

COLUSA SUBREACH NEWS

Issue 1, February, 2005

WHAT IS COLUSA SUBREACH PLANNING?

Colusa Subreach Planning (CSP) is a collaborative effort among landowners, other local interests and resources agencies to develop a conservation strategy for the twenty-one mile stretch of the Sacramento River, inside of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees from Princeton to Colusa. Planning will focus on identifying the concerns of area landowners and addressing them through research projects. It will include planning for restoration of wildlife habitat on public lands and lands purchased for habitat conservation. Private properties will not be accessed without permission and private property rights will be respected. The Project will occur over a three-year period and it is funded by the California Bay-Delta Program, which is commonly known as CALFED.

LANDOWNERS AND LOCAL INTERESTS WILL BE INVOLVED

Colusa Subreach Planning will be substantially driven by the issues and opportunities that are identified by the public. CSP will include landowner surveys, public meetings, newsletters, workshops and presentations to local organizations. A website has also been established to provide you with information regarding CSP at www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov. Just click on "Colusa Subreach Planning."

This planning process will integrate ecosystem restoration with the flood control system, agriculture, public recreation and other uses along the river. CSP will include the preparation of detailed, baseline assessments for restoration sites and hydraulic analysis of draft habitat restoration plans to ensure the continuing integrity of the flood control system. Research projects will also be initiated to address key landowner questions and concerns identified by the Advisory Workgroup. The overall intent of the CSP is to plan for identified habitat restoration activities and related uses that will be compatible with agriculture and the flood control system. The information gained from this study will also be available to help guide future projects such as: improved recreation access, long-term flood control facility maintenance, public works projects and additional habitat restoration.

Help us Improve our Mailing List

This initial newsletter is being sent to landowners inside of and adjoining the levees in the Colusa Subreach, per county records, and to other interested individuals and organizations. If you know of someone else who should receive it or if there is a better address for you, please call the SRCAF at (530)-528-7435. **Thank you.**

THE ADVISORY WORKGROUP IS ON THE JOB

An Advisory Workgroup that is made up of local landowners, representatives of city and county governments and key staff from state, federal and private agencies that manage wildlife habitat in the Colusa Subreach will help guide CSP. The Advisory Workgroup will help direct the public engagement process, help identify issues and concerns that need research and help develop the final strategy for the Subreach. The Workgroup was formed in November and is now meeting on a monthly basis.

The Advisory Workgroup members are:

Name	Background
Don Anderson	Farmer, SRCAF Board
Burt Bundy	Farmer, SRCAF Manager
Denny Bungarz	Glenn Co. Supervisor, SRCAF
Ben Carter	Farmer, SRCAF Board
Mike Fehling	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec.
Rebecca Fris	CA Bay-Delta Authority
John Garner	Farmer, PCG Irr. District
Jay Dee Garr	Local Wildlife Consultant
Armand Gonzales	CA Dept. of Fish & Game
Francis Hickel	Farmer
Pat Kittle	Kittle's Outdoor
Ray Krause	Ray's Bike Shop
Kelly Moroney	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Dan Obermeyer	Glenn Co. Pub. Works and Planning Director
Paul Raquel	CA Dept. of Fish & Game
John Rogers	Farmer, Mayor of Colusa
Jeff Sutton	Family Water Alliance Director
Doug White	Fmr. Colusa Sup., SRCAF
Jon Wrynski	Colusa Co. Pub. Works Director
Dawit Zeleke	TNC Project Director

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FIRST PUBLIC INPUT MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

This public meeting will be held Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center at the Colusa Indian Community Complex, 3730 Highway 45.

The Community Center is just south of the Colusa Casino, about 3 1/2 miles north of Colusa. The meeting will have two objectives. First, the Colusa Subreach Planning process and schedule will be explained and related questions will be answered. Second and most important, there will be the opportunity for you to share your thoughts about restoration of wildlife habitat, flood control, agriculture, and recreation within the Colusa Subreach.

All interested persons are invited.

A LANDOWNER SURVEY IS UNDERWAY

A telephone survey of landowners inside of and adjoining the flood control levees between Princeton and Colusa is being conducted by the Institute for Social Research at California State University Sacramento. This initial survey will address:

- Awareness of the CSP process
- The most effective ways of gaining public input
- Landowner questions and concerns regarding wildlife habitat restoration

Survey results will be used help to guide the CSP process. A follow-up survey will be taken at the end of the Subreach Planning process to help evaluate the effectiveness of the process. Landowners that have not yet been contacted or have unlisted phone numbers should contact the SRCAF (530-528-7411 to request a survey call.

Landowners, this is your chance to tell us what you think!

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COLUSA SUBREACH PLANNING

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have formed a partnership to conduct Colusa Subreach Planning and to involve local folks in planning for activities that will occur in their area. The SRCAF is managing the public outreach process and TNC is responsible for the technical and administrative aspects of Colusa Subreach Planning. CSP brings local landowners and community interests together with state and federal resource managers to plan for habitat conservation that is compatible with flood control, agriculture and recreation.

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum brings communities, individuals, organizations and agencies together along the Sacramento River to make resource management and restoration efforts more effective and sensitive to the needs of local communities. The Forum supports restoration done well, and serves as a

forum for sharing, a facilitator of solutions and a partner for projects that protect both the natural values of the Sacramento River and the communities it runs through.

HABITAT RESTORATION WILL BE PLANNED WITH THE NEIGHBORS

Colusa Subreach Planning is a comprehensive look at the entire area from Princeton to Colusa. It includes planning for eight sites that have been acquired for restoration of wildlife habitat. . Neighboring land owners, the Advisory Workgroup and any other interested persons will have the opportunity to identify concerns and opportunities before any plans or decisions are made. These sites will be reviewed at the public input meeting on Thursday February 17.

SUBREACH REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON

Four initial reports are being prepared to support Colusa Subreach Planning, including:

- A subreach background report describing the area and providing an overview of the state of the wildlife and their habitats
- Baseline analysis of eight restoration sites to provide technical data to support planning of appropriate natural vegetation
- An archaeological survey to identify important cultural resources on the restoration sites
- Detailed topographic mapping of the entire subreach

These reports will be completed over the next several months and they will be available for review at the Colusa, Princeton and Willows libraries and on line at the CSP website www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

QUESTIONS?

Would you like to know more about Colusa Subreach Planning? Do you have questions about CSP? If so, contact us:

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Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum,
(530) 528-7411 or bundy@water.ca.gov

Gregg Werner. CSP project manager
The Nature Conservancy
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