



COLUSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1 | SEPTEMBER, 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome.....Pg. 1

About the
CCRCD.....Pg. 2

Colusa Basin Watershed
Management Plan .Pg. 3

Do you need
Assistance?Pg. 3

The Future of the Irrigated
Lands Regulatory
Program.....Pg. 4, 5

CCRCD Projects....Pg. 6

ULSIA Fuels Treatment
ProjectPg. 7

HedgerowsPg. 8

Integrated Regional Water
Management.....Pg. 9

NSV IRWMP
Workshops.....Pg. 10

Upcoming
MeetingsPg. 11

Publications of
Interest.....Pg. 12

Colusa County
GrownPg. 13

Opportunities for
Smaller Acreage
LandownersPg. 13

Colusa County
GPU Adopted.....Pg. 14

WELCOME *by Mary Fahey, Watershed Coordinator/Projects Manager*

Sunflowers were an abundant crop in Colusa County this summer. It seemed as though blooming fields of sunflowers were planted around every corner in the county. They certainly create an amazing display when the fields are in full bloom. Now, as we head into September, the cheerful yellow seed heads have faded to brown and bent towards the ground, awaiting harvest.

If you miss seeing the summer sunflowers, spring wildflowers, and other seasonal highlights, we have a new resource for you. The Colusa County Resource Conservation District has a new facebook page, where we post photographs, and share information on our programs and projects, local conservation news, news from our partner organizations, and much, much more. If you frequent facebook, we encourage you to “like” our page. Landowners, land managers, homeowners and our partner organizations will all find something of value on our page, including some pretty neat photographs. You can search for the Colusa County Resource Conservation District on facebook, or find our facebook page here: [CCRCD facebook page](#)



Photo: Jack Alderson, NRCS

MISSION

The mission of the CCRCD is to assist local landowners to protect, conserve and restore natural resources through information, education, and access to technical assistance programs. In doing so the CCRCD will always take measures to protect the individual landowner's rights and fully support "from the ground up" conservation planning that promotes local, social, and economic sustainability through wise land use.

(Adopted: March 21, 2002)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Dee Garr, President
Tom Hickok, Vice President
Robert Alvernaz, Director
Ben Felt, Director
Kim Gallagher, Director
Beth Nall, Director
Gilbert Ramos, Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Sarah Reynolds

STAFF

Patti Turner, Executive Officer
Mary Fahey, Watershed Coordinator/
Projects Manager

CONTACT US

Colusa County RCD
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite B
Colusa, California 95932
Phone: 530.458.2931, ext. 3
Fax: 530.458.3683
info@colusarcd.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.colusarcd.org

ABOUT THE COLUSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCD)

The CCRCD focuses their efforts on:

- Promoting resource management and conservation practices that will improve the health of Colusa County Watersheds
- Supporting measures that provide for the best use of the land while sustaining our natural resources and local economy
- Providing conservation education to ensure Colusa County's natural resources will be valued and protected in the future

CCRCD's Natural Resource Priorities:

- Identify natural resources issues and concerns within all Colusa County Watersheds
- Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Work with all agencies of authority to reduce and control flooding
- Improve water quality and development
- Promote conservation practices for municipal, industrial and residential use
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and removal of non-native invasive species
- Improve Rangeland and Forest Resources
- Improve and Conserve wildlife and fishery habitat
- Reduce roadside pollution
- Protect agricultural viability
- Promote conservation education
- Promote director and staff development

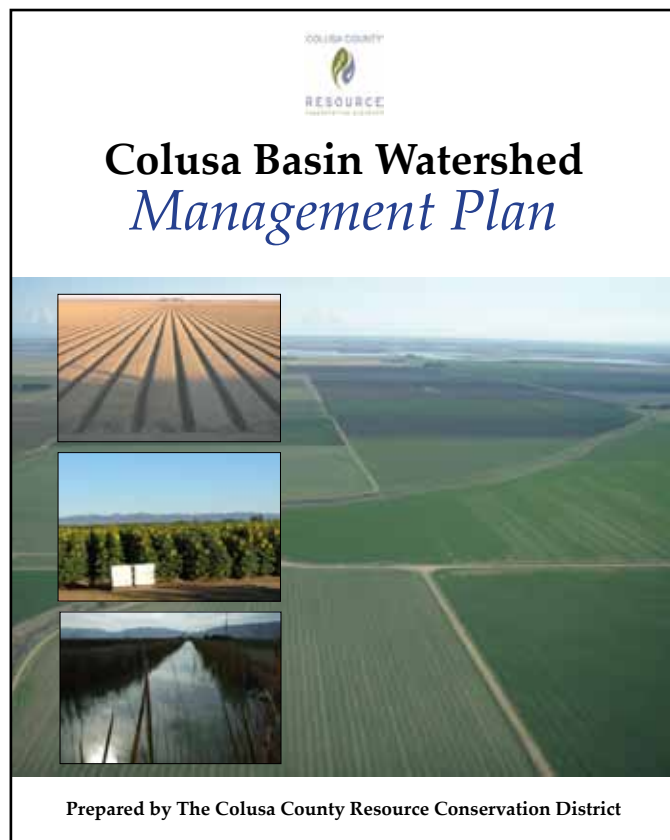


Photo: Mary Fahey

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The first draft of the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan was released for review and comment in July. Comments were received and are currently being integrated into the Plan. A second draft will be released in September for review and comments will again be welcomed and integrated into the Plan. This is a stakeholder-driven document, so local feedback is essential to Plan development. The following eight goals are being addressed in the Management Plan:

1. Protect, maintain and improve water quality
2. Promote activities to ensure a dependable water supply for current and future needs
3. Preserve agricultural land and open space
4. Manage and reduce invasive plant populations
5. Reduce destructive flooding
6. Reduce soil erosion
7. Preserve and enhance native habitat
8. Address unknown future affects of climate change



If you would like to be added to the list of stakeholders participating in the review process, please contact the Colusa Basin Watershed Coordinator, Mary Fahey at: 530.458.2931 X117, or email: mary.fahey@ca.nacdnet.net. You can also view the draft sections of the Plan on the CCRCD website at www.colusarc.org, on the Projects page.

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH A NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERN?

When the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan is completed at the end of 2012, the Colusa County Resource Conservation District will begin work on projects to address the goals and objectives of the Plan. We are planning for new projects now. Do you have a natural resource issue on your land that you would like to see addressed, but need help? The CCRCD is currently creating a database of potential projects and seeking funding opportunities for implementation. **Please let us know if we can assist you, or if you would like more information:** 530.458.2931 X3 or email: mary.fahey@ca.nacdnet.net

THE FUTURE OF THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

By Bruce Houdesheldt, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and Northern California Water Association

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board adopted an initial program to regulate non-point source discharges from irrigated agricultural land a decade ago. At that time, the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge adopted by the Regional Water Board only dealt with surface water quality.

In March 2006, the Regional Water Board took the first major step towards describing the existing regulatory setting, surface and groundwater conditions, and management practices within the Central Valley Region. This served as a foundation to develop alternatives for a long-term water quality regulatory program to address discharges from irrigated agriculture which focused on both surface water and groundwater. Seven (7) workshops were held throughout the Central Valley to introduce, describe and summarize the Draft Existing Conditions Report, receive initial feedback from the public, and explain the process to provide written public review and comments.

In 2008 the Regional Water Board began to develop a range of alternatives for the “Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP),” These alternatives were developed by engaging agricultural stakeholders in a series of workshops and scoping sessions. Recommendations from this scoping process were sent to the Board in 2010. In April 2011 the Regional Board adopted the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and in June 2011 adopted a Short-Term Renewal of the Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, Order R5-2006-0053, to allow time for the Board to develop and approve seven (7) to ten (10) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for uniquely different agricultural areas within the Central Valley which included the Sacramento Valley.

The first WDR was released for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed in April 2012. The Draft WDR for the Sacramento Valley is expected by the end of 2012 or early in 2013. The Board’s schedule to release the WDR for the other areas of the Central Valley are available [here](#).

Below is a summary of each element of the Long Term ILRP.

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

The WDR, after approval by the Regional Board, will list the requirements and reports of both the third-party entity (e.g. Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition) and members enrolled in the Coalition. These requirements may include Farm Evaluation, Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, and Nitrogen Budget templates. These templates will be developed and administered by the Coalition after approval by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officer. The WDR establishes milestones for when and where the templates must be provided to Coalition members and deadlines for those templates to be completed and returned to the Coalition.

Information Sheet (Attachment A)

This document is watershed specific. It describes the land use, geology, existing surface water quality conditions and efforts to implement water quality management plans. It also summarizes past groundwater quality monitoring by numerous state and federal agencies. They include the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and California *continued next page*

THE FUTURE OF THE IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

continued from page 4

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Public Health (DPH), and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory . A map of the watershed showing DPR Groundwater Protection Areas and Hydrogeologically Vulnerable areas in the specific watershed is also included. This document will provide information and justification for where and how the WDR is administered. Not all areas within a watershed will require the same intensity of implementation.

Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) (Attachment B)

The MRP, is an attachment to the WDR that can be modified by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer based upon input from the Coalition. It sets out the surface and groundwater quality monitoring requirements and strategy the Coalition will employ on behalf of members.

For surface water the MRP details three types of monitoring required – assessment, core and management plan monitoring; the location of monitoring sites; monitoring parameters to be analyzed; toxicity testing requirements; and the frequency of monitoring. This is very similar to the surface water quality monitoring that has been conducted over the past decade.

For groundwater quality monitoring, a key element is for the Coalition to develop and submit a Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR) within 15 months after the Regional Board approves the WDR. Groundwater vulnerability will be detailed in the report, as well as the two types of groundwater quality monitoring – trend (baseline) and representative (assessment of efforts by irrigated land owners to protect and improve water quality). A workplan based on the findings of the GAR will be submitted within two (2) years of Executive Officer approving the Coalition as the entity to represent members.

The MRP will also includes technical reporting requirements, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and most importantly the numeric water quality objectives previously established by the Board that are specific to the Sacramento River Basin.

Management Plan Requirements (Appendix MRP-1)

As the title indicates this document details the elements required for surface and groundwater quality management plans. This includes source identification evaluation requirements, approvals of management plans and the process for determining when implementation of the management plan is complete. Not all areas within a watershed will require implementation of management plans, only those areas where water quality objectives are not being achieved.

The Regional Board's website offers other documents associated with the WDR:

- Monitoring Well Installation/Sampling Plan and Completion Report – Appendix MRP-2
- CEQA Mitigation Requirements – Attachment C
- Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations- Attachment D
- Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations- Attachment E

A FEW OF CCRCD'S PROJECTS

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED COORDINATOR

This project includes completing a stakeholder-driven Watershed Management Plan, working on identifying and mapping invasive weed populations, creating a watershed education program for local youth and conducting a great deal of natural resources outreach and education throughout the watershed.

COLUSA COUNTY GROWN

This marketing campaign will showcase Colusa County agricultural producers that sell their products directly to the consumer. The project will also focus on nutrition education, highlighting the benefits of eating fresh, local and seasonal produce. This project features development of an eye-catching logo and a suite of marketing and educational materials to promote local producers and their products. As of late August, the logo artwork has just about been completed and we will begin development of the marketing materials.

BEAR CREEK RANCH MERCURY REDUCTION PLANNING

The CCRCD's Bear Creek Mercury Reduction Planning Project will provide the necessary steps to create shovel-ready projects in Bear Creek and Cache Creek. The project will complete all steps necessary to support future implementation projects to reduce mercury-enriched sediments associated with previously identified depositional zones on the Bear Creek Ranch. Supporting documents completed during the process will include; geomorphic site characterization & implementation feasibility assessments, remediation design & engineering, and permitting documentation. This project will wrap up in September.

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

CCRCD staff have been assisting our local government by representing Colusa County through participation in the Westside and Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts. Goals and Objectives have been adopted for each planning effort and the groups are working on accepting and ranking projects. See [page 9](#) for more information.

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER ELEVATION MONITORING (CASGEM)

CCRCD staff have been assisting County government by taking on the responsibilities associated with the CASGEM program, including completing the County Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

For more information on our projects, please visit our website at www.colusarc.org



Native Plant Garden in front of the CCRCD office building. Photo: Mary Fahey

UPPER LITTLE STONY INHOLDER'S ALLIANCE FUELS TREATMENT PROJECT

By Patti Turner, CCRCD Executive Officer

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) is pleased to announce the undertaking of a new project to address hazardous fuel loads on private lands within the Mendocino National Forest. The Upper Little Stony Inholder's Alliance (ULSIA) Fuels Treatment project is funded through a Cooperative Agreement between the CCRCD and the USDA, Forest Service. The area targeted for treatment is highly volatile to catastrophic wildfire and was impacted recently by the Mill Fire. The project will include prescribed burning, shaded fuel breaks and thinning practices to approximately 700 acres of private lands. These activities are necessary to reduce the tremendous amount of forest ground and ladder fuels that have developed over the last few decades. Measures to manage fuel loads in the forest are imperative to lessen the destruction caused by wildfires to both private and public lands. The last fuel treatment in the area occurred in 2005 funded by a grant through the 2002 National Fire Plan-Community Protection Program also awarded to the CCRCD.

The first step of the project will be for the CCRCD to apply and receive Title III funding from Colusa County to complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. The CCRCD will hire an outside contractor to facilitate the completion of the necessary CEQA documents. Implementation will begin when the CEQA process is completed and approved by the Forest Service. Fuels treatment will include the following measures:

- Understory prescribed burn will take place on approximately 520 acres owned by 14 private Inholders. The Forest Service will provide prescribed burning on the private lands along with their treatment scheduled for the surrounding public lands.
- Shaded fuel breaks will be constructed on predominant ridges for a total of approximately 1 ½ miles along with follow up maintenance measures.
- Understory thinning will be implemented on at least 130 acres.
- Structure protection will take place on 10 properties, totalling 30 acres. The practices applied will include thinning, clearing, chipping and pile burning.

The CCRCD will provide outreach to keep the public informed on the project's progress and promote the partnership between the Forest Service, ULSIA, and the CCRCD. The project will include pre and post-treatment tours of the area and other outreach to highlight the partnership between the Forest Service and local landowners and promote the need for ongoing fuels management in and adjacent to our National Forests.



*2012 Mill Fire, fire break on ridge near private inholdings
Photo: Doug Turner*

THE MANY USES OF HEDGEROWS

PART 1: ESTABLISHING A USEFUL HEDGEROW

by: Wendy Krehbiel, NRCS

California produces over eleven billion dollars in crops that require pollination. In recent years, the European Honeybee population has drastically declined, increasing the need to establish habitat for native pollinators such as native bees, wasps, and flies. These natives provide pollination for over a third of California's crop production. One way to attract native pollinators and beneficial insects to your crop is to plant a hedgerow.

Hedgerows typically consist of rows of trees and shrubs together with perennial grasses, forbs, rushes, and sedges. They are used to provide habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, and other wildlife such as song birds and pheasants. They are sometimes also used as a windbreak, to control dust or chemical spray drift, or simply for aesthetics.

Although the traditional hedgerow is a linear planting, it can also be planted in clumps to accommodate rarely used or unused portions of the field, such as corners and/or borders, and in areas around buildings and other structures. These areas should have access to irrigation as the hedgerow will need to be irrigated for the first three years. A drip line or micro sprinkler works well.

These sites should have well drained soil, or be able to accommodate a mound or berm. Plants should be spaced five to fifteen feet apart depending on the species. Planting double rows or clumping helps establish a good wildlife shelter. If planting a hedgerow targeted for pollinators, make sure to plant enough different species so that the hedgerow will be in bloom throughout the year.

Pre-emergent herbicides are very useful in helping with weed control if planting plugs or container plants. A more common method is to irrigate the planting site, allow weeds to germinate, and then spray with a broad range herbicide. Weeds need to be controlled until the hedgerow is fully established. Sowing flowers or

native grasses in and around the plantings is a good way to control weeds and draw in native bees and beneficials in a short amount of time.

The optimum time to plant a hedgerow using trees, shrubs, or plugs is December thru January, at which time the plants are dormant. If using seed, plant in late October thru early November before the heavy rains.

For more information on planning a hedge and recommended species in this area, please visit the Resource Conservation District (RCD) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office in Colusa, California. Or you can call us at (530) 458-2931 ex 3.

Information provided by: Jack Alderson, Cluster Engineer, USDA~NRCS, Colusa Service Center; Written by: Wendy Krehbiel, Soil Conservationist, USDA~NRCS, Colusa Service Center



Above: a steep hillside planted with a variety of native shrubs to provide habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects and wildlife; Below: native Coyotebrush attracts a wide variety of pollinators

NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Participating Counties in the North Sacramento Valley IRWMP:

Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Sutter, Tehama, Shasta

The goals and objectives for the Northern Sacramento Valley IRWM Plan were adopted by the Board at their June 4th meeting. Project submittals were accepted through August 9, and a list of proposed projects can be found on the NSV IRWMP website: www.nsvwaterplan.org.

A second round of public outreach meetings are planned for September 26 and 27 in the communities of Redding, Yuba City and Chico. Please see [page 10](#) for more information.

WESTSIDE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Participating Partners:

- Lake County Watershed Protection District
- Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Solano County Water Agency
- Water Resources Association of Yolo County and its 11 member agencies
- Colusa County Resource Conservation District

The CCRCDC continues to represent the Bear Valley portion of Colusa County in the Westside Integrated Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process. The most recent activities have included a call for proposals. This task gave stakeholders the opportunity to submit project concepts to be included in the planning document. Projects identified in the Westside IRWMP will be eligible for future implementation funding provided through the Department of Water Resources. The CCRCDC submitted a project concept to address the Tamarisk infestation in the Bear Valley Watershed. The next public meetings for the Westside IRWMP will take place on September 18th in Vacaville and September 20th in Clearlake. All Stakeholders are encouraged to attend. For more information about these meetings or the Westside IRWMP in general go to <http://www.westsideirwm.com>

What is Integrated Regional Water Management?

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries; involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups; and attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions. The IRWM grant program is administered by the California Department of Water Resources. For more information, visit DWR's website at:

www.ca.water.gov/irwm

You're Invited to Participate!



Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Round 2 Public Outreach Workshops

In September 2012 we will conduct our Round Two (2) public outreach workshops. All three September workshops will be identical. You are encouraged to attend at the most convenient time and location.

**Wednesday, September 26th—
Redding**, 9 to 11 am at the Redding Veterans Memorial Hall, 1605 Yuba Street

**Wednesday, September 26th—
Yuba City**, 4 to 6 pm at the Sutter County Veterans Hall, 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle

**Thursday, September 27th—
Chico**, 4 to 6 pm at the Chico City Council Chambers, 411 Main Street

Please check the website for more information:
www.nsvwaterplan.org

Please join us to get an update on the NSV IRWM Board's progress on preparing our NSV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (the Plan) and a summary of the projects and programs submitted by project proponents for possible inclusion in the Plan.

We are seeking your feedback on how projects will be included, prioritized and integrated into the Plan. Projects that have been submitted have been guided by the IRWM Board's adopted Goals and Objectives (available on the website). All decisions will be made by the IRWM Board when it adopts the Plan in September 2013.

The six counties of the Northern Sacramento Valley (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter and Tehama) are working together on an integrated regional plan to address water-related issues such as water supply reliability; flood protection and planning; water quality protection and enhancement; watershed protection and management; integrated regional water management sustainability; and public education and information dissemination. The counties have committed to developing a valley-wide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan by September 2013.

For more information, please visit www.nsvwaterplan.org or contact any of the 6 County TAC Representatives listed below:

Vickie Newlin, Butte County
vnewlin@buttecounty.net
530-538-2179

Lester Messina, Glenn County
wateradv@countyofglenn.net
530-934-6501

Gary Antone, Tehama County
gantone@tcpw.ca.gov
530-385-1462

Daniel Peterson, Sutter County
dwpeterson@co.sutter.ca.us
530-822-7450

Eric Wedemeyer, Shasta County
ewedemeyer@co.shasta.ca.us
530-225-5661

Mary Fahey, Colusa County
mary.fahey@ca.usda.gov
530-458-2931 x117

UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Colusa County RCD Board Meetings

CCRCD Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at the Colusa Industrial Park conference room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932 at 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 5, 2012

For more information, visit our website: www.colusarc.org

Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (NSV IRWMP)

Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (open to the public):

September 20, 2012

Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall

Board Meetings (open to the public):

September 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Monday Afternoon Club, Willows

Public Workshops will be held September 26 and 27, 2012. See [page 10](#) for more information

For more information visit the NSV IRWMP website: www.nsvwaterplan.org

Westside Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

Public meeting: September 18, 2012 from 2-5 PM at the Vacaville Public Library

Public meeting: September 20, 2012 from 2-5 PM at the Clearlake City Council Chambers

For more information, visit their website: www.westsideirwm.com

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GRASSLANDS ASSOCIATION WORKSHOPS

October 25, 2012 - Grassland Restoration Field Practices

Fall is the time to plant native grasslands! This field course offers an opportunity to learn by doing. Instructors will demonstrate techniques and work alongside attendees addressing site preparation, planting, and establishment.

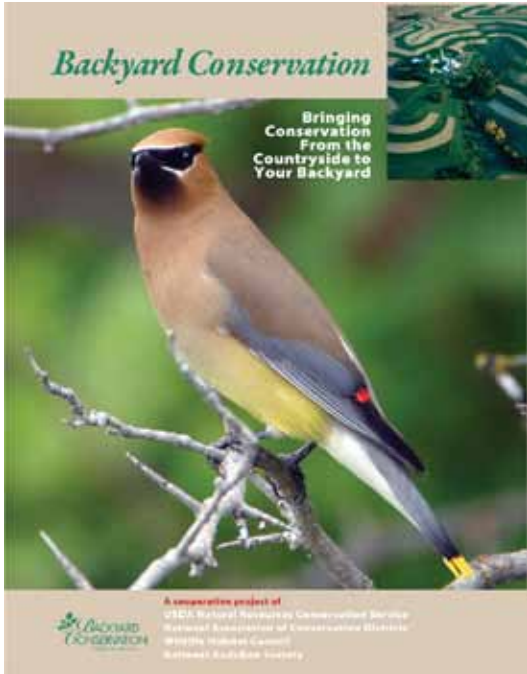
September 25-27: Improving Grassland Health & Profitability--A Workshop for Ranchers

The California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA), with assistance and cosponsorship from the Mendocino County RCD, NRCS, and Farm Bureau, is pleased to offer a 3-day grazing workshop to help ranchers improve land health, productivity, and profitability. Participants will learn how to plan and implement a successful grazing plan that will improve the health and productivity of grazed land, while keeping costs low and providing good animal performance.

For more information, see the website: www.cnga.org



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

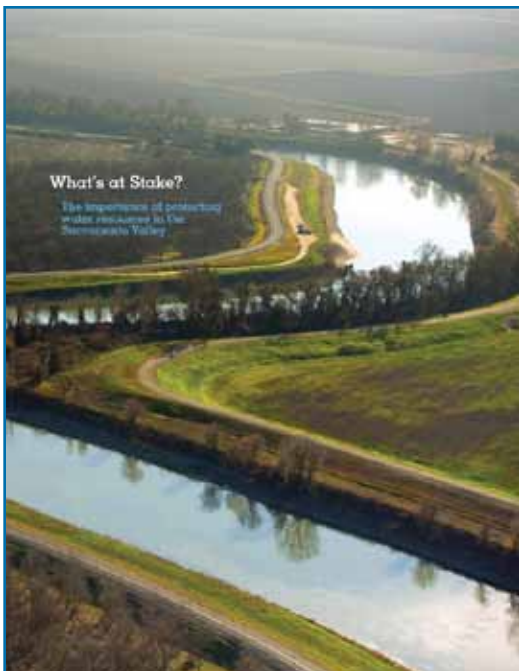


Backyard Conservation

A cooperative project of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, Wildlife Habitat Council, and National Audubon Society

This publication shows you how conservation practices that help conserve and improve natural resources on agricultural land across the country can be adapted for use around your home. These practices help the environment and can make your yard more attractive and enjoyable. Most backyard conservation practices are easy to use. America’s farmers and ranchers have been using these practices successfully for decades.

You can pick up a copy of this publication in our office, or download a pdf version [here](#)



“What’s at Stake?”

A recent publication produced by the Northern California Water Association, Ducks Unlimited, and the California Rice Commission talks about the importance of protecting water resources in the Sacramento Valley. You can download a pdf version [here](#).

COLUSA COUNTY GROWN - UPDATE

Our Colusa County Grown project continues to be very popular with local residents. Here is the latest update:

Producers

We currently have 25 participating producers in our database, representing a wide variety of products including: peaches, apricots, almonds, pecans, eggs, honey, mixed fruit and vegetables, grass fed beef, rice, lavender and more.

Presentation to Colusa Rotary

Our Projects Manager recently gave a presentation on Colusa County Grown to the Colusa Rotary Club. Rotary members asked a lot of great questions during the presentation.

Logo

The Colusa County Grown logo is almost completed. We just need to do a few more tweaks to get the logo to the print-ready stage.

Marketing materials

Once the logo is completed, we will begin designing our marketing materials, including posters, signs, flyers, postcards, a local food guide and the Colusa County Grown website.

Surveys

We are conducting consumer surveys to gather baseline information that will help us measure our success with this project. The survey is very short and asks questions regarding consumer knowledge and willingness to shop locally from producers. If you are a Colusa County resident, please take the time to fill out our survey. The information you provide is very important to this project. You can access the survey on Survey Monkey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YJSX8T>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALLER ACREAGE LANDOWNERS

As part of a Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colusa County, the CCRCD Projects Manager is assisting with outreach to smaller acreage landowners (100 acres or less). Many small acreage landowners are unaware of the valuable programs and technical assistance that NRCS provides. We feel that there are tremendous opportunities to help with natural resource issues such as noxious weed eradication, water use efficiency, pasture management, soil health, integrated pest management and more on these smaller acreage parcels. Typically, smaller acreages have a more diversified system - homestead, crops, gardens, pastures - than do larger acreages. This diversification requires a whole-system approach to ensure the health of the land. Creating a whole farm Conservation Plan is an excellent way for a landowner to get a good overview of their current conditions, and work with NRCS staff to create a roadmap to achieving their ultimate goals for their land, while ensuring a healthy and productive system.

NRCS provides free technical advice to landowners, and opportunities for producers to participate in cost share programs funded through the Farm Bill. For more information, please contact:

- Mary Fahey, CCRCD Projects Manager: 530.458.2931 X117; email: mary.fahey@ca.nacdnet.net

- Wendy Krehbiel, Soil Conservationist, USDA-NRCS: 530.458.2931 X114; email: wendy.krehbiel@ca.usda.gov

COLUSA COUNTY 2030 GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED

At their July 31, 2012 meeting, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2030 Colusa County General Plan with a unanimous vote. There was no public comment and very little discussion among board members before adoption of the Plan. Congratulations to our County Planning and Building Department, County Planning Commission, County Board of Supervisors, the GPU Steering Committee and the Consultant team! For more information and to view the Plan, visit the Colusa County GPU website here: countyofcolusageneralplan.org



Thanks for Reading!