



THE RIVER EXCHANGE NEWS

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPPER SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED AND THE PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR IT

VOL. 15, NO. 1, SPRING 2011

NEW GRANT FOR IRWMP

Dear Friend,

The River Exchange has been awarded \$590,000 in new grant funding to oversee the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Upper Sacramento Region. The grant is funded by voter-approved Proposition 84, and will be administered by the state Department of Water Resources (DWR).

In our strategic plan survey that was sent out last summer, many of you cited the need for the River Exchange to work cooperatively with others in local watersheds to build relationships and identify critical needs, and then implement sustainable solutions. This new grant helps make it possible for us to accomplish that objective, since IRWMP planning and implementation involves a collaborative effort to identify priorities and manage all aspects of water resources in a region.

Our region includes the watersheds of the Upper Sacramento and McCloud Rivers from their headwaters to Shasta Lake, as well as the Lower Pit River. The region intentionally crosses geographic and political boundaries, bringing together stakeholders of differing perspectives to reach mutually beneficial solutions. The purpose of the plan is to cooperatively develop projects that address the watershed goals and objectives of multiple stakeholders in the region, while maximizing the use of limited financial resources. An additional benefit of this integrated approach is an increased awareness of how changes in the management of one aspect of water resources can affect others, such as water supply and quality.

The two-year planning process will be guided by a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) with representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry, and Native American tribes, among others. It will be the largest and most comprehensive watershed planning effort undertaken in our region to date, and development of the cooperative network necessary to complete the work will provide benefits to our region's watersheds for years to come.

Watch for more news about the IRWMP process as the effort gets underway. We welcome your comments and input as the planning effort moves forward.

With thanks for your support,

Dea Knox
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: APRIL GRAY

The River Exchange is pleased to introduce April Gray, the newest addition to our Board of Directors. April hails from Montana, where she saw the effects of industries' misuse of formerly pristine rivers and streams and the helplessness of individuals who spoke against those practices. She earned her Masters of Public Policy degree from U.C. Berkeley, and after serving as



Economic Development Director for the City of San Ramon, April settled in McCloud with her husband Dana in 2002. She runs her own consulting business, and spends her free time camping, hiking, skiing and volunteering on trail and local economic development projects.

On what inspired her to join the River Exchange, April says, "I am excited to be part of the River Exchange because I feel that the work that this organization does will be key to the protection of our region's natural resources. Using a science-based approach to watershed stewardship and working to develop cooperative relationships among all interested parties, this organization has, to my mind, the right approach."

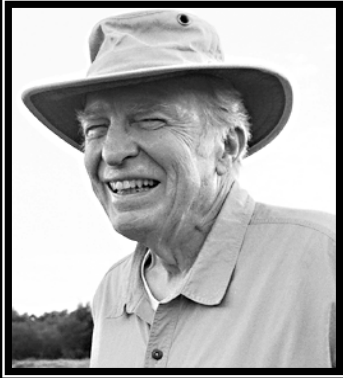
Our Mission Statement: Promoting Healthy Watersheds Through Community Involvement in Stewardship, Restoration and Education



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STATE OF THE WATERSHED

IN MEMORIAM – BILL BERRY



We were sad to hear that William L. Berry, Jr. (known to family and friends as Bill), a former River Exchange Board member and devoted advocate for California's rivers, passed away September 30, 2010, of pancreatic cancer.

Bill's passion for rivers dated back to his childhood, when his father and grandfather taught him to fly fish in the Eastern Sierras. Since the 1960s, Bill and his children had spent countless hours casting flies on the waters of the Upper Sacramento River.

After retiring from a career as an environmental attorney, Bill dedicated himself full-time to various environmental causes, mainly in support of efforts to conserve California's streams and rivers. Following the Cantara Loop disaster, Bill labored for ten years with environmental allies and state regulators to force the railroad to implement safety measures that would prevent future derailments.

Bill served as a River Exchange Board President between 1998 and 2004. Diane Strachan, who served as Executive Director during Bill's years of involvement, has this to say about him, "Bill was instrumental in creating the foundation of a great organization. He was patient and took his time helping others understand challenging concepts and politics. With all his wisdom and knowledge, perhaps the most inspiring characteristic of Bill's was that he was open to learning."

The River Exchange staff and Board of Directors extend their gratitude to Bill and his family for the continual dedication they have shown to the health of our watershed. We also thank Chris Stromsness and Peg Berry for making generous donations to the River Exchange in memoriam to Bill. Bill is survived by his wife of 51 years, Peggy; brother, Alan; four children, Bruce, John, Diane, and Scott; and two grandchildren, Elijah and Kayla.

RIVER EXCHANGE ENDOWMENT FUND

Since its inception, the River Exchange has been blessed with support from the local and regional community. We whole-heartedly thank each of you who have contributed over the years.

To carry out our mission well into the future, it is important for the organization to have a steady funding source for on-going programs. In 2001, the River Exchange Endowment Fund was established with a generous gift from long-time supporter Bruce Allen. The principal is invested and earns interest that is used to support education and other critical programs that promote healthy watersheds, but are not currently funded by grants. Please consider making a donation to increase the endowment and expand the work we do each year to promote healthy watersheds.

The River Exchange Endowment Fund is administered by the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, a highly reputable and locally involved foundation located in Redding, California. There are a variety of ways you can give to the River Exchange Endowment Fund:

- mail a check payable to Shasta Regional Community Foundation (SRCF), with River Exchange Fund in the memo line. Checks can be sent to SRCF, 1335 Arboretum Drive, Suite B, Redding, CA 96003, or to the River Exchange.
- If you'd like to make a gift of stock, real estate or other property, contact the Shasta Regional Community Foundation at (530) 244-1219.
- To contribute online, visit the SRCF website at <http://www.shastarcf.org/> and click on the Donate Now button. At the first main drop box, select River Exchange Endowment Fund and fill out the rest of the page.

Thank you for all that you do to support watershed health!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH—SEPTEMBER 2011

March

Sustainable Watershed Series- River Adventures of the West and Beyond

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Mt. Shasta City Park; Lower Lodge

Rick Demarest will share images from his recent canyoneering trip through the Grand Canyon, and Jack Moore will share images from his 2008 Bhutan kayaking adventure. Fans of unique river trips are sure to love this event.



May

Raft & Restore the Upper Sacramento River

Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Cost: \$50, to benefit River Exchange stewardship projects

Join us for our 3rd annual invasive species eradication trip on the Upper Sac. River. Enjoy 8 miles of lively Class 3 whitewater and help to rid the banks of Scotch broom, a highly invasive species found in abundance along this stretch of the river. Call River Dancers at 926-3517 for more information or to register.



April

Sisson Museum Water Exhibit Grand Opening

Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

The Sisson Museum in Mt. Shasta is unveiling a two-year exhibit focused on water.

The exhibit, "Mt. Shasta H₂O – Stories Water Can Tell," will include work from a diverse range of stakeholders, including the River Exchange.



July/August

"Introduction to Fly Fishing" Clinic

Date to Be Determined

We are in the midst of planning an introduction to fly fishing clinic in the Dunsmuir area for those aged 18 and up. When the date is set, we will announce it in local papers and through our email contact list.

If you are a fly fishing guide and are interested in lending your expertise for this event, we'd love to hear from you!



May

River Celebration

Saturday, May 7, 6:00—10:00 p.m.
Mt. Shasta City Park; Upper Lodge

Don't miss our annual extravaganza! This year's **Celebration** marks our 15th year providing watershed stewardship and educational programming. Join friends and community members for great food, music, delicious desserts and amazing auction items. Watch for upcoming information and reserve your tickets early for this always sold-out event. Tickets will be made available through Village Books in Mt. Shasta and at our office.



September

19th Annual Great River Clean-up

Saturday, September 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dunsmuir City Park

Gather your friends and neighbors and join us for the Great River Clean-Up. We'll meet at the Dunsmuir City Park at 9:00 a.m., then head out to the banks of the Upper Sac and its tributaries to pick up trash.

Free lunch will be provided to volunteers after the clean-up at the Dunsmuir City Park.



Are you on our email list? If not, give us a call or email us to receive our event reminders!

REX Board of Directors

Mark Gibson, President
Chris Stromsness, VP
Gene O'Rourke, Secretary
April Gray, Treasurer
Fred Gordon
Richard "Rico" Tinsman
Carol Winston
Mike Dean
Mary Ellen Colberg

REX Staff

Dea Knox, Executive Director
Robin Singler, Administrative Dir.
Phyllis Skalko, Finance Director
Rene Henery, Ph.D., Research Dir.

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WATERSHED PROJECTS

MCLOUD SPRINGS RESTORATION RECEIVES IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

The springs of the Upper McCloud Watershed are essential to the diverse ecosystems within the region, as well as many further downstream. The River Exchange's work to promote the health and resilience of springs necessitates a pro-active approach to spring stewardship. Towards this end, we have been working on a collaborative effort to design two pilot restoration and enhancement projects for springs in the Upper McCloud Region, using funds provided by the Bella Vista Foundation. The pilot projects are the beginnings of what we hope will be an ongoing effort to maintain and protect spring sites across the region, in a "go to the source" approach to watershed care.

The first project, designed in cooperation with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, is a restoration plan for Bear Springs (west of Forest Road 15, near Oso Butte). Thanks to a recent grant award from the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), the work at Bear Springs will be completed during the summer and fall of 2012. The project will restore perennial* Bear Springs and its wet meadow complex, in order to improve habitat conditions for wildlife, promote groundwater retention, prevent impacts from surrounding land use and promote ecosystem health and resilience. Education and monitoring elements will ensure that this pivotal project provides an ongoing learning opportunity not only for land managers, but also for community volunteers.

Design of a spring enhancement project on private land is also underway. The River Exchange has performed outreach to several private landowners to discuss their willingness to participate in this pilot effort and to determine what springs would be most appropriate. One of the goals of this collaborative approach to stewardship is creating a precedent for project design that benefits landowners as well as the spring site -- promoting ecosystem health while simultaneously supporting existing land use. Once the design is complete, the River Exchange will seek funding to complete the on-the-ground work, while initiating discussions around a new set of projects based on this cooperative model.

* runs year-round

SACRAMENTO HEADWATERS RESTORATION AND TRAIL

In partnership with the Mount Shasta Recreation & Parks District, the River Exchange secured a grant from the California Natural Resources Agency River Parkways Program (Prop 50) that allowed the Sacramento River Headwaters area in Mt. Shasta's City Park to be restored.

The project involved several improvements to the Headwaters area, including restoration of the riparian area and stabilization of the degraded spring wall using strategic placement of native stone. The viewing platform has also been improved, and a wheelchair-accessible, paved trail has been constructed from the playground parking lot to the Headwaters with an accessible picnic table along the route. An additional trail meanders downstream from the Headwaters to the southern parking lot.

We are happy to report that all of the restoration and construction work for this project has been completed. The last steps in closing out the project will be to install signage, benches and picnic tables this spring. We thank Marrone Construction, Alan Pardee Landscape Architect, Sousa Ready Mix and the Mt. Shasta Recreation and Parks District for their hard work in making this project a success.



WATERSHED PROJECTS

TAUHINDAULI RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION

The half mile trail between Dunsmuir City Park and Tauhindauli Park is unstable in sections, due to soils that easily erode. Construction of the trail was halted in the fall of 2009, where large roots of a tree posed an obstacle for trail completion. Other parts of the trail did not weather well during the 2009/10 winter. The hazardous segment of the trail is currently barricaded as the trail is not safe to use.

The project is on Department of Fish & Game (DFG) property and was funded by a grant from the Cantara Trustee Council. Unfortunately, the initial grant funds that helped to install the trail have been exhausted, and there are no DFG grants available at this time to cover the additional construction costs to permanently remedy the erosion and tree root issues.

DFG has assigned a staff geologist who has trail construction experience to determine the best way to stabilize the eroding sections. Based on our latest communications with DFG, it appears that this section of the trail will not be open in the summer of 2011. The agency is evaluating various options for the trail that will provide the best stability for the site, maintain the trees and vegetation, while not presenting a safety risk to trail users. DFG is keeping us informed as they work to find a solution, and we will continue to inform the public with project updates.

FOR THE BIRDS: BALD EAGLE OUTING

January 15th marked the annual Bald Eagle and Winter Waterfowl field trip through the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge, and what a crowd! Never before have so many folks gathered to learn about the amazing birds that grace the refuge each year.

Pictured is Chris Stromsness, Board member of the River Exchange and Mt. Shasta Area Audubon, as he talks to the group of over 30 people that caravanned through the best bird-watching sites of the region.



We owe Phil Detrich a special thank you for lending his expertise that day. Seeing the need for another guide, Phil volunteered to assist the group; his willingness was invaluable to creating the best possible experience for everyone.

Thank you to all who attended, and we hope for another successful field trip next year.

RIVER EXCHANGE VISION 2020: OBJECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Since mid-2010, the River Exchange has been working towards updating its strategic plan and vision for the next ten years in order to meet the needs and challenges of our dynamic watershed and its communities. Once completed, the plan will guide our organizational emphasis, prioritization process, project selection, and time and resource allocation.

After pouring over the feedback our members provided us last summer, the Board of Directors has adopted an updated mission to *promote healthy watersheds through community involvement in stewardship, restoration and education*. The mission statement was rearranged to focus more on community involvement. We have also adopted a new purpose statement:

To proactively support and improve the health of the watershed ecosystem, educate and empower the community to be effective watershed stewards, and facilitate cooperation of stakeholders in collaborative watershed management by:

- 1) providing the vehicle and tools to obtain and coordinate resources for restoration, investigation, conservation, and education;
- 2) acting as a regional catalyst for development and implementation of large-scale watershed planning and management; and
- 3) fostering the next generation of watershed stewards.

Also as components of plan development, the Board recently approved a new set of organizational goals, and are in the process of refining and prioritizing a set of specific and measurable objectives towards meeting those goals. The Board is targeting this summer for adoption of the new strategic plan. As Vision2020 continues to take shape, we will share new organizational objectives and strategies that will allow us to address the needs of the watershed. We look forward to envisioning the future of our watershed together!

YES; I WANT TO SUPPORT THE RIVER EXCHANGE!
 Gifts can be mailed to The River Exchange, P.O. Box 784, Dunsmuir, CA 96025



- _____ Other
- _____ \$500
- _____ \$250
- _____ \$100
- _____ \$50

Thank You!

NEW RENEWAL ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTION

Supporter Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

The River Exchange is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Fed. I.D. #91-1818846

THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 RIVER CLEAN-UP "BUSINESSES-THAT-CARE"

Golden Rock Sponsors (\$250+)

- Aiello, Goodrich & Teuscher
- Berryvale Grocery
- City of Dunsmuir
- Mt. Shasta Physical Therapy
- Semansky Law Firm
- Ted Fay Fly Shop

Stewardship Partners (\$125+)

- Gary's Pizza Factory
- Jack Trout Fly Fishing

Wayne Eng Fly Fishing Watershed Restorers (\$75+)

- Aldous Landscaping
- Bank of America
- Churchill Insurance
- Clemens Waste Removal
- Edward Jones Investments
- Lake Siskiyou Camp Resort
- Law Offices of Terrance Tafaro

- Micki's Better Burger
- Mt. Shasta Area Audubon
- Mt. Shasta Ski Park
- Mowat Apiaries
- Shasta Visions
- Tri-Counties Bank; Mt. Shasta
- William Davis
- River Friend (\$35+)**
- Aqua Terra Consulting
- Burger Barn

- Burger Express
- Cave Springs Lodge
- Cornerstone Bakery & Cafe
- Custom Designs
- Doris Moss Realty
- Frank's Fuel
- Gene Erickson Trucking
- Guardian Storage
- Mt. Shasta Tire Co.

- Palfini Financial
- Personnel Preference
- Ramshaw's Ace Hardware
- Rick Cox Fly Fishing
- Shasta Base Camp
- Shasta Summit Properties
- Shasta Trout
- Shasta Vortex Adventures
- Soul Connections
- The Art of Fishing
- The Fifth Season

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