



BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

www.battle-creek.net

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SEPT. 15, 2010: BCWC ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendars for the Conservancy's Annual Meeting: September 15th

The Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy Board invites you to attend this year's annual meeting to learn what the BCWC has been doing and what's been happening with regards to the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, the Manton Fire Safe Council, and other projects that benefit our watershed. We're pleased to say that, after years of planning, the Restoration Project is now underway. Below you will find a brief synopsis of the Project & other restoration projects in our watershed that the BCWC has been involved in as well. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the annual meeting details and agenda.

Grants, Projects and Accomplishments

Department of Conservation Coordinator's Grant:

The Conservancy could not function without some paid staff to help the voluntary BCWC Board conduct Conservancy business. Last year, we received another 3-year grant from the California Department of Conservation that supports the Watershed Coordinator, Sharon Paquin-Gilmore, and an Assistant Watershed Coordinator, Kathy Bishop. Sharon coordinates Conservancy activities, while Kathy is responsible for the BCWC web site as well as assisting in Conservancy activities. Some of the projects that this grant has helped to support are the development of the Manton Fire Safe Council and, under its auspices, a chipper program with PG&E and an agreement with Red Cross to disperse Manton Fire Funds for a variety of fire-safe & disaster preparedness activities. In spite of a 6-month set back from December 2008 to June 2009, when as a result of the State of California's budget crisis, the DOC grant, funded by State bonds was "frozen", Conservancy activities have resumed and the grant tasks are being implemented and completed. However, we have been notified that unless and until the State sells more bonds, we are guaranteed funding only through December of this year. Needless to say we are hoping that the State is able to sell more bonds soon. On the bright side, the DOC has just issued a Request for Proposal for a DOC 2010 Watershed Coordinator Grant.

Metropolitan Water District Grant:

Much of the Conservancy Board's oversight deals with the salmon and steelhead restoration project. As much of this work is technical in nature, the Board was pleased to receive ongoing financial assistance from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to fund the retention of the Conservancy's Technical Advisor, Terraqua, Inc. The combined expertise of Mike Ward and Steve

Tussing, both fisheries biologists who work for Terraqua, have been invaluable to the Board regarding technical issues and decisions connected to the Restoration Project and Coleman National Fish Hatchery. They have represented the Conservancy at key meetings and events, such as the Coleman National Fish Hatchery Adaptive Management Team meetings, and they have been responsible for the development of a Stream Monitoring Plan. They also represent the Conservancy's interests at the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group meetings and other agency meetings that discuss the management of streams and fish in our watershed. The MWD grant also helps to support Paquin-Gilmore's role as Coordinator; she serves as the Chairperson of the GBCWWG and is the liaison between the Working Group and the BCWC Board. MWD is interested in helping the Conservancy because it sees the participation and support of local watershed residents as critical to the success of salmon restoration in Battle Creek. MWD has supported efforts to restore Battle Creek fisheries for nearly 15 years, beginning with funding the first engineering study to evaluate screen and ladder alternatives for PG&E's Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project. MWD's continued interest in Battle Creek restoration is based on the belief that successfully restoring threatened and endangered fish in Battle Creek could help alleviate fishery regulatory measures, which are currently diminishing the reliability of water supplies MWD receives from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

BCWC Science Program Summary:

Prepared by: Steve Tussing, Terraqua

The Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy's (BCWC) Science Program provides support for the achievement of BCWC goals by applying sound scientific principals and methods to resource management topics. The Science Program regularly provides technical assistance to the BCWC in resource management forums that pertain to the greater Battle Creek Watershed and the Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. The Science Program also develops collaborative projects with other public and private watershed partners to improve the overall condition of the watershed and reduce potential threats to ecological habitats.

Over the past year the Science Program has collaborated with agency and resource conservation district partners to advance both wildfire planning and the implementation of wildfire management projects. Wildfire management projects reduce the risk of wildfire to structures and property, and reduce the risk that catastrophic wildfires could have on watershed processes and fish and wildlife habitats. Additionally, the Science Program has collaborated

with agency partners towards the development of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery Adaptive Management Plan.

In the coming year, the Science Program will continue to apply the best available science to the adaptive management of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery to insure that hatchery operations do not have adverse effects on the restoration of self-sustaining populations of wild salmon and steelhead within Battle Creek. The Science Program is also pursuing funding opportunities for the implementation of the Stream Condition Monitoring Plan, expanding wildfire management planning beyond the wildland-urban interface, and assessing how climate may influence water temperatures and fish habitat in the longer term.



Manzanita Creek cascade
in the headwaters of Battle Creek

Battle Creek Restoration Project Update:

Prepared by: Mary Marshall, USBR

The Battle Creek Restoration Project (Restoration Project) will be among the largest cold-water anadromous fish restoration efforts in North America, restoring approximately 42 miles of habitat in Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles in tributaries of Battle Creek. Battle Creek offers an extraordinary restoration opportunity because of its geology, hydrology, and habitat suitability for threatened and endangered Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout.

The Restoration Project is a cooperative partnership

among the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). In addition, the Restoration Project has participation and contributions from the public, landowners, the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy, the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group, CALFED, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, The Nature Conservancy, the Packard Foundation, the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Iron Mountain Mine Trustee Council, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the California Department of Water Resources.

Restoration Project implementation includes modification of facilities at Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project diversion dam sites located on North Fork Battle Creek (North Fork), South Fork Battle Creek (South Fork), and Baldwin Creek in three phases (Phases 1A, 1B & 2). Phase 1A includes installing fish screens and ladders on the North Battle Creek Feeder and Eagle Canyon diversion dams and removing Wildcat diversion dam and appurtenant conveyance systems on the North Fork; installing Eagle Canyon Canal pipeline; and modifying Asbury dam on Baldwin Creek. Two Phase 1A contracts were awarded late 2009, and on-site construction began at the Wildcat, Eagle Canyon and North Battle Creek Feeder sites in April 2010. Wildcat dam is anticipated to be completely removed in August 2010, and installation of fish screens and ladders began at the Eagle Canyon and North Battle Creek Feeder Diversion Dam sites this summer. Phase 1B includes reconstruction of the Inskip Powerhouse tailrace (discharge outlet) and construction of a bypass to Coleman Canal on South Fork Battle Creek. The Phase 1B contract was awarded in June 2010, and on-site construction is anticipated to begin in September 2010. Phase 2 includes installing a fish screen and ladder on Inskip diversion dam, installing a South Powerhouse tailrace connector, and removing Lower Ripley Creek Feeder, Soap Creek Feeder, Coleman and South diversion dams, and appurtenant conveyance systems.

In 1999 Reclamation received \$28 million in Calfed Federal Funds for the Restoration Project. PG&E is contributing to the Restoration Project in the form of foregone energy generation, voluntarily pursuing amendments to the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project's FERC license, and transferring certain water rights to DFG. The Packard Foundation, via The Nature Conservancy, is contributing \$3 million to the overall Restoration Project for adaptive management. DFG is contributing \$26.82 million in State (Proposition 50) Funds, WCB is contributing \$9.98 million in State (Proposition 50) Funds, Caltrans is contributing \$4.45 million in Benicia Bridge Mitigation State Funds and \$1.5 million in Richmond San Rafael Bridge Mitigation State Funds, and the Iron Mountain Mine Trustee Council is contributing \$6.5 million in Iron Mountain Mine Mitigation Federal Funds. Phase 1B of the Restoration Project is being supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Key Dates since 2009 BCWC Annual Meeting:

August 25, 2009: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Issues Phase 1A License Amendment Order

September 1, 2009: Reclamation awards 1st Phase 1A Construction Contract; Removal of Wildcat Dam and appurtenant conveyance systems

October 28, 2009: Reclamation awards 2nd Phase 1A Construction Contract; Placement of Screens and Ladders on Eagle Canyon & North Battle Creek Feeder Diversion Dams

January 26, 2010: PG&E filed Phase 1B License Amendment Application with FERC

April 2010: Phase 1A On-Site Construction Begins

May 21, 2010: FERC Issues Phase 1B License Amendment Order

June 5, 2010: Reclamation Awards Phase 1B Construction Contract; Inskip Powerhouse Bypass and Tailrace Connector

Projected Dates:

September 2010: Phase 1B Construction Begins

2011: Phase 1B Construction Completed

2012: Phase 1A Construction Completed

Note: Phase 2 may be funded by early 2011; Phase 2 construction would then occur between 2012 and 2014

Report on Fuel Break Projects:

Prepared by: Tom McCubbins, Tehama County Resource Conservation District

The TCRCD currently has three fuel break projects that will soon be underway in the Manton-Paynes Creek area. All of these projects were funded through the generous financial support of the California Fire Council. Landowner groups and other agencies are also providing financial and logistical support.

Manton Fuel Break and Chipper Program

This project entails developing fuel breaks along a number of major roads within the Manton urban core and rural areas to the west. Treatments will consist of hand cutting and chipping chaparral fuel to a width of 75' on both sides of the road centerline. Treatment areas will include both the County road right-of-ways and roadside property of willing landowners who sign the Tehama County Resource Conservation District's access permit. Roads to be treated include: Power House Road, Manton School Road, Cedar Ridge Road, Lanes Valley Road, Vianet Lane, and Inskip Road.

Once completed, approximately 16 miles of linear fuel breaks will be created. In addition, project work entails the purchase of a commercial chipper unit to be used in connection with this project and future fuels management efforts. Importantly, once the Manton Fuel Break project is completed, the chipper unit will be provided on a fee-for-service basis for public and private fuels projects. This will not only provide high quality equipment and a skilled opera-

tor at a reasonable rate, it will also help the TCRCD to generate funds for the execution of future fuel breaks and maintenance of those already in place throughout Tehama County.

Paynes Creek Community Fuel Break Project

Like the Manton Fuel Break project, the Paynes Creek Community Fuel Break Project will hand treat and chip roadside fuels utilizing hand crews and the Tehama County RCD's chipper unit. The majority of project work will occur along Plum Creek Road from its intersection with Highway 36 E, through the Paynes Creek community to Lyman Springs. Fuels work will also occur along High Trestle Road. The total length of the overall fuel break is 13 miles.

Ponderosa Way Fuel Break

This project entails thinning of small (6" and under) trees and shrub species in the understory of conifer forests along Ponderosa Way between Bluff Springs and the Tehama/Shasta County line. Thinning and other hand work will be completed using Ishi Camp Hand crews and the TCRCD's chipper unit.

Once complete, these three fuels projects will greatly add to the protection of homes and private timberlands near Manton, They will also add to the protection of public and commercial timberland as well watershed resources within the upper watershed of Battle Creek's North and South Forks.



Late rains provide abundant browse for this August fawn

Annual Meeting Details and Agenda:

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at the Manton School gym with activities starting at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will include dinner as well as Conservancy business:

- Open House and Membership renewal (5-6:00). Please take the time to renew membership or become a member. Membership form is inside the newsletter.
- Meet agency representatives, view posters, ask questions, learn about Restoration Project.
- Dinner (5:30-6:30) Donations welcome.
- Business meeting (Treasurer's report; reports on grants)
- Election of board members; introduction of BCWC Board

Speakers:

- Mary Marshall, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, P.G.&E. representatives, and others will report on Restoration Project status and schedule.
- Steve Tussing, Terraqua, will report on BCWC Science Program plans & research.
- Bart Kriek, Cal Fire battalion chief will speak about Cal Fire fuel project on Hazen Road.
- Tom McCubbins, Tehama County RCD will report on TCRCO fuel breaks in Battle Creek watershed.
- Sharon Paquin-Gilmore, BCWC, will report on the Manton Fire Safe Council's activities.

All in all, the Annual Meeting promises to be an interesting evening; we hope to provide you with lots of valuable information. So please plan on joining us!

Our Web Site

We hope you've taken the opportunity to visit our website, **www.battle-creek.net**. It's set up in such a way that you will find not only interesting information about our watershed, including updates on the Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, but about watershed work in general. We are continually updating our web site, so please visit often.

BCWC Board of Directors 2008-2009

Bruce McCampbell, President
Hank Pritchard, Vice-President
Tom Knight, Secretary
Eunice Howell, Treasurer
Steve Emershy, Director
Jim Livingston, Director
Sue Young, Director

Contacting us...

Let the Board know what you think. If you have a question, suggestion or concern, or would like to help out in one of our activities, contact our Watershed Coordinator, Sharon Paquin-Gilmore at 530-474-3368. Or contact one of the Board members by writing to:

Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy
Post Office Box 606
Manton, CA 96059



Leopard lilies abound beneath Lassen Peak in the many springs feeding Manzanita Creek

Please support the efforts of the **Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy**. Your contribution helps keep us going, especially during these challenging financial times. Thanks.

Name

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City State Zip

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- Family membership: \$15
- Individual membership: \$10
- I am making a larger contribution and would like a receipt
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