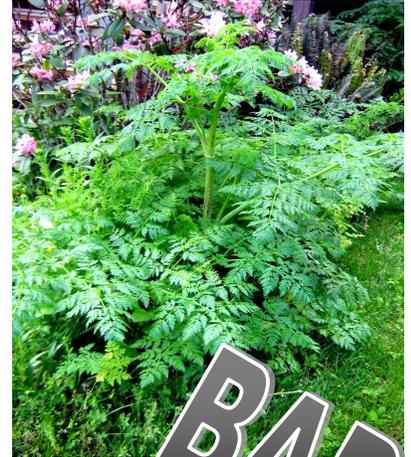


Featured Flora and Fauna— The Good and The Bad

Water Hemlock, common to Scott Valley, is also called cowbane, poison parsnip, or poison parsley, and is often referred to as the most violently toxic plant in the United States. Water hemlock prefers wet areas, such as irrigation ditches, marshes, damp areas in pastures, and riverbanks. All parts of the plant are poisonous, with the roots containing the highest concentration of the toxin. Clinical signs include drooling, dilated pupils, weakness, agitation, nervousness, twitching, seizures, cardiac abnormalities, difficult breathing, and death from respiratory paralysis.

- One plant can produce up to 30,000 seeds that remain viable for 3 to 6 years.
- Protective clothing (long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and gloves) should be worn when working in areas with this weed.
- Hoeing, digging, cutting or grubbing are effective management options.
- Plant material should be bagged or piled and burned since it is highly toxic and could pose a danger to wildlife, livestock, and children.



The **American Kestrel**, also known as the sparrow hawk, is a small falcon commonly seen in Scott Valley. Their diet of insects and small mammals is abundant in farmed land, which also provides a natural predator for the “pests” which would otherwise need to be removed. Kestrels and agricultural development have been found to benefit from each other, thus creating a symbiotic relationship between the two. The bird is characteristically seen along roadsides or fields perched on objects such as trees or fence posts. Although kestrels adapted to human-dominated environments, measures such as loss of agricultural areas, and increased suburbanization and urbanization have negatively impact them. In some areas, provision of artificial nest boxes enables kestrels to increase in number and allows populations to expand into formerly unused locations.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

- **July 14th** SRWC Board Meetings - 11:00 a.m. at Bob’s Ranch House. Join us the second Tuesday of every month for SRWC updates and new watershed related presentations at each meeting.
- **July 11th** and **August 22** Jammin on Main Street- SRWC will have an interactive booth.
- The Siskiyou RCD has changed their meeting times to the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at Etna City Hall.



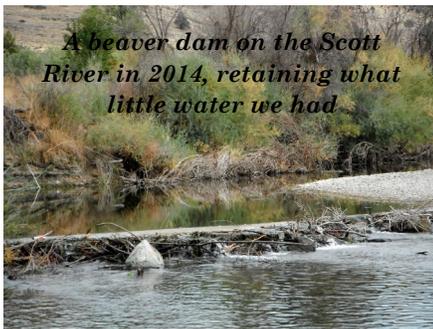
Most people only become aware of beavers when they are a nuisance, but did you know beavers are considered a keystone species by many, meaning they play a critical role in maintaining a healthy ecological system. Beavers increase plant, bird and wildlife variety, improve water quality, store groundwater, and provide suitable fish habitat, by aiding in cooler water temperatures and sediment mitigation. ***Incredibly this one species supports hundreds, and also improves water quality and quantity for both humans and wildlife.***

Water storage is becoming increasingly necessary given the persisting drought conditions. As the debates continue feverishly on issues surrounding dam removals, our local beavers, if left to their own natural engineering, they will build dams without the need for agencies approval, blessings or “proven science.”

In the Scott River (once known as Beaver Valley), salmon and other fish species has been found successfully rearing in beaver dams throughout the watershed. Salmon and beavers evolved together, both here in Scott Valley and many other areas of the Northwest. The ponds created by beavers provide slightly warmer water in the winter, and can provide cooler water in the summer depending on pool depths, along with refuge from floodwaters during severe events.



Even though there are many benefits to beaver activities, sometimes there are also nuisances. Infamous for tree removal and damming, these activities are not always wanted in certain areas or appreciated by the landowner.



Historically, depredation permits have been issued as a remedy to such problems. More recently, landowners have been seeking alternative solutions to some of beaver’s pesky problems, which allows the landowners and landscape to continue to reap their benefits.

Scott River Watershed Council can help mitigate problems, so call us!



A pond leveler is used to help manage the water level of a beaver pond.



This device is used to discourage beavers from plugging up an irrigation gate. These are a successful tool for ranchers and something the SRWC can assist with installation.



Tree caging can be done to protect the riparian corridor.

Partners within the Scott River watershed, working together to enhance local resources....



Northern California Resource Center

www.CaliforniaResourceCenter.com

Here are some examples of work being done by good folks at Northern California Resource Center are doing

Moffett Creek Watershed-*Working with a Moffett Creek landowner group, NCRC is planning and implementing exclusion fencing on Fruit Growers Supply Company and two adjacent, downstream land-owners' property. Efforts include future riparian planting within exclusion fencing and main stem riparian restoration on two miles near Duzel Creek.*

Scott River Tailings Restoration-*Recently completed the widening of the floodplain, bank stabilization, sediment reduction (approximately 2,500 cu. yds./year), and reconstruction of the river channel along an approximately 3,000 foot reach of the Scott River. Funding for the reconstruction of the riparian area has been applied for. Planning efforts are being accomplished for an additional six miles of tailings restoration.*

French Creek Watershed-*Completed pre-restoration assessment of the French Creek Watershed.*

Rattlesnake Creek Watershed-*The riparian restoration and exclusion fencing of a one mile reach of Rattlesnake Creek Watershed.*

East Fork of the Scott River-*Recently completed a 130 mile sediment risk road inventory on public lands in the East Fork of the Scott River Subshed.*

Scott River Watershed Council, Upland Committee-*The Upland Committee Group has recently been formed to provide a medium for stakeholders involved in the Scott Valley uplands to address issues and concerns in a collaborative approach. The committee consists of four major commercial timber companies, the US Forest Service, BLM, the Scott River Watershed Coalition of Fire Safe Councils and NCRC. The committee's first steps will be to collect existing assessment data, identify accomplished project sites and identify future needs within the watershed.*

Scott River Watershed Coalition of Fire Safe Councils-*The coalition was formed in 2007 to marshal the resources of six stakeholder driven fire safe councils operating in the Scott River watershed. These fire safe councils are placing a heavy emphasis on hazardous fuels reduction to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and increase watershed health. In the past 5 years, through various programs, more than 2,000 acres of hazardous fuels reduction activities have been accomplished. More than 500 additional acres are currently planned and funded for implementation.*



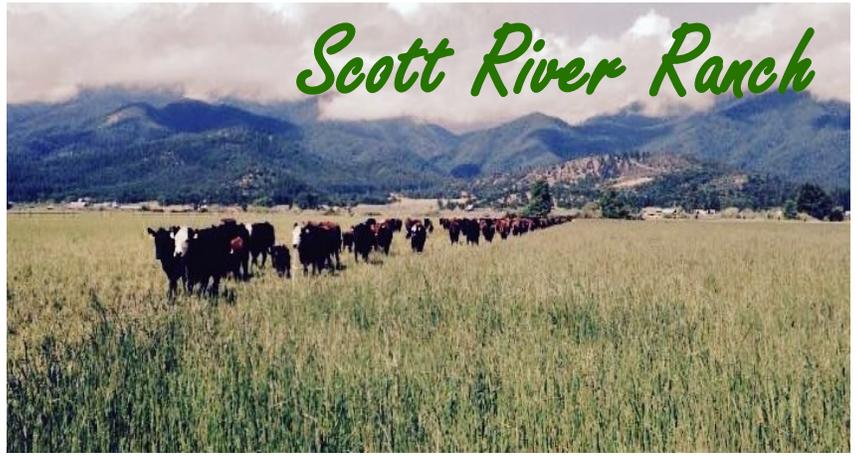
Northern California Resource Center is one of several great partners working together with the SRWC in the Scott River watershed



MEET ONE OF SCOTT VALLEY'S WORKING LANDSCAPES :

At the Ranch,

Through hands-on-assistance from organizations such as the, NRCS, USFWS and our local Siskiyou RCD and SRWC, Scott River Ranch has taken an active role in monitoring and maintaining the stretch of the Scott River that their land borders. Around ten years ago, they put in a pond at the north end of the property designed for filtration. All irrigation water flows down from the fields, through a wildlife corridor where the original stream was allowed to re-carve its own shape, into the pond. While it was dug out with excavators, the pond has taken on an entire life of its own. Wild flora and fauna have filled the area with their own designs. This system ensures that all runoff from cattle and irrigation go through a final clarifying process, between soil and native plants, before reentering the river. This is just one measure the ranch has taken to maintain the health of the watershed.



Along these lines, Scott River Ranch has tried to remain active in any area of stewardship they can. A great example of this is their work to erect owl boxes. Over the past few years a number of great horned owls have taken up residence in one of the barns and have subsequently kicked out many of the barn owls. To counteract this displacement, Gareth Plank of Scott River Ranch, collaborated with Mike Taylor to build owl nesting boxes. So far the boxes have been a huge success. After building 6 boxes, made to owl habitat specifications, the barn owls moved in quickly and began the “nesting” process into their new home. “There is no reason both species cannot exist here,” says Gareth, “being an organic operation, we will take all the pest control we can find”.



*Photos courtesy of
Scott River Ranch*

Owls are natural predators for the rodents on the ranch, building additional habitat for displaced barn owls was an easy solution.

Check out how to make your own owl box online at www.nrcs.usda.gov .



*Young barn owl showing us
whooo is boss.*



Owlets livin' it up in the boxes.

Scott River Ranch sells Grass-Fed Organic beef along with Organic Hay.

Visit their website at scottriverranch.com or check them out on Facebook or Instagram.



Scott Valley Working Landscapes...

Mid June 2015, open space in the fields of Orchard grass.



Young Bald Eagle joins the feeding frenzy



Welcome to the KK Bar Ranch in Etna California where a sign hangs proudly stating:

“Everyday is Earth On My Ranch.”



This Bald Eagle is a long time friend to the KK Bar Ranch, enjoying the benefits of open space.



Did you know; the hunting area or range patrolled by a bald eagle can vary from 1,700 to 10,000 acres. If food is plentiful, this will reduce the range area but one of the reasons why eagles love Scott Valley and the thousands of areas of open space created by working landscapes.



P.
A.
W.
S.



P.A.W.S. (Post Assisted Woody Structures) also known as beaver dam analog, were deployed in the Scott River and a local tributary in the summer of 2014. These structures are the first in California, and are currently being monitored by the SRWC team to see the effects on groundwater, water temperature, created habitat, dissolved oxygen levels, and fish passage.

B E E S

Scott Valley's newest bee guy, Tarron Branson, a recent Etna High School graduate, who did his senior project on bees. Tarron now builds his own hive boxes, and can help relocate bees, if needed. If you need bee help, or want your own bee box, contact the SRWC for Tarron's information.





May 1st Snow Survey Results



FORT JONES, CA – Forest Service personnel have completed the May 1st snow surveys on the Salmon Scott Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The snow survey program enables water managers to better estimate annual runoff available for hydroelectric generation, agriculture and municipal water use, and other water needs.

The month of May's survey indicates that the snow depth and water content are extremely below average with snow depth at 0% of normal and water content at 0% of normal compared to historical values for May. The snowpack – often called California's largest reservoir – normally provides about a third of the water used by cities and farms as it melts into streams and reservoirs in spring and early summer. California's reservoirs will not be significantly replenished by a melting snowpack this spring and summer.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow>. All news releases are posted on the Klamath National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/news/>.

Last bits of snow up Mill Creek, in the head of Etna Creek. Photo courtesy of Charnna Gilmore taken March 8, 2015



Water Conservation Ideas....

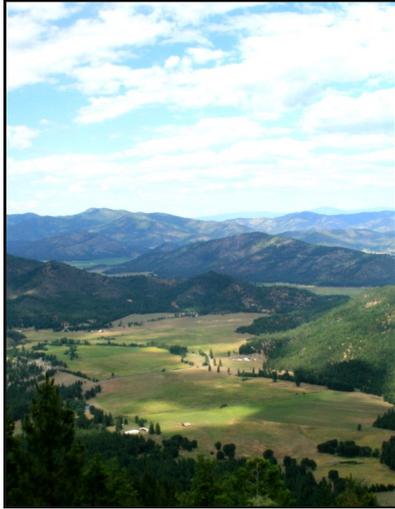


- **Keep showers to 5 minutes or less, and shower with a bucket and use it water outdoor plants.**
- **Replace any leaking faucets, a slow drip will add up to valuable wasted water!**
- **Water outside in the evening or early morning to avoid evaporation.**

The Growing SRWC Team

Charnna Gilmore - Executive Director

Charnna has worked and lived in Scott Valley since 1988. She has served on the Scott River Watershed Council as a Board of Director since approximately 2007 and recently was appointed the Council's Executive Director. Charnna was a founding member of the SRWC beaver committee and has helped paved the way to utilize beavers and beaver analogs with the Scott River watershed as a restoration tool.



Erich Yokel - Monitoring Supervisor

Erich completed a Bachelor of Sciences Degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the Penn State World Campus. Erich has lived in Western Siskiyou County and worked in the Natural Resource profession since 1998. Erich strives to utilize the principles of conservation to protect, enhance, restore and study the natural resources of the Scott River watershed.

Peter Thamer - Restoration Coordinator

Peter has lived in Scott Valley since 1989 and graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelors in Science in 2008. He has been a field technician and technical project coordinator for the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District since the spring of 2011 where he first started his conservation work. For the first year of the SRWC's PAWS project, he was independently contracted to be the lead project coordinator. As the PAWS project evolved, Peter has continued to coordinate construction, site selection, and assist with monitoring activities as needed.

Brenda Hurlimann - Chief Financial Officer

Brenda has lived in Scott Valley since 1982 where she raised her 3 children. Brenda has worked for the Siskiyou RCD as the bookkeeper for 17 years. Brenda signed on with the SRWC in early 2015 where she has become an integral piece of the SRWC office. Her expertise is much valued and we look forward to having her on as a new team member.

Hillary Plank—Administrative Coordinator

Hillary's family moved to Scott Valley in the late 90's to take on a ranch and a life they have all come to cherish. After graduating from Sonoma State University, Hillary moved back Etna and has since had the opportunity to become involved with issues important to the community as a whole through working with the Scott River Watershed Council. She hopes to see the agriculture in the valley flourish along with the health of the watershed, with a focus on how the two can sustain each other.

Anne Thamer Hilton—Board of Director

Anne's family moved to Scott Valley in 1989 where she was raised near Callahan. She returned to the valley to raise her kids with her husband. After growing up in a rural and ranching area she has grown to love and value the outdoors. She knows how important natural recourses are and hopes to give back to the community through her work with SRWC. After working as the coordinator for some time she has recently switched positions and now represents the council as a board of director. We are very excited to have her knowledge and experience on the council.

Board of Directors

• Mike Bryan • Michael Stapleton • Anne Hilton • Larry Alexander • Steve Ziegler • Craig Thompson

Chairman- Betsy Stapleton

Executive Director- Charnna Gilmore

Scott River Watershed Council

P.O. Box 355

Etna, CA 96027



“Cooperatively seeks solutions to enhance local resources and facilitate community collaboration on watershed issues”

Like us on Facebook and visit our website at www.scottriverwatershedcouncil.com

Working Landscapes; like so many of our Scott Valley ranches, these are places where people are working as partners to create landscapes and ecosystems that have benefits for humans, wildlife, and the planet.



Photo courtesy of Amber Custer.

This beautiful herd was photographed on the Anderson Ranch, Etna California.

Funding for the SRWC and newsletter is provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bella Vista Foundation. Funding for Beaver Management and Enhancement is provided by the Bella Vista Foundation, the Klamath River Coho Enhancement Fund, and the USFWS.

SRWC also has a tremendous volume of volunteer hours donated each month along with private financial donors who support the mission of the Council and their restoration efforts within the Scott River watershed.