



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

GCRCD joins Sacramento River Watershed Coalition.

Revised Draft of the Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan now available.

Bioengineering and Erosion Management Workshop held.

GCRCD Website has been recently updated!

Visit us at www.glenncountyrcd.org.

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Project Updates

Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan

A newly revised draft of the Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan is now available for review and comment. The Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (the Plan), serves as a guidance document for addressing the issues and concerns of Stony Creek landowners, resource agencies, and other stakeholders regarding the physical and biological integrity of the Lower Stony Creek Watershed. The Plan, as the result of input of landowners on Lower Stony Creek and others, provides specific actions and activities that support restoration of the Lower Watershed to protect property from erosion, enhance riparian habitat, and for the removal of invasive plant species.

The Plan, written by staff at Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD), is funded by the CALFED Watershed Program through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

If you are interested in a copy of the draft Plan, please call the RCD at (530) 934-4601 x4 or visit our website at www.glenncountyrcd.org. We hope to finalize the Plan by December, 2008.

Demonstration Project

The RCD and River Partners of Chico recently completed a Bioengineering and Erosion Management Workshop located at the Smith/Baker Ranch on Lower Stony Creek. Last fall, the 20 acre Demonstration Site served as a demonstration project for the removal of Arundo and Tamarix in the watershed. Different techniques were applied to test their efficacy, cost, advantages and disadvantages. This workshop was an addition to the demonstration site project which was used to show different applications of bank stabilization using bioengineering methods (See page 3 for additional information).

Information from the demonstration projects is available in *The Landowner's Manual*. If you are interested in a copy of the manual, please call the RCD at (530) 934-4601 x4 or visit our website at www.glenncountyrcd.org.

Tamarix Leaf Beetle

Cory Scott, RCD Conservation Planner, and Baldo Villegas from the CA Department of Food and Ag (CDFA) revisited the release sites of the Tamarix leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*), a bio-control for Tamarix, on April 30, 2008. The beetles were released last September on Lower Stony Creek by CDFA in conjunction with the RCD.

There was no sight of the beetles. However, this was not unexpected as it usually takes up to four to five releases over many years to establish a population sufficient enough to impact Tamarix. The beetles and their larvae eat the leaves causing defoliation and can reduce plant populations. The beetle has been used successfully in other parts of the western United States and was recently introduced into California.

*Reminder:
Conservation
Planning is
available from the
GCRCD .
Conservation
Plans are useful
tools for applying
for permits and
funding
opportunities for
conservation
projects.*

2008 FARM BILL

As of Friday May 23, in spite of a Presidential Veto, we have a new “partial” Farm Bill. The bill returned to Congress where the House voted to override the veto by a 316 to 108 margin. The Senate followed suit and voted to override by an 82 to 13 margin. However, a procedural glitch left out Title III of the bill that deals with international trade in agricultural commodities. The remaining 14 titles have become law and Congress will have to take action to re-enact Title III.

Robert Vlach, NRCS District Conservationist for the Willows Field Office, states the new Farm Bill includes Conservation Provisions, for funding conservation programs, through cost-share programs available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is one such program that may be of interest to landowners on Stony Creek. This cost-share conservation program can be used on private agricultural and non-Ag lands for the removal of Arundo and Tamarix and for implementing streambank stabilizing practices in order to reduce erosion while enhancing riparian wildlife habitat. Vlach, states that the new Farm Bill increases many of the Conservation Provisions over those provided under the 2002 Farm Bill.

In April, 2008 the RCD Board of Director’s applied for WHIP funding in an effort to assist landowners on Lower Stony Creek for controlling Arundo and Tamarix and implementing streambank stabilizing practices. During the Landowners Advisory Committee (LAC) and RCD Special Meeting, held April 8 at the Carnegie Community Center in Orland, the RCD presented landowners within a priority planning area the opportunity to partner with the RCD for these funds. However, due to a lack of consensus by landowners to implement projects within this priority planning area, the RCD Board of Directors voted to withdraw its application.

There are additional cost-share programs for implementing conservation practices on private property under the 2008 Farm Bill and available through the NRCS. The NRCS and the RCD encourage landowners that are interested in implementing conservation projects on Stony Creek to contact the NRCS or the RCD at (530) 934-4601 for more information.

As a reminder, conservation planning for landowners is available through the RCD and the NRCS. All NRCS Conservation Plans are kept confidential and detail what you, as a private landowner, want to do with your land. For example, Conservation Plans through technical assistance from NRCS and the RCD, help landowners identify goals and objectives for land or water conservation practices, or even practices that may increase habitat. A Conservation Plan can then be used for applying for permitting and/or funding assistance for implementing selected conservation practices from the planning process.

GCRCD Receives Watershed Coordinator Grant

The RCD received a Watershed Coordinator Grant from the CA Department of Conservation. This grant will provide 3-years funding for a Watershed Coordinator staff position at the RCD for the Stony Creek Watershed.

The Watershed Coordinator will carry out the work plan’s goals and objectives designed to facilitate watershed coordination.

The RCD will begin planning and meeting soon with local landowners in the Upper Stony Creek Watershed to address natural resource issues and concerns. For more information regarding the Watershed Coordinators role or the work plan, please contact RCD District Manager, Kandi Manhart at 934-4601 x120.

GCRCD Joins Sacramento River Watershed Coalition

The RCD Board of Directors voted to join the Sacramento River Watershed Coalition. The Coalition is under the umbrella organization of the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) which is a collaborative effort to build a stronger voice for local management in the Sacramento River Watershed. The RCD is already a member of the SRWP, but by joining the Coalition, the SWRP provides an increase in services and benefits to its members and enhances local management with a more unified organization.

To find out more about the SRWP and the Sacramento River Watershed Coalition, visit their website at www.sacriver.org.

GCRCD and River Partners Conduct Bioengineering and Erosion Management Workshop

On May 9th, the RCD and River Partners conducted a Bioengineering and Erosion Management Workshop for landowners, students, and natural resource agency staff at the Smith/Baker Ranch. This workshop was an addition to the Demonstration Site Project on Lower Stony Creek for the purpose of utilizing different techniques of Arundo and Tamarix control as well as for providing information on erosion management through bioengineering. Bioengineering integrates live and dead, woody and herbaceous materials with organic and inorganic materials rather than using hard structures such as rip-rap.



Above: Orland High School’s Horticulture class helps to install willow and cottonwood cuttings to be used for stabilizing the streambank.



Left: Workshop attendees overlooking Lower Stony Creek at the Smith/Baker Ranch while listening to Dan Efsseff from River Partners.

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

E-mail: Kandi.Manhart@ca.nacdn.net

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

There will be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on June 12 at the Carnegie Community Center in Orland at 9:00 A.M. The meeting will focus on the preliminary engineered draft plans developed by Graham Matthews & Associates for the RCD and Lower Stony Creek landowners and to receive and discuss comments on the draft Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Cory Scott, RCD Conservation Planner, at (530) 934-4601 x126 or by email at cory.scott@sbcglobal.net.

Is there a need for a **Landowner Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting**?

Please share your thoughts, as we do not want to hold a meeting... just to hold a meeting.

Do you have resource concerns not being covered through current projects, areas of Stony Creek we need to pay attention too, etc.?

RCD Open House
July 21, 2008
Please join us for lunch!

GCRCD Website:

www.glenncountyrcd.org

The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD) has recently updated its website.

The website offers information about the Resource Conservation District including education and outreach projects, workshops, meetings, and available resources such as the documents prepared for or by the RCD for the Lower Stony Creek Watershed and Glenn County.

Lower Stony Creek Watershed documents available for download from the website are:

- Draft Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan
- The Landowner's Manual
- Stony Creek Watershed Assessment
- Monitoring Plan (Lower Stony Creek Environmental Monitoring Program and Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Stony Creek Project or QAPP).
- Arundo Mapping Project

PLUS: View pictures of the ongoing Bioengineering and Erosion Management demonstration project.