



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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Shasta Group June Newsletter

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May Event Recaps!

Castle Lake to Heart Lake Hike:

We had a great group of 10 hikers join us on Saturday, May 30th to hike from Castle to Heart Lake and learn more about the roadless rule! Along the way, we stopped to look at lichen, several wildflowers including Larkspur and mountain heather, and to take in the scenic views! Did you know that Castle Lake is within a wilderness and roadless area? We talked about why building more roads in wilderness areas increases wildfire risk, water pollution and takes away habitat for migrating and endangered species. To learn more about the roadless rule, click [here](#).





- 1) Amberly talking about the Roadless Rule. Image by David Ledger
- 2) Branched False Solomon's Seal. Image by David Ledger
- 3) Mountain Heather. Image by Amberly Clark
- 4) Hike participants enjoying the view! Image by Amberly Clark

To submit a comment on why we should keep the roadless rule in place, click [HERE](#).

Roadless Rule Quick Facts:

PROTECTING OUR OLDEST FORESTS

BACKGROUND

Hailed as one of America's most successful conservation measures, the **Roadless Area Conservation Rule** protects drinking water, wildlife habitat, and world-class recreation opportunities across 58.5 million acres of national forests.



WHAT DOES IT PROTECT?

- Roadless areas in our national forests by **restricting logging and road construction**, with some exceptions.
- Pristine and ecologically-intact US Forest Service land in **38 states** across the country.
- In Alaska's Tongass National Forest alone, **9.3 million acres** are protected by the rule
- **Drinking water for millions:** Roadless areas include all or part of 354 municipal watersheds.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

In June 2025, Trump moved to revoke the Roadless Rule—a decision that would threaten critical wildlife habitat, clean drinking water, old forests, and the outdoor spaces that millions of people rely on. The Sierra Club is fighting to retain these invaluable forests - and the policies that protect them - across the country. **Learn more: sc.org/forests.**

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

- National forests provide **drinking water** for over 60 million Americans.
- Roadless areas protect **habitat for fish** especially threatened and endangered species—loss of which may impact Tribal treaty rights.
- They provide habitat for over **1,600** threatened or endangered plants and animals, including the grizzly bear and Canada lynx.

MORE ROADS = MORE FIRES

Some argue that weakening the Roadless Rule will reduce wildfires, but the facts say otherwise.

- New research from The Wilderness Society (now in peer review) shows that from 1992-2024, wildfires were **four times more likely** to start in roaded areas than in roadless forest tracts.
- Another study by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute showed that over 90% of wildfires occurred within **half a mile of a road**.



Jenny Creek Open Space:

This was a field trip done to help [Friends of Jenny Creek](#) (FOJC) introduce the area to local residents and neighbors. It was an introduction to native plants and an opportunity for FOJC to talk about their opposition to a wide paved trail proposed for the area. Plants discussed included blue oaks, interior live oaks, common and white-leaf manzanita, wavy leaf soap plant and wild carrots to name a few.

Manton-Shingletown field trip:

For this field trip we stopped on Black Butte Road and walked a service road out and back for two miles to see a grove of large MacNab Cypress, perhaps 25. Other interesting plants included yellow and white monkeyflower (*Erythranthe bicolor*) monkeyflowers, yellow star tulip (*Calochortus monophyllus*), hop trees and clustered broomrape. Near Manton, we saw California nutmeg and California Bay (*Unbellularia californica*), and at Lake Nora we saw fields of butterweed and Tolmei's Mariposa lilies.



Hiking participants next to a MacNab Cypress. Image by David Ledger

Castle Crag Flume Trail:

We had a wonderful time hiking the Flume Trail! We had lunch by a waterfall and hiked a bit extra to be able to see the spectacular view of the Crag. This was prime time for seeing wildflowers, which included many western azaleas, (*Rhododendron occidentale*), Sierra Morning Glory (*Calystegia malacophylla*), Naked Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus nudus*) and Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). Thank you to all who came on the hike!



Hiking participants posing for a picture at Castle Crag! Image by David Ledger

Clikapudi Trail:

No one signed up for this field trip, but I went on the trail on two separate trips with friends and once by myself, finding it lush with a diversity of plants.



A pretty Common Goldenstar flower along the trail. Image by David Ledger

Upcoming Events!

**Cedar Basin, Cliff Lakes and Terrace Lake
Mt. Shasta Area
Saturday, June 20, 8 am**

This California Native Plant Society field trip will be west of the town of Mt. Shasta in Cedar Basin where there are some old growth Port Orford cedars and Klamath manzanita. This area was proposed as a Natural Resource Area, but never quite made the cut due to a private inholding in the area. This will be a moderate difficulty hike of 4 miles with a 750' elevation climb. Sierra Club members are welcome.

This area has a wide diversity of plants including carnivorous plants round leaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*). The first part of this walk is fairly easy with a walk up to Cliff Lake which sits at the base of a huge glacially carved cliff and is about 1.5 miles from the trailhead. The second part of the hike is 0.5 miles with a 500 foot elevation climb to Terrace Lake. This section of the hike requires long pants, as brush can be intruding onto the trail. In total, this will be a 4 mile hike and does require stamina and balance for the last section. The climb is worth it with the views looking down on Cliff Lake and Cedar Basin.

Wear closed toe shoes, long pants, bring 40 ounces of water, lunch and walking poles are recommended. **No dogs please.** For those coming from Redding, we will meet at Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 8 am to carpool or caravan to the trailhead. For those in Mt. Shasta we will make a quick stop at Murphy's Market off Lake Blvd. to meet at 9 am and carpool/caravan to the trailhead. We strongly encourage carpooling to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Remember to bring gas money to help your ride cover expenses. **To reserve a space, you must have signed the CNPS waiver [HERE](#) and email David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com to be put on the list.** Limited to 15 people.



Pitcher plants that we may find during the hike! Image by Amberly Clark

Conservation Brief Reports

By David Ledger

Huge USFS logging and brush clearing from Lakehead to Whiskeytown

This [proposal](#) will have logging and forest treatments on 2,538 acres along ridges and roads of the Shasta Trinity Divide from Lakehead to the Whiskeytown NRA using a Categorical Exemption (CE). The CE is the least transparent environmental review allowed, and this enabled only two weeks' notice for public comment.

The fuel breaks will remove 60 to 70% of forest canopy and shrubs in areas of Northern Spotted Owl habitat, 68 acres of roadless areas, and 589 acres along roads 300 feet wide.

No biological surveys or assessments, riparian area mapping or even use the [California Natural Diversity Database](#) to determine protected species.

Among just some of the many rare and sensitive plants in the area are: Shasta Snow-Wreath (*Neviusia cliffonii*), Damnation Pass Phacelia (*Phacelia damnationensis*), Trinity River Jewelflower (*Streptanthus oblancheolatus*), Trinity Monkeyflower (*Erythranthe trinitiensis*), California Lady's-Slipper (*Cypripedium californicum*) and Cobra Lily (*Darlingtonia californica*).

The Shasta Chapter signed on to a comment letter written by the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) of Arcata, CA opposing this poorly researched and environmentally destructive project. Other concerns cited were watershed, riparian and water supply issues as well as failure to include other threatened species that could occur in the project area.

This clearing is not being done in areas to protect homes, it is primarily in remote areas and is in large part a logging operation without the normal protection, limited though it may be, of Timber Harvest Plans. Furthermore, these firebreaks will not stop wind driven fires as was learned from the Carr Fire, where embers were igniting spot fires 2 miles ahead of the fire front, or the Camp Fire, where embers driven by high winds were blowing 5 miles ahead of the fire. Fire reduction efforts can be beneficial to protect around homes and communities, but not far from them as this project. Inevitably, these logging operations will not stop any high wind fires and could increase fire risk as highly flammable invasive weeds grow back in abundance, and now with the current and future reductions in funding for federal firefighting budgets. This area has had trees and shrubs growing for hundreds of years. The USFS should not be rushing this project without any biological review or reasonable time for public comment.

A “Tree Conservation Plan” that Removes 600 Trees

A new subdivision of 13+ acres in Redding on Shasta View Drive near Rancho Road called Sterling Springs has a “Tree Conservation Plan” that will clearcut about 600 trees and preserve only 3 trees. Most of the trees are crowded together, but there are more than a few huge blue oaks that could be preserved. Unfortunately in Redding, a Tree City USA, developer profits come first and the stated reason for removing trees is “keeping housing affordable, providing jobs or growing the tax base.” I’ve yet to hear of a developer not raising the price of their new homes in a subdivision when the housing market booms.

This project is only in the preliminary stage with many agency comments to come in before final plans are laid. The City could require mitigation and preserving the larger healthy oaks. This was done in subdivisions to the west where oak trees were incorporated into the neighborhood although an oak woodland was removed. The Planning Department did require a one to one replacement ratio for oak trees removed at the new Holiday Market on Hartnell Avenue, although I’ve yet to see any replacement trees planted other than the standard mandatory tree planting in the parking lot.

The Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society and the Shasta Group of Sierra Club will be sending comment letters urging adequate mitigation of the lost oak and gray pine trees removed and preserving the larger oak trees and we hope other groups will do the same.



Blue oak trees on the project site.

A Victory for the Environment in Anderson

A vague proposal for a for-profit motorcycle training center in Anderson River Park was recently withdrawn following significant objections from citizens of Anderson and the surrounding area. The Hawk Mazzotta Moto Camp would have been located in the natural areas of the park at the far south end which is heavily forested with riparian area trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. It is a popular area for people to bird watch, hike, walk their dogs, ride horses or just enjoy nature in a quiet area cooled by the shade of trees and the Sacramento River.

The same business was turned down for a Use Permit in Tehama County in 2025 following complaints from many neighbors because of the noise, dirt and traffic and years of operating without a permit. Congratulations to the Tehama County Planning Commission for turning down the recommendations of the Planning Department which recommended approval and said there were no environmental issues to be concerned with. Traffic, air pollution, noise and

effects on a riparian area are all issues that must be considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The City of Anderson held two public meetings on the motorcycle business and apparently the opposition was overwhelming and wisely, the City decided not to go further with their proposal. Thank you to the City of Anderson and City Manager Joey Forseth for listening to the area residents and getting their input before moving forward.

Special kudos go to Amberly Rudolph and Kathy Grissom who led the charge on this. They developed a poster, started an online petition, walked the park to get people to sign the petition as well as tabled at the Anderson Safeway. Shasta Birding Society sent out a mass email in opposition, and the Sierra Club sent a letter of opposition to the City Manager and City Council. Others not mentioned, I'm sure let their opposition be known.



Proposed site of Anderson motorcycle park. Image by David Ledger

Volunteers Needed!

As the reorganization of the Sierra Club gets moving, we need volunteers. Do you have a few hours you can volunteer each month? Fill out this [google form](#) or contact sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com if interested or have any questions.

Steering Committee: This committee meets monthly and recommends and approves projects for the Shasta Group.

Conservation Committee: This committee would meet as needed and largely virtually or through emails to discuss conservation issues the Shasta Group should address.

Programs: This position would involve recruiting public speakers for meetings.

Publicity: This position would involve notifying local media, local groups and individuals about Sierra Club Activities.

Executive Committee: This is the governing body of the Shasta Group. It involves attending a monthly meeting and making decisions on the direction and activities of the group. We want those dedicated to protecting our local environment.

Follow us on our social media pages!

Instagram: [@sierraclub.shastagroup](#)

Facebook: Sierra Club Shasta Group

Email: sieraclub.shasta@gmail.com

Website: www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta