

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Landowner  
Meeting  
November 29 at  
the Carnegie  
Center

The Mother  
Arundo

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## Release of the Tamarix Beetle

In September of this year Baldo Villegas, Senior Environmental Scientist of bio-control at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Ajay Singh, Conservation Planner of the Glenn County Resource Conservation District, collected an estimated 10,000 Tamarix leaf beetles (*Diorhabda elongate*) from the Cache Creek Watershed and released them into the Lower Stony Creek Watershed.

The leaf beetle has been studied by the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to determine if there would be any impacts on crops or native plants. The USDA ARS determined that there was no significant impact on non-target plant species. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), which regulates releases of bio-control, lifted the quarantine in September, 2007 for a limited release into other areas. Stony Creek was the first watershed to receive the beetles.

The leaf beetles were first released in the U.S. to control Tamarix (Salt Cedar) in 2001. Larva and adult forms of the beetle eat Tamarix leaves, injuring both large bushes and small seedlings. Along streams and rivers in Colorado, Nevada, and other states in the Southwest have seen miles of Tamarix defoliated and thousands of acres of plant populations diminished.

The CDFA and RCD will be working to build the population of leaf beetles in the Stony Creek Watershed. It will take an estimated three years to see any large scale impact of the leaf beetle on Tamarix bushes. However, due to the large seed bank of Tamarix in the creek, the leaf beetle will significantly reduce the cost of abating Tamarix from the Stony Creek Watershed.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the RCD.



Defoliated Tamarix bushes along Cache Creek

## CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



Lee Smith, Lorri Pride, Kara Baker, Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa  
October 19, 2007

The Baker Family, including Lee Smith, have been the leading innovators within the Stony Creek Watershed over the past three years. They assisted the RCD in implementing the vital Demonstration Site, were the first landowners to implement "conservation" programs aimed at controlling Arundo and Tamarix, and re-vegetation of those areas on their property, and have been pro-active in recruiting neighboring landowners to understand the value of the entire Stony Creek Watershed Project, in hopes they too will develop conservation plans for their respective properties. They have also been outstanding cooperators, patient cooperators, and bring many new ideas and partnership opportunities to the RCD. Congratulations to this years winners of the Conservationist of the Year Award!

*The treatment of the first Arundo plant in the lower watershed will ensure that any projects implemented downstream have a long-term chance of being successful.*

# The Mother Arundo

The Mother Arundo, the most upstream Arundo plant in the lower watershed, was cut and sprayed this October. Lee Smith, landowner, used a chainsaw to cut the canes and stacked them out of the creek's floodplain. Larry's Pest Control then sprayed the stubble. Larry will continue the spraying into next year to ensure that the non-native plant is killed.



**Lee Smith with the chainsaw.**

This is an important and symbolic start to the abatement of Arundo donax (Giant Reed, bamboo) in the lower watershed. Due to how Arundo propagates, any upstream plants left behind during the removal and control of Arundo, will create successful abatement of plants downstream almost impossible.

This project also removed more than four acres of Arundo on the 20 acre parcel. King Baker II modified an orchard pruner to cut the other Arundo plants that were then sprayed. The biomass will be removed and burned so that new plants will not be distributed downstream to re-sprout.

This project will continue until the fall of 2008, and is funded by the Weed Management Area grant, obtained through the USDA Food and Agriculture Department.

The RCD is interested in working with other landowners to abate Arundo on their property. If you are a landowner and would like to start a project like this one, please contact the RCD.

**Mark your calendars:  
LANDOWNER MEETING**

**November 29, 2007  
Carnegie Center  
912 3rd Street  
Orland, CA  
6:30 p.m.**

The purpose of this meeting is to present the conceptual design for bank erosion, non-native plant removal, and stream alteration designs between Black Butte Dam and Road

# The Watershed Plan

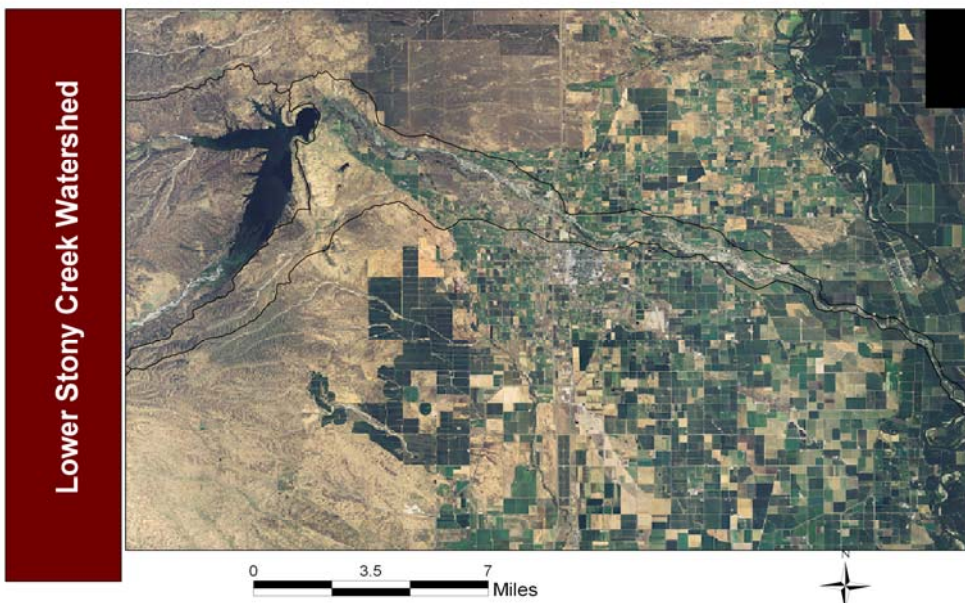
The Watershed Restoration Plan for Lower Stony Creek is an opportunity for landowners to voice how they want to reduce bank erosion and abate non-native invasive plants on their property. The plan is also a valuable document for a lot more reasons. The plan will communicate what the overall and individual projects will do, how they will do it, and how much it will cost. The plan may also help landowners acquire permits and funding for the project.

The RCD has worked with landowners over the past year to identify erosion sites and needed projects. At the next landowner meeting on November 29, a concept design that assimilates all the information and ideas from landowners will be presented. Landowners will then alter and, hopefully, all agree on the design. The RCD will use that design to create individual designs and a strategy of how to best implement the projects.

The Watershed Plan will also create alternatives to resource management to reduce bed and bank erosion in the lower watershed. The criteria for a long-term solution to the problem of bank and bed erosion in the lower watershed must: maintain or increase flood management capability, maintain or increase the ability to fulfill water contracts, maintain or increase the supply of sand and gravel to industries in the lower watershed, and reduce bed and bank erosion in the lower watershed.

**Landowners input on the Watershed Restoration Plan is very important.** Without landowner participation in the beginning, there will be no sustainable solution to the problems along the creek.

*The Purpose of The Watershed Plan is to communicate to neighbors, contractors, and potential funders, what needs to be done, how it will be done, and how much it will cost to get it done.*



Please contact the Glenn County Resource Conservation District if you have natural resource concerns or issues you would like the RCD to address.

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