

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

**Landowner and
Technical Advi-
sory Commit-
tee meeting on
November 29th**

**Fire Safe Coun-
cil is looking for
interest in im-
plementing
projects in
Glenn County**

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and Technical
Advisory
Committee**

Demonstration Site Project

The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) in agreement with the Baker Family is implementing a demonstration site for Giant Reed (Bamboo) and Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) eradication, soil erosion control, and native plant restoration along lower Stony Creek. The site will be located off of Road 7, west of I-5, on the north bank of Stony Creek. The project will be conducted by River Partners of Chico.

The purpose of the demonstration site is to determine the most appropriate soil erosion, eradication, and land restoration practices that private landowners can use during similar projects along Stony Creek. There will be a series of workshops led by River Partners and the GCRCD

on how to implement these practices.

Eradication of Giant Reed and



**Giant Reed (Arundo donax)
sprouting on the bank of
Stony Creek**

Salt Cedar is most effective when glyphosphates (Round-Up) and Imazapyr (Stalker) is used. CSU, Chico and others around the North Valley are finding it most effective when the entire plant is

covered instead of the traditional cut-stump spray method. Using a dye in the solution can mark where spraying has already occurred.

Soil erosion and land restoration practices can be used conjunctively by using willows and cottonwoods. See page 3 for more information. The root structures of native vegetation helps hold soil and rocks in place helping reduce bank erosion.

The demonstration site project will begin this fall and end fall of 2007. If you are interested in implementing a similar project please contact Ajay Singh, Stony Creek Watershed Coordinator at (530) 934- 4601 x126.

This project is funded by the CAL-FED Watershed Program.

Watershed Assessment

The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) is conducting a watershed assessment to help the GCRCD make informed decisions on how natural resource projects should be implemented to be successful. The GCRCD has contracted with HT Harvey and Associates to conduct the assessment.

The GCRCD and HT Harvey need landowner input and direc-

tion in order to complete an assessment that will be helpful in implementing useful and needed natural resource projects.

To date landowners have been concerned with soil erosion and non-native plants. Private landowners are encouraged to provide advice and input at our Landowner Advisory Committee meetings that are held periodically throughout the year. Please

see page 4 (back page) for more information on the upcoming meeting.

If you have any questions please contact Ajay Singh, Watershed Coordinator at (530) 934- 4601 x126.

This project is funded by the CAL-FED Watershed Program.

Fuels Management Tour



Dale Shippelhoute explains thinning and prescribed burning

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) recently hosted a Fuel Management Tour in the Mendocino National Forest. The day's events were focused around the CCRCD's grant project funded through the US Forest Service-Community Protection Program. The CCRCD received funding from the Forest Service to treat 426 acres of private lands within the forest concurrently with 685 acres of public lands. The prescribed burning took place from April 2004 through March 2005.

A large turnout of local landowners, local, state and federal government representatives and agencies, and alternative fuel producers had the opportunity to see first hand the positive effects that prescribed burning and thinning activities can have on forestland health along Goat Mountain Road in the Upper Little Stony Creek watershed.

Dale Shippelhoute, Fuels Management Specialist from the Mendocino National Forest explained the science of how and when prescribed burning is applied and the protection it

offers during catastrophic wildfires. Shippelhoute explained how the occurrence of natural fires over the years had protected the forest from the build up of ladder fuels and disease. Ladder fuel increases the likelihood of fire reaching the crowns of the large trees and adds to the level of forest destruction.

The participants enjoyed a BBQ lunch at the home of Supervisor Gary Evans hosted by Gary and Diane Evans, the CCRCD, and the Upper Little Stony Inholder's Alliance.

Occurrence of natural fires over the years had protected the forest from build up of ladder fuels and disease. Because of fire suppression these fuels have been allowed to build up increasing the fire hazard to private and public landowners.

Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council

The Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council (TGFSC) is an advisory group that promotes and facilitates the exchange of information on fire and fuels management issues throughout Tehama and Glenn Counties. Improvements in the exchange of information on fire management between agencies and private landowners have been shown to reduce the impact of wildfire on both developed and natural environments.

The TGFSC is actively involved in improving the coordination of fire and fuels planning efforts taking place throughout the two counties. The TGFSC members provided technical support into the development of Wildfire Protection Plans. These planning efforts aid in improving the effectiveness and cost efficiency of fire and fuels management projects. Community Wildfire Protection Plans are required in order for communities to receive assistance for wildfire related project work and infrastructure improvements.

The mission of the TGFSC is to provide a forum and coordinate projects between public agencies and private organizations that share the common goals of wildfire prevention and reductions in catastrophic losses and to coordinate planning and work being conducted by private and public landowners.

The TGFSC are in the process of: Reviewing and compiling the various fire plans; Mapping specific fire and fuels management projects; Updating the California Department of Forestry; and Fire Protection's Tehama-Glenn Unit Fire Management Plan.

The most important goal for the TGFSC is to increase public awareness of the impact of wildfires on public and private resources. The TGFSC asks you to become involved in planning and implementing projects on your property. For more information please contact: Tom McCubbins, Tehama County Resource Conservation District. (527) 3013 x120. Tom@tehamacountyrccd.org



Soil Erosion Control Techniques



A willow brush mattress can help stabilize eroding banks

structure. Willow roots, for example, can provide up to 2500 pounds per square inch of tensile strength. In other words rock will protect banks and vegetation will make sure it stays there.

Some bioengineering techniques are:

Live Willow Brush Mattresses: A willow mattress is a practice that can stabilize a bank by re-planting and re-contouring the bank slope. The mattress provides complete surface protection in the short-term while a root system can establish itself and vegetation can begin growing.

The slope should be shaped to a 2 to 1 slope with a 3 square foot trench dug at the toe of the bank for rock. The slope and the size of rock will depend on the size of the stream.

Live Siltation Baffles: A siltation baffle is an economical and effective way to restore washed out stream banks. This structure can help reduce the speed of water, thereby reducing the eroding force. With the construction of more baffles, suspended sediment can deposit behind the baffle thus re-creating the terrace. A live siltation baffle can develop quickly into a place that resembles what was there before.

A live siltation baffle uses large, flexible willow or cottonwood branches underneath and downstream of a rock wall. The rock wall needs to be keyed into and at right angles of the eroding bank. The trench to place the rock and cuttings

should be dug down to the water table if possible. Each end of the baffle should be wrapped with willow or cottonwood cuttings because the ends will be the first places to be eroded away.

Live Vegetated Crib Walls: A live vegetated crib wall is similar to rock gabions (cages) except that the logs in the crib will decompose leaving live trees in their place.

Cribs can be single or double walled depending upon the size and force of the river. Logs will be placed on a box formation with cuttings filling in the cracks and a dirt or gravel infill. The top of the cuttings of willows, cottonwoods, or other native plants are laid pointing towards the stream.

Live Fascines: Live fascines help protect stream banks to reinforce or stabilize other bioengineering methods in a quick and easy manner. Live fascines use long stemmed willow branches (1-3 meters). One disadvantage is the level of expertise needed to implement this practice successfully.

For more information on these and other techniques, please contact Ajay Singh at (530) 934-4601 x 126.



Willow mattress two years later. Photos Courtesy of USDA NRCS

“Bioengineering is a group of techniques that uses live vegetation in conjuncture with rock and cement material to stabilize eroding banks.”

Erosion is a natural process of mountains and rocks wearing down through pressures of wind and water. Soil erosion can, however, be increased due to human influence. When this occurs it may create problems with loss of land, soil depth, fertility, water quality, and increase the chances of a natural hazard.

Along Stony Creek, soil erosion due to altered water flows, loss of sedimentation, and invasive species has caused irreparable damage and loss of agricultural land. Traditionally landowners have used rock and other material to rip rap eroding banks. These practices are becoming more scrutinized by regulatory agencies. Fortunately, there are environmentally friendly practices to help repair or reduce erosion damage.

One group of techniques that are approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game are bioengineering practices. Bioengineering is the practice of using vegetation in conjuncture with hard structures such as rock. This type of technique provides bank stabilization while also providing shade and habitat for certain species. Vegetation can also provide structural integrity to the rock

Please contact the Glenn County Resource Conservation District if you have natural resource concerns or issues you wish the RCD to address or natural resource projects that you want to implement on your property.

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GCRCD

Landowner and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

There will be a Landowner and Technical Advisory Committee meeting **November 29, 2005 at 1:00 p.m., at the Carnegie Center (912 Third St.) in Orland, CA.** The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the demonstration site, gather input on the watershed assessment, and the GCRCD Stony Creek Program proposal.

River Partners of Chico will discuss the goals and objectives of the demonstration site and gather input on landowner expectations of future projects on their land.

HT Harvey and Associates will gather input on the natural resources issues and concerns that landowners want to have addressed in the watershed assessment. Input from landowners will help HT Har-

vey and Associates focus their assessment on immediate landowner natural resource issues.

The GCRCD will discuss a proposal of how a program to eradicate non-native plant species and stabilize banks. The proposal includes a streamlined permitting process through the GCRCD, a coordinated funding program through the GCRCD, technical assistance from the GCRCD and NRCS, and



Upstream of Road P Bridge

an environmental impact report.

Currently the GCRCD is compiling information to undergo a streamlined permitting process to reduce the workload of the landowner and permitting agencies. The GCRCD will also propose a coordinated funding process that will possibly draw upon federal and state funds to help landowners implement soil erosion and weed management practices.

The GCRCD encourages all landowners within the Stony Creek Watershed to attend.

This project and newsletter are funded by the CALFED Watershed Program.