



Summer 2021 News

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

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Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association Successes

Lyndsey Lascheck, Forestry and Fuels Program Manager

This Spring, you may have seen smoke rising from Yreka, Etna, or Weed. It may have been the work of a new local partnership, the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association, or Siskiyou PBA. It includes landowners, community members, Tribes, local organizations and agencies throughout Siskiyou County that work together to safely conduct prescribed burns.

The SVRCD has been a primary partner in developing the Siskiyou PBA and implementing the flagship burns on four different

private landowners' properties, totaling about 35 acres among Shasta and Scott Valleys in March and April 2021. Participants ranged from seasoned fire professionals to community members experiencing fire for the first time.

The first burn occurred in Yreka on March 30, 2021, in the Greenhorn drainage. The landowner, Jeff Stone, said the burn, "will make my neighborhood safer from wildfire and will also improve the health of oak woodlands on my property. The Siskiyou PBA has been an invaluable partner, and I wouldn't have been able to carry out this project without them." The Yreka and South Yreka Fire Depart-



Lyndsey Lascheck and Charnna Gilmore Scott River Watershed Council—PBA Partners

ments, CalFire, the Karuk Tribe, and Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Scott River Watershed Council, and Shasta Valley RCD fire staff and volunteers all came together to get the burn done safely. The burn represented the culmination of the

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Cap and Trade Dollars at Work



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

Elk Flat Mastication Project



Elk Flat where trees and brush has been removed and shredded (masticated) along with the equipment used—the masticator

Dan Blessing, Forester

Meadows are an extremely valuable natural ecosystem that provide multiple values to our landscape. Meadows reduce peak water flow after storms and during runoff, recharge groundwater supplies as they release water into the ground, protect streambanks and shorelines, filter sediments, and provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

The SVRCD is implementing a project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore 887 acres of meadow habitat at Elk Flat, Mud, and Bitterbrush meadows in the McCloud Flats area of the Shasta Trinity National Forest.

To achieve these objectives the SVRCD has hired contractors to masticate small diameter trees that have encroached in the meadow systems.

The treatments will reestablish the dry meadow conditions of grass dominated habitat with occasional seasonal streams and wetlands. The project will also enhance the edge habitat between the forest and the meadow that is so important to Northern Spotted Owl and other raptors for hunting .

More information can be found on our website

Groundwater News/CIMIS Update



CIMIS station

Two CIMIS stations are continuously adding data and local knowledge to the groundwater monitoring efforts in Shasta Valley.

Located on irrigated pastures in Gazelle and Montague; the CIMIS stations are online and available to all growers and scientists for hourly or daily real-time numbers. The Shasta

Valley CIMIS stations measure precipitation, wind, temperature, humidity, and solar radiation and calculate rates of ET. CIMIS stands for California Irrigation Management Information System.

The statewide network of weather stations are valuable to producers who want to maximize irrigation efficiencies.

Evapo-Transpiration or ET is a critical design and management metric. ET is the amount of water that a plant (transpiration) and soils (evaporation) uses in a given period of time.

In a summer of drought, current irrigation data is one tool producers use to maximize limited surface and groundwater supplies.

Register to get unlimited data access for CIMIS station data for Montague Station ID 260 and Gazelle Station ID 261 at:

<https://cimis.water.ca.gov/Stations.asp>

Ethan and the Bear



A Healthy Riparian Zone is home to many local residents. It is a reservoir of plant and animal diversity.

For more information on how to improve or protect your riparian buffer zone contact SVRCD or the local NRCS office in Yreka.

For information about the common indicators, functions and values of healthy riparian areas one source is the NRCS Working Paper 13.

[Riparian Areas Reservoirs of Diversity \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/working-papers/13)

Be aware of animal needs during drought and wildfires as they may be roaming further afield in the search for shelter and water.



Summary of some of our Current Grants and Projects

Parks Creek Fish Passage Implementation	NFWF/ BOR	114,979
Shasta River Drought Response and Irrigation Efficiency Project	Humboldt/NCRP	347,092
Shasta River Flashboard Dam Removal and Irrigation Improvement	USFWS	171,720
Watermaster's Weir Modification: Weir Retrofit and Barrier Removal	USFWS	125,000
Real-time monitoring station maintenance	TNC SRSB	6,000
Shasta River Watershed Coordinator (CRMP)	USFWS	15,000
Groundwater Monitoring	DWR	976,884
CalFire	CalFire	130,000
Craggy Project	CalFire	1,599,573
Cal Fire Grant Writing Service, South Dunsmuir Fuel Break	Cal Trans	9,290
PSMFC IFRMP	PSMFC	8,000
CalFire Dunsmuir Fuel Reduction	CalFire	149,669
NCRP Siskiyou PBA	Humboldt/NCRP	98,400
Cal Fish Passage Forum—MG Weir	PSMFC	49,269
Parks Creek Fish Passage	USFWF	267,594
Parks Creek Riparian	RWQCB	609,263
NFWF Elk Creek	NFWF	256,731
NFWF Horse Creek	NFWF	284,869
DOC Upper Sacramento Watershed Coordination	DOC	99,999

SVRCD is grateful for the opportunities to assist our community with locally driven, critical natural resource projects. The mission of our Board of Directors to work collaboratively with the voluntary participation of private landowners is born out by successful projects such as these. Not all projects are listed. We also have some 'fee for service' contracts that are not listed. For more information contact us.

Prescribed Burn Association Successes (from page 1)

SVRCD's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity demonstration project, which seeks to model the benefits of community based prescribed burn associations for the region.

Recent fires are an important reminder of the urgent need to proactively manage our landscapes. Though there is a lot of support for prescribed fire, the general public doesn't know much about what it looks like or how it's implemented. The Siskiyou PBA is working to break down those barriers by welcoming community members to come burn with them and hosting training events to teach the

public how to use fire safely.

More information on this and other projects can be found on our website.

www.svr.cd.org/Forestry and Fire Prevention

Funding acknowledgement: This project is funded in whole or in part with California Climate Investments funds granted by the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation to the North Coast Resource Partnership.

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March 2021 burn on the Stone Pitts property near Greenhorn Creek in Yreka



We welcome our 2021 Board Members

Zach Salvestro:

Zach was born and raised in Siskiyou County. He graduated from Kansas State University with an agribusiness degree. He has spent his life working on a family ranch (Hart Cattle) and has gained experience in all aspects of ranching.



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Stewardship Through Collaboration

This newsletter is sponsored and funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Mike Duchi:

Mike is a 4th generation resident of Siskiyou County with a seventeen year background in environmental remediation and water monitoring. Mike also spent thirteen years in the timber industry with a focus on production and management. Mike enjoys raising cattle and hay in his spare time.

The SVRCD currently has a vacancy on our Board of Directors.

Contact us if you are interested in serving

The Back Page –from our District Manager

Hello everyone. My name is Rod Dowse and welcome to the Back Page. I am the new District Manager for the SVRCD.

I was hired in March to take the reins from Mike Riney who resigned in December 2020 and Ethan Brown, who kept the balls in the air over the winter.

I am honored to work for the SVRCD at this challenging and exciting juncture.

After receiving a BS in Agricultural Economics from OSU, I worked for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. My background is in agriculture, journalism and small business. I worked for the Siskiyou Daily News for eight years, and own a small ranch near Grenada

with my wife Tonya Dowse. We raise and sell Hereford cattle for the show ring and 4H.

We raised our children in Siskiyou County and I participated in all manner of volunteer activities from the YMCA to the Jefferson Mountain Bike Association.

I believe in the mission of the SVRCD to deliver natural resource conservation projects to our local private lands and agricultural community. Voluntary participation is the keystone for the SVRCD and over the years, it has shown remarkable results.

Currently we are working on irrigation efficiency projects, water quality improvement projects, forestry stewardship and groundwater



Rod Dowse, District Manager

support to the County's work in this area.

We are keen to keep the lines of communication open through these challenging times. Don't hesitate to call or email if we can answer questions or be of service.

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