



Spring 2024 News

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

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Do you have a project idea for your property? We are actively working with private landowners who want to improve their natural resources by tailwater reductions, forestry thinning , prescribed burning or other project types. Email us at info@svrcd.org

Reaching Out to the Community

SVRCD has several large projects that need community support and input. Without a daily newspaper or local radio station, it can be challenging to spread the word about these interesting and important projects.

This newsletter is full of opportunities for landowners to engage with local agencies and learn about efforts being made in your back yard to improve natural resources for the future. Projects center on fire prevention, irrigation flows and how you can participate in projects that benefit your community.

Grenada Wastewater Project

Do you live in Grenada or nearby? If so, you are probably aware that there is a building moratorium in place in Grenada. Working with the Grenada

Sanitary District, SVRCD has learned that the reason for this is lack of land to upgrade the very old sewer system in Gre-

nada. Some homes are on septic systems and some parts of the town of Grenada are on a sewer system that is 100 years old (estimated).

In order to improve the wastewater treatment options for the citizens of the town of Grenada, a new system needs to be constructed. The State Water Quality Control Board has funds for this type of project. The hitch is finding a piece of land to site the new wastewater system on.

If you know of a likely nearby location, please contact: Grenada Sanitary District at 530-436-9937

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Grenada wastewater treatment pond near the east edge of the town of Grenada. Grenada is under a no-growth policy until a solution can be found for this antiquated system which is at its practical operational limits.

Jose and Mallory installing a stilling well to track flows and measure project efficacy in the Upper Shasta River.



Upper Shasta Assessment

Do you live in the Weed or Edgewood area of Shasta Valley?

We have been asked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to reach out to assist them in their effort to evaluate all water diversions in the

creeks that feed into Lake Shastina.

The objectives of this project are to map out and inventory all diversions on the upper Shasta River, estimate volumes and determine what improvements are needed. The most common

types of improvements needed will be a legal fish screen, headgate and water measuring device.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us to set up a call or field visit.

Healthy Soils

The Siskiyou Economic Development Council is pleased to announce that applications are now open for our Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program. This exciting new initiative aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve soil health across Siskiyou County. By participating in this program, farmers and landowners can receive funding and support to implement a suite of soil conservation practices, including; compost application, cover cropping, windbreaks and hedgerows, and mulching among others.

We encourage all eligible applicants to take advantage of this opportunity. For more information and to apply, please click the QR code seen on the flyer below or visit the Healthy Soils Program website at <https://www.siskiyoucounty.org/hsp>. Don't miss out on this chance to make a positive impact on your land and community!



Life, actually.



Soil is an amazing living and life-giving ecosystem. In fact, the more we learn, the more we realize how the soil's health affects every living thing above it. Learn more about the basics and benefits of soil health—and join our nation's farmers and ranchers as they work to "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil." Because it's not just about the soil. It's about life, actually.

HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

Individuals and entities that own or control agricultural land can be awarded up to \$200,000 for implementing eligible soil practices.



Scan for more information

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Agriculture land must be owned or leased in Siskiyou County
- Must be a farmer, rancher, farm lessee, or agricultural operation
- Nonprofit organizations operating as agriculture operations
- Federally and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- Compost application
- Cover cropping
- Hedgerow planting
- Prescribed grazing
- Rangeland planting
- and many more!



CONTACT

Gillies Robertson
Program Manager, Healthy Soils
gillies@siskiyoucounty.org



Side Channel Habitat Outreach

Do you live on or near Yreka Creek or Greenhorn Creek?

We are planning a project to improve instream habitat for salmon along the edges of what passes for an urban environment in Siskiyou County.

Near the outskirts of Yreka and running along the I5 corridor is a seasonal, sometimes perennial stream system consisting of Yreka Creek and Greenhorn Creek.

We are looking for some interested landowners who own streamside property to partner with us.

Working together, SVRCD has a long history of finding multi-benefit projects such as this.

Our hope is to design some alcoves and side channels where juvenile salmon may grow and thrive through their first months of life.

Often stream channels in our area have been channelized,, confined

and straightened. We hope to improve flood protection by expanding the creek to allow for a more orderly flow of stormwater. The project might involve fencing, planting and in-stream contouring work.

Please contact us if you want more information or might be interested.

Continued from Page 1. Grenada Sanitary District

The benefits to the citizens of Grenada will include being able to build new homes and businesses as well as protecting the ground water from pollution. The Shasta River is less than a mile away and this project can be of benefit to the groundwater resources that feed the river too.

Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association

The Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association (SPBA) moved to a more active status during the first part of 2024. Patty Grantham (recent US Forest Service retiree) came on in January as the SPBA coordinator. Together with Michael McGill, SVRCD Forestry and Fuels Project Manager, the SPBA has spent the late winter/spring organizing projects, participating in outreach events, and contacting/visiting landowners with interest in having prescribed fire on their property. Accomplishments include supporting a Scott River Watershed Council/CAL Fish and Wildlife restoration project in Guys Gulch that burned 30 acres of hand piles in thinned oak woodlands in preparation for a broadcast burn this fall. The SPBA also recently purchased a burn support trailer to store and move equipment and supplies for prescribed fire events. The trailer shell was made "work ready" by the Yreka High School shop class.

Another great piece of news to share is the California training course required to become a certified prescribed fire Burn Boss is coming to Yreka early next year. Participants completing the "CA RX" certification can plan and implement prescribed burn projects under State liability protections. The course, sponsored by the Cal Poly Fuels and Vegetation Education Program and The Nature Conservancy, will happen January 13 to 17, 2025. The SPBA will be providing support to the course, including a robust outreach effort to get inter-

ested local people registered.

The focus of the SPBA through the summer months is to continue building a program of work to support landowner burning this fall and into the future. Outreach/training events to increase local knowledge on burning practices and options are also on the tentative docket. Questions or interest in burning can be directed to siskiyoupba@svrccd.org.



Yreka High School shop support to the build-out of the prescribed burn trailer included (left to right) shop teacher Harry Sampson and students Brody Zediker, Klayton Rizzardo, and Casey Croteau.

West Mt. Shasta Defensible Space

Anna Froelich-Project Coordinator

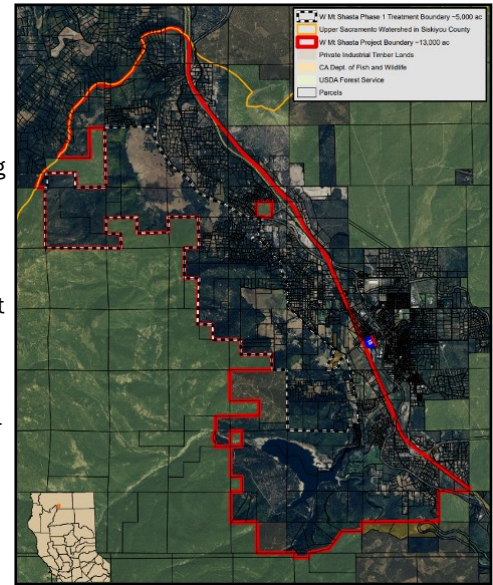
California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and CalFire have funded a pilot project to help homeowners prepare their homes and property for the event of a wildfire. We have all seen and/or felt the affects of disastrous wildfires here in Siskiyou County and this Defensible Space Project is designed to help mitigate the chance of losing a house during a wildfire while also helping homeowners bring their property up to insurance standards to avoid being dropped by their insurance company.

You can find more information on the project and what it entails on our website (www.svr.cd.org) under the West Mt. Shasta Defensible Space section.

Our progress:

As of May 2024 we have 33 out of 100 homeowner applications submitted throughout the West Mt. Shasta area. We are currently getting ready to bring contractors out to bid on our first six properties while continuously performing assessments and outreach to the community.

Since this is a pilot program, aspects of it may take a little longer than others but the SVRCD is working closely with CalOES and CalFire as well as other counties who are a part of the program to help each other with ideas and strategies to be able to get the work done efficiently and help mitigate the risk of damage from wildfires.



Map of West Mt. Shasta:

Our CEQA is covered on the inside of the red line only for this pilot program.

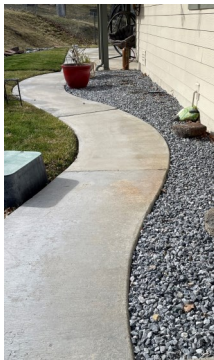


Image: A great example of Zone 0 hard-scaping



Map of Zones:

Zone 0: 0-5 ft: Nothing flammable can be within 5 ft of the structure. Trees, shrubs, wood chips, grass, etc. Zone 0 extends 5 ft beyond if there is an attached porch.

Zone 1: 5-30ft: Trees and shrubs are to be thinned and pruned.

Zone 2: 30-100ft: Trees thinned and limbed up to 8 ft from the ground, shrubs spaced 10 ft apart, all scattered debris cleaned out.

Zone Other: All outbuildings are required to be cleared of all ignitable fuels 10 ft on all sides, as well as fuel tanks and firewood piles.



Seeking New Board Members

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
215 Executive Court
Suite A
Yreka, CA 96097

Phone: 530-572-3120
E-mail: info@svrcd.org
www.svrcd.org

Stewardship Through Collaboration

We are excited to announce that we are hiring.

Join a dynamic team making a difference in Siskiyou County.

Check out our website for job announcements and

Project bid outreach for local contractors.

Do you own property in our district? We are always looking for new Associate Board Members. An Associate Board Member is someone who has an interest in our natural resources, perhaps has a special skill such as business, forestry or water issues. The role of the Associate Board Member is to attend meetings and keep the Board of Directors informed, as well as advising the Board on complex issues. They may also become a Board Member in the future.

Currently we have an unscheduled vacancy on our Board of Directors. . If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please contact

Rod Dowse at rdowse@svrcd.org



This newsletter is sponsored and funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and through agreement No. D1913111 with the State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (Clean Water Act Section 319) in the amount of \$679,953.00. The total Agreement amounts represent compensation for multiple documents and written reports. The contents of these documents and reports do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board