade 1: up to 6 miles


Grade 2: 6-10 miles

Grade 3: 10-15 miles

Grade 4: 15-20 miles

Grade 5: over 20 miles

Elevation Gain Rating

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Outings & Events

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Hetch Hetchy Valley: Yosemite's Lost Twin

by Gerda Lydon

Presented by Ron Good, Executive Director of **Restore Hetch Hetchy**, a non-profit organization whose mission is to obtain a "win-win" outcome for Hetch Hetchy Valley and for the San Francisco Bay Area water and power users.

Thursday, May 9, 2002, 7:30 PM



April 2002

Friday, March 22 - Sierra Singles Dinner. Meet at the Peking Restaurant downtown Chico for good food and good company. Call Karen at 899-8305 by Thursday, March 21 for time and reservation.

Saturday, March 23 - Dye Creek Preserve Hike (grade 2, class B). Enjoy a moderately strenuous day hike into the spectacular Dye Creek Preserve Canyon managed by the Nature Conservancy. Dye Creek is a large acreage foothill terrain featuring a variety of wildlife, precipitous cliffs, a Native American village site, cave and Dye Creek itself. Bring boots, lunch and water. Rain does not cancel. Cost: \$2 per person, plus carpool \$. Approx. 80-mile round-trip drive. Meet at 8 AM at Chico Park & Ride. Leader: Alan, 891-8789.

Sunday, March 24 - Sutter Buttes Summit Ascent (grade 2, class B). A climb to the top of the world's smallest mountain range will test even the most experienced trekkers. Summit ascents are strenuous and physically challenging, with steep and narrow inclines. Our guide will let us catch our breath so we can enjoy the views and listen to the history of the Buttes. About a 1000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water and good boots. Cost: \$25 per person, plus \$ for carpooling. Limited to 20 participants. *Sign up required by March 15.* Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 8 AM. Sacramento folks can meet us in Gridley. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549, Asst. Leader: Jan, 894-0438.

Saturday, March 30- BLM Paynes Creek Recreation Area Hike (grade 1, class A). Join us on this popular hike of about



Sutter Buttes Hike

5 miles round-trip, much off-trail, through varied terrain alongside a stretch of the Sacramento River proposed for Wild & Scenic status, near Red Bluff. Expect to traverse spring wildflowers, rocky bluffs, upland meadow, lush riparian habitat, blue oak woodland, and have lunch at a viewpoint above the river. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30 AM, Chico Park & Ride at 8:15 AM or at the Bend Bridge Boat Ramp (just east of Jelly's Ferry Road) about 9:30. We'll return to Chico about dusk after a full day of exploration and a 108-mile round-trip drive. Bring lunch, water and sturdy waterproof boots for rock hopping and wading through tall grass. Rain cancels. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391.

Saturday, April 6 - Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us

Saturday, April 6 - McClure Trail Hike along Antelope Creek in the Ishi Proposed Wilderness Area (grade 2, class B). A scenic 1-way hike along the North Fork of Antelope Creek (eligible for Wild & Scenic status), to view spring wildflowers in this Potential Wilderness Addition to the Ishi Wilderness. Expect some muddy crossings on this moderate 7-mile mostly downstream hike with 1500' of elevation loss. A car shuttle will be required. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy, waterproof boots. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30 AM, Chico Park & Ride at 8:15 AM (for a 120-mile round trip drive), or at Paynes Creek Store about 9:45 AM. Return at dusk. Rain cancels. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391, Asst. Leader: Alan 872-0419.

Sunday, April 7-Table Mountain Walk/Kite Flying (grade 1, class A). Come and enjoy the beautiful wildflowers so plentiful this time of year on nearby Table Mountain. We will walk, lunch, fly kites or just sit and relax among the "popcorn," "butter and eggs," and "frying pan poppies." Bring water, lunch, cameras and a kite. Meet at the Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM to carpool. Round trip drive is about 50 miles and we will return about 3 PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Sunday, April 14 - Bicycle Around the Sutter Buttes (grade 5, class A). A clockwise traverse of the Buttes on fully paved roads. We will travel at a moderate pace (12 miles per hour) with ample stops to smell spring wildflowers. A mostly flat 40 miles beginning and ending at the little league field in Sutter, CA. Bring lunch, water, energy snacks, tire repair equipment, \$ for drivers and a helmet (mandatory). Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 9 AM or at the little league field at 10:30 AM. Leader: Ben, 894-6569 or bfmcgimsey@aol.com, Asst. Leader:



Table Mountain Hike

Photograph by Alan Mendoza

Teresa, 899-7331.

Friday-Sunday, April 19-21 - Spring Singles Fling to Lake County (grade 1, class A). Hiking, birding, vernal pools and local history in Lake County. We will camp out at Boggs Mountain State Forest and visit the Boggs Lake Nature Conservancy lands. Five meals will be provided. Cost: \$35, plus carpooling expenses. *\$15 non-refundable deposit by April 10.* Bring tent, sleeping bag and pad, clothing, personal gear, day hiking equipment, bathing suit and extra \$ for travel. We may visit a private residence with hot tub and view of Clear Lake. Call leader in advance for details and meeting place. Leader: Grayson, 872-0403.

Saturday, April 20-Feather Falls Hike (grade 2, class B). Come celebrate John Muir's birthday with a moderately strenuous hike of about 7-9 miles to the majestic 640 foot high Feather Falls. We'll follow the lower, more scenic trail down to the viewing platform where we'll have lunch. Then we'll huff and puff our way back up the parking lot. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8 AM to carpool. Bring water, lunch, good boots and a camera if you've never seen the falls. Round trip drive is about 150 miles and we will return about 4:30 PM. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549, Asst. Leader: Jan, 894-0438.

Sunday, April 21 - Outing Leaders Summer Planning Meeting. Join us as we plan the summer schedule of outings (June, July and August). Bring a potluck dish to share and your own utensils, we'll provide the drinks. Call Alan, 891-8789 for time and meeting place.

Friday, April 26 - Sierra Club Singles Dinner. Hungry for a good meal with some good company? Join us for some crepes at Kramore Inn. Call Karen at 899-8305 for time and to put in your reservation.

Saturday, April 27 - Polk Springs PWA Exploration &



Feather Falls

Climb (grade 1, class B). This will be a new hike (but not for beginners) exploring an old gold miner's trail in another part of the Ishi Potential Wilderness Additions. From the historic Lassen Trail where it joins Ponderosa Way we will descend about 1800' in only 3.5 miles to the geologically interesting Polk Springs area at Deer Creek, then return by the same route. A 4WD or other sturdy vehicle is recommended to get to the

Outings and Events

Spring 2002

trailhead, where the trip starts. It's a fairly long drive on dirt road from Cohasset. Bring lunch, water and sturdy boots. Meet at Paradise Albertson's at 7:30 AM, Chico Park & Ride at 8:15 AM, or at the Cohasset Store about 8:45 AM. Return about dusk. Rain (even 2 days previous) cancels. Leader: Stephen Sayre, 876-1391.

May 2002

Saturday, May 4 - Endangered Species Faire. Come work for an hour or two at the Sierra Club booth at the Endangered Species Faire in Cedar Grove from 10 AM to 4 PM. There will be wildlife shows, music and lots of interesting activities for all ages.

Saturday, May 4 - Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us



Photo Courtesy of Janie Teague-Urbach

BEC Environmental Education Coordinator

Sunday, May 5 - Upper Bidwell Park Loop Hike

(grade 2, class A). This 8.5 mile hike is my favorite way to visit upper Bidwell Park. We'll hike up and along the north rim overlooking the canyon, snake our way down through the trees to the floor and walk along the road to the Yahi Trail, which we'll follow back. Lunch will be along the creek. Bring water, lunch, a hat, sunscreen and a favorite story to share! Meet at the Horseshoe Lake parking lot near the old rifle range at 9 AM. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Potluck, May 9th: Meet at the Chico Public Library at 6 PM prior to the Hetch Hetchy program. Bring a dish to share, your own plate, silverware, and beverage. Yahi will provide hot water for tea or instant coffee. (Library policy - no wine or beer on site.) There will be a short awards ceremony during the dinner. Questions? Call Gerda 343-9277 or Betty 345-7205.

Sunday, May 19 - Bidwell Park Hike (grade 2, class A). A flat, mostly shady, 10-mile walk along lovely Chico Creek. We begin at the south parking lot of One-Mile (near Caper Acres) at 9:30 AM and walk on the paved road past Five-Mile to the golf course. We'll return to Five-Mile for lunch and then walk back to One-Mile. Bring water and lunch. Rain or shine! Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549.

Sunday, May 19 - Mountain Bike Trip to Cache Creek BLM Preserve (grade 3, class A). An exploratory trip to prepare for a bike/camping trip in the summer. We'll cycle on a dirt road to a gorgeous flat on Cache Creek. This will be a moderate 15-20 mile round trip, mostly flat. We will scout for non-hot water springs to avoid drinking the mercury-laced water from Cache Creek. At least one ford of Cache Creek is necessary, so bring river sandals. Also bring lunch,

water, energy snacks, tire repair equipment, \$ for drivers and a helmet (mandatory). Leader: Ben, 894-6569 or bfmegimsey@aol.com, Asst. leader: Teresa, 899-7331.

Saturday-Monday, May 25-27 - Mill Creek Memorial Day Backpack & Trail Maintenance (grade 3, class B) (educational). Join the Yahi Group for our annual Memorial Day weekend trail maintenance trip. We will hike 14-15 miles downstream starting at Upper Mill Creek (4000 feet) to Black Rock (2000 feet). On the way we hike through forests, enjoy wildflowers and follow along the creek. The Forest Service will provide tools and car shuttle back to our cars. Group size is limited, call for reservations. Return time around 6 PM Monday. Leader: Goodie, 894-3988, Asst. Leader: Annette, 872-3557.

June 2002

Saturday, June 1 - Conservation & Alternative Energy Tour and Discussion: This is a Yahi Group fundraiser to increase awareness of various techniques for reducing energy consumption from the simplest, e.g. solar cooking to the most complex, e.g. getting off the grid. Join us for a driving tour of energy efficient homes followed by refreshments and discussions with local leaders in energy conservation efforts. \$10 fee. For more information, time and meeting place, call Jan at 894-0438, Goodie at 894-3988 or Teresa at 899-7331.

Saturday, June 1 - Help Maintain Trails in Upper Bidwell Park. Suitable for all ages and a good way to learn more about the trails in the Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the Parks Department. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at 8 AM in the parking lot located on the east side of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park Rain cancels. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Department, 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us

Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9 - Trail Maintenance and Camp Clean-Up, Deer Creek (grade 2, class A). Depending on USFS support, we will spend Saturday walking the 3-4 miles of trail downstream from the wooden bridge below the transfer station. We will trim over-hanging branches, remove logs and smooth the tread. Those wanting to spend the night will camp Saturday at the wooden bridge and spend Sunday morning cleaning up the unofficial campground. A beautiful area and a chance to give back. Please call leader in advance for details, what to bring and meeting place. Leader: John, 892-1262.

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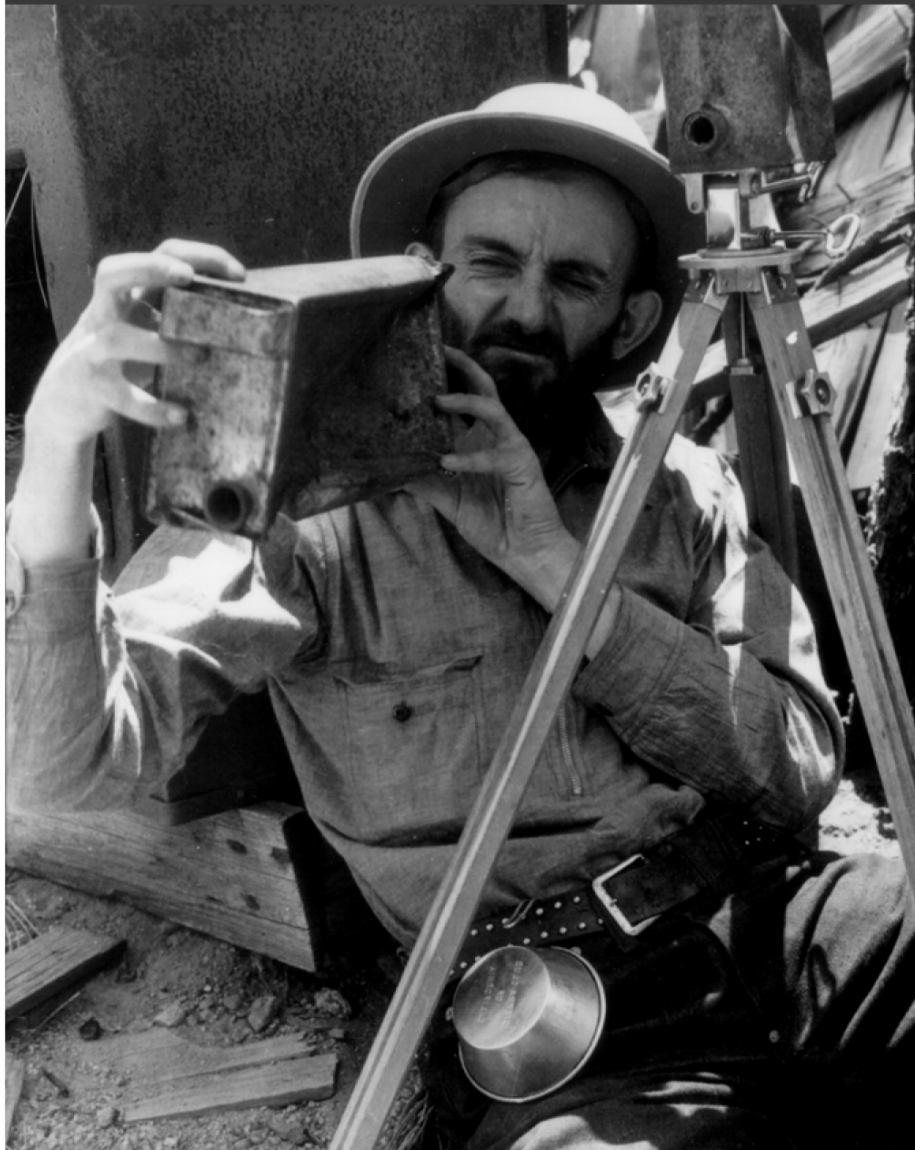
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Last Words

Ansel Adams on PBS—Sunday, April 21, 2002



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Sierra Club Productions invites you to watch ANSEL ADAMS: A DOCUMENTARY FILM. The documentary will air on PBS's American Experience on Sunday, April 21, 2002. This project, from Steeplechase Films and Sierra Club Productions, is the first comprehensive biography of the legendary photographer, produced in cooperation with the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. The film explores the meaning and legacy of Adams' life and work within the context of the great themes that absorbed him throughout his career: the beauty and fragility of "the American earth," the inseparable bond of man and nature, and the moral obligation the present owes to the future. No photographer has had more profound an impact on how Americans grasp the majesty of their own continent. Producer/director Ric Burns of Steeplechase Films is a documentarian known for his award winning series for PBS "New York," as well as "The Donner Party" and "Coney Island." Sierra Club Productions creates diverse, quality dramatic and non-fiction film and television entertainment that reflects the belief that every person is connected to, inspired by and responsible for the natural world.



SIERRA CLUB
PRODUCTIONS

Don't Forget the Yahi Group General Meeting and Potluck May 9

Meet at the Chico library on May 9 at 6 P.M. Bring a dish to share, your own plate, silverware, and beverage. Yahi will provide hot water for tea or instant coffee. (Library policy - no wine or beer on site.) There will be a short awards ceremony during the dinner. Questions? Call Gerda 343-9277 or Betty 345-7205.

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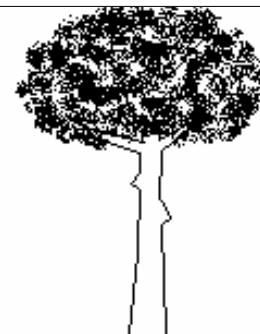
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