SEPT. 9, 2009: BCWC ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendars for the Conservancy’s Annual Meeting: Sept. 9th

The Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy Board invites you to attend this year’s Annual Meeting to learn what the Conservancy Board 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 the Conservancy is undertaking. We’re pleased to say that, in spite of set-backs in State of California grant funding, progress has been made in many areas. Below you will find a brief synopsis of what the Board has accomplished in the last year. 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. Earlier this 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 and disaster preparedness activities. In December 2008, however, the Conservancy received a set-back when, as a result of the State of California’s budget crisis, the DOC grant, funded by State bonds, was “frozen” until California could successfully sell bonds again. This meant that a number of Conservancy activities had to be put on hold until the grant was reinstated as of June 15, 2009. A total of 6 months elapsed in which the Conservancy operated minimally; for instance, no community workshops were implemented, and the BCWC web site was updated only sporadically.

We are happy to say that our web site is now being updated regularly, and we are working on grant tasks, such as this newsletter, the Annual Meeting, and community workshops in the near future. However, we have been notified that unless and until the State sells more bonds, we have only an allotted amount of our grant money to work with, an allotment we have calculated will allow us to work for approximately 6 more months. Needless to say we are hoping that the State is able to sell more bonds soon.

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 Hydropower 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.

Late arrivals in Manton - August, 2009
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 partners to initiate the Coleman National Fish Hatchery Adaptive Management Planning process. Additionally, in an effort to identify and mitigate potential emerging threats to the watershed, the Science Program explored the potential impacts of climate change on Battle Creek stream flows relative to restored populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead.

In the coming year the Science Program will develop wildfire management projects that will 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. The Science Program will also 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.

Battle Creek Restoration Project Update:
Prepared by: Mary Marshall, USBR

Battle Creek 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. A contract solicitation package for the removal of Wildcat Dam, and a contract solicitation package for the installation of screen and ladders on the North Battle Creek Feeder and Eagle Canyon diversion dams have been issued for bid. The construction contract procurement process is in progress, and on-ground construction at the Wildcat site should begin in mid-November 2009, followed by on-ground construction at the North Battle Creek Feeder and Eagle Canyon sites in January 2010. Work at the Eagle Canyon Canal pipeline and Baldwin Creek sites is planned to begin Late-Spring 2010.

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 tailrace would be reconstructed to prevent discharges from entering directly into South Fork Battle Creek by redirecting the discharges to an 84-inch pipeline and then into the Coleman Canal. The bypass would involve constructing a 5,662-foot-long, 340 cubic feet per second, combination of sections of pre-cast reinforced concrete pipeline and open-channel rectangular chute. Work is planned to begin in Spring 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. It is currently unknown when Phase 2 will be begin.

Funding:
Reclamation received $28 million in Calfed Federal Funds in 1999 for the Restoration Project.

In July 2008, via funding agreements, Reclamation received $49.25 million from the following sources to implement Phase 1A of the Restoration Project:

- DFG State (Proposition 50) Funds: $26.82 million
- California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) State (Proposition 50) Funds: $9.98 million
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Benicia Bridge Mitigation State Funds: $4.45 million
- Caltrans Richmond San Rafael Bridge Mitigation State Funds: $1.5 million
- Iron Mountain Mine Mitigation Federal Funds: $6.5 million
In April 2009, Reclamation received $26 million in Recovery Act Funding to implement Phase 1B of the Restoration Project.

Funding for Phase 2 of the Restoration Project has not been determined.

Key Dates since 2008 BCWC Annual Meeting:
December 2008: State Water Board filed Final CEQA Findings and issued Notice of Determination on the EIR, and issued the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for the project.
January 2009: Bureau of Reclamation Signs Record of Decision on the EIS.
April 2009: Recovery Act Funding for Phase 1B Received.

Projected Dates:
Fall 2009: Phase 1A FERC License Amendment Order
Late-Fall 2009: Phase 1A Construction Begins
2010/2011: Phase 1A Construction Completed
Spring 2010: Phase 1B FERC License Amendment Order
Spring 2010: Phase 1B Construction Begins
Late 2010: Phase 1B Construction Completed
(It is currently unknown when Phase 2 will begin.)

Annual Meeting Details and Agenda:
The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 9th at the Manton School gym at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will include our traditional barbeque dinner as well as Conservancy business:
- Membership renewal - Special note: Both new and renewing members will receive a FREE 2010 Battle Creek Watershed Calendar!
- Dinner (serving will begin at 6:00 p.m.)
- Business meeting (Treasurer’s report; reports on grants)
- Election of board members; introduction of BCWC Board
- Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy Stewardship Award
- Reports: Mary Marshall, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will report on Restoration Project status and schedule; Stream Monitoring plan and other Science Program plans & research (Steve Tussing, Terraqua); Manton Fire Safe Council-Red Cross Agreement progress.

Speakers:
- Manton Fire Safe Council members and Red Cross representatives will lead interested people on a tour of the Community Emergency Shelter Unit located at the school, behind the gym.
- David Harp, Battalion Chief/Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention, Cal Fire, and Dan Hebrand, Pre Fire Engineer, Cal Fire, will speak on fire safety; fire regulations for both Shasta and Tehama Counties; new Tehama County ordinances.
- Dana Brent, Manton School teacher, and students, will present their DVD, Be Fire Wise. Funding for this project was provided through the Manton Fire Safe Council and the Red Cross “Manton Fire Project”.

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 but about watershed work in general. We are continually updating our web site, so please visit often.

Resources on the BCWC site include:
- Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project - documents, reports, maps and current project status
- Battle Creek Watershed Assessment Report
- KRIS Battle Creek - Assembles basin-wide data and presents the results of the Battle Creek Watershed Assessment
- Stream Conditioning Monitoring 2006 Analysis for Battle Creek

An ancient white pine in the headwaters
- BCWC projects, grants, history and goals
- BCWC Community Strategies
- LNF restoration projects in the upper Battle Creek watershed
- Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group
- Manton Fire Safe Council - fire defense strategies and links to important fire-safe resources
- Documents and Reports - Compilation of documents pertaining to Battle Creek and the upper Sacramento River Watersheds.
- “Currents” - archive of issues that impact watersheds and fish in northern California
- Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance for Tehama County

**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 96059-0606

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

**Directions to the Annual Meeting**

**From Red Bluff:** South of Red Bluff on Hwy 99, go east on Hwy 36 towards Mt. Lassen & Susanville. Drive approximately 14 miles to Dale’s Station. Turn left at sign to Manton Rd (A-6). Drive 15.5 miles to Manton. Turn right at the Manton Corners/Store onto Forward Road. Proceed approximately ¼ mile to Manton School on the right.

**From Redding:** Take Hwy 44 East towards Shingletown (approximately 30 miles). In Shingletown turn right on Wilson Hill Road (sign says Manton). Drive approximately 10 miles, over bridge that crosses Battle Creek. At the top of the canyon, turn right towards Manton. At Manton Corners/Store, veer to the left. The school is just up Forward Road on the right.

**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

**Documents and Reports**
- Compilation of documents pertaining to Battle Creek and the upper Sacramento River Watersheds.
- “Currents” - archive of issues that impact watersheds and fish in northern California
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**Individual membership:** $10
- I am making a larger contribution and would like a receipt

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

**New**
- I am making a larger contribution and would like a receipt

**Renewal**
- I am making a larger contribution and would like a receipt

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**BCWC Board Meeting at the Pritchard Ranch - July, 2009**

**Upper Blue Lake Canyon - August, 2009**