

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Outreach in Action

InsideOUTREACH: Sharing Successes & Ideas!



Plus

Cleaning Up the Water: A Shared Responsibility

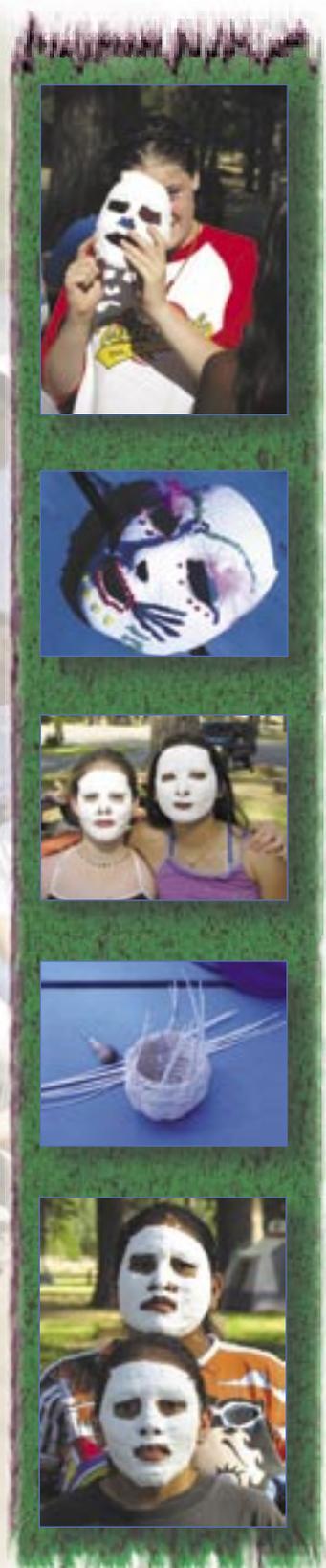
Area 3 Interns Learn About Life & Work

EQIP Program Popular in Central California

North Coast Gets A New RC&D

Proactive SPI's Conservation Efforts Recognized

And More!



A Message From Chuck



NRCS: America's Conservation Agency

use sectors across the private lands arena. NRCS is proud to be America's Conservation Agency. And yet, I am concerned that we are leaving some people behind as we scramble to deliver and focus on programs. How do we reach the underserved? Are we doing enough to explain our real conservation mission?

My challenge: First, are we doing all we can to ensure that all communities understand our real mission and the "tools" that are available? Nothing works as well as a planned, proactive, face-to-face approach at the community level.

Second: Do we really understand our conservation mission or do we confuse that objective with delivering Farm Bill programs? Agriculture is, and always has been, the primary target land use for delivery of Farm Bill Programs. This vital industry is incredibly important in California. We will always strive to serve agriculture.

I ask you to assist me on two fronts. First, help me do everything we can to reach people who have not historically received services from NRCS. Second, give some thought as to how you define "conservation." Are we focusing only on limited issues or are we looking at conservation as a process—a way of thinking—that should be applied to landscapes?

Imagine a future in which "America's Conservation Agency" delivers technical assistance to all potential clients on private lands. That is the broad approach that can only be accomplished by working closely with our key partners, the Resource Conservation Districts. They are our best hope to ensure that this broad conservation mission can be applied across land-use sectors in a manner that addresses diverse conservation needs unique to the clients we serve.

Chuck Bell
State Conservationist

How fortunate we are to live and work in California! Often the target of political jabs from pundits, our state has a reputation of innovative thinking. It is a wonderful mix of cultures, climates and landscapes; an environment in which people and ideas are encouraged to progress. It is my belief that this environment is nurtured by a prevailing "can-do" attitude and the understanding that all cultures and people have something valuable to offer. We only need to listen.

Conservation is a broad mission and it is our mission. It embraces all land

In This Issue

	Page
A Message From Chuck	2
Outreach in Action: <i>InsideOUTREACH</i> is Back!	3
Cleaning Up the Water: A Shared Responsibility	4
Proactive SPI's Conservation Efforts Recognized	5
EQIP Program Popular in Central California	5
North Coast Gets a New RC&D	5
District Tour Focuses on Stream & Meadow Restoration	6
Dixon Students Help Install Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden	7
Area 3 Interns Learn About Life & Work	7
California Drought Information Available	7
Caligrams — Statewide News in Brief	8
Pine Creek Detention Basin: A Highly Appreciated Urban Landscape	8
HR — Personnel Actions	8

On the Cover

Images from the Environmental Science Camp held in Greenville in June 2003. The event was sponsored by Roundhouse Council, an Indian Education Center, and the Indian Watershed Education Partnership. The camp provided 25 California Indian students with natural resources education, cultural customs instruction, and an overall good time with other California Indian youth.

Photos & Design: Jim Cairns

CALIFORNIA CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS STAFF

Editor: Jim Cairns
Editorial Supervision: Marsha Gery
Layout & Design: Jim Cairns
Contributors: Dave Sanden, Brian Ziegler, Jolene Lau, Paul Laustsen, Reina O'Beck, Shelby Gatlin, Lisa Hokholt, Tacy Currey and Jim Cairns

Send Questions, Comments & Contributions to:

California Current Developments, NRCS Public Affairs
 430 G Street, #4164, Davis, California 95616-5475
 E-mail: jim.cairns@ca.usda.gov; Phone: (530) 792-5693
 California Current Developments magazine is published six times a year
 Next issue deadline: October 5, 2003
 Materials submitted may be edited for content, clarity and length
 Some photos have been digitally altered

Visit the NRCS California Web site at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov



(Above, left to right) Reina Rogers (NRCS Calif. American Indian Liaison), Kathleen Pulido (Miss Pyramid Lake 2002-2003), and Cub Wolfe (NRCS Nevada American Indian Liaison) pose at the sixth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in Sparks, Nevada.



Delegates from Japan meet with Surgit Toor (above, second from left), NRCS Elk Grove District Conservationist. Photo: Reina O'Beck



Earth Team volunteer Rixon Rafter (left) works with a student on an erosion control project at this year's Range Camp. Photo: Reina O'Beck

Outreach in Action: *InsideOUTREACH* is Back!

Look for shared success stories & ideas in this returning publication

By Reina O'Beck
Public Affairs Specialist/Davis

InsideOUTREACH is back after lying dormant for a while. Many of you have probably seen the recent *InsideOUTREACH* stories that I have produced. The first two focused on getting today's youth involved in conservation through the Environmental Science Camp and the Society for Range Management's Range Camp.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) employees taught educational components to pique students' interest in the natural resources field, and to consider exploring it as a potential career. NRCS employees that contributed to the Environmental Science Camp and Range Camp were **Reina Rogers** (American Indian Liaison), **Dan Martynn** (Greenville DC), **Richard King** (Petaluma Area Range Con./ Ecologist), **Dan Macon** (High Sierra RC&D Coordinator), **Jenny Gabor** (Madera Soil Con.), and **Ken Oster** (Templeton Area Soil Scientist).

For those of you unfamiliar with *InsideOUTREACH*, it is a weekly publication that documents various outreach activities occurring throughout California. An outreach activity or event is anything related to our target outreach audience, which includes beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, Tribes and minority farmers, as well as international technology transfer.

InsideOUTREACH is a great way to share our success stories and ideas in working with underserved audiences. It also serves as a model for "tested" projects and provides opportunities to participate in upcoming events.

For example, the *InsideOUTREACH* story on the Environmental Science Camp focused on providing NRCS offices with a way to reach out to California Indian youth through Indian Education Centers. These Centers encourage NRCS employees to give guest presentations to students.

The potential exchange of information can be seen in the Range Camp *InsideOUTREACH* story. Range Camp directors need NRCS's help to disseminate information about the Camp to schools and agricultural organizations. This provides insight into the exciting opportunities in the range management and natural resources fields.

We have also recently covered stories on OATS (Outreach Activities Tracking System), California Earth Team Volunteers, Civil Rights awards, international visitors, and much more.

To submit stories to *InsideOUTREACH*, please send pictures and stories to reina.o_beck@ca.usda.gov. Feel free to call with questions or comments regarding *InsideOUTREACH* at (530) 792-5692.

We look forward to your submissions!

Upcoming *InsideOUTREACH* Stories

1. California and National Civil Rights Award Winners
2. Greek Researcher Meets with NRCS and Yolo County RCD
3. Overcoming Barriers: Success Stories

See you at the 2004

North American Direct Marketing/ California Farm Conference



February 2-8, 2004
at the
Sheraton Grand
Sacramento Hotel

www.californiafarmconference.com
(530) 756-8518, ex. 16

Cleaning Up the Water: A Shared Responsibility

By Paul Laustsen
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Riverside

When the Regional Water Quality Control Board changed its Clean Water Act regulatory paradigm from giving agricultural waivers to holding nurseries accountable for their runoff, San Diego County Agriculture Department inspectors found themselves inundated with producers in need of help to bring them into compliance. Naturally, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helped fill this niche.

Over 600 nurseries, anywhere from one to 200 acres, dot the landscape in San Diego County. These nurseries produce not only a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants, but a contaminated runoff that contributes to a process called eutrophication. This process can drastically change biological communities, sometimes killing fish. Up to this point, nursery operations have not been regulated. Older nurseries are challenged with meeting the requirement of “no discharge of contaminated water” off their property. Nurseries know that if their irrigation water is of good quality (San Diego County Water District’s water has an E_c of ~0.9) and their irrigation system is efficient, plant production will be easier.

They also know it would be a financial burden to upgrade their irrigation systems. The fact is, it is cheaper to over-irrigate and discharge the water than upgrade the systems. The nurseries want to stay in business and comply with the Clean Water Act. This is where the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has helped nurseries upgrade systems without adverse economic impact.

Paul Davy, Supervising Agricultural Standards Inspector from the county, recognizes the challenges of coming into an established industry and making sweeping changes.

“We all have a shared responsibility for our environment,” Davy said. “Our intention is to outreach to the industry and educate them on their options. The NRCS and Resource Conservation Districts really help with this process because they have the technical expertise to assist the nurseries.”

Ag, Science & the Secretary



A photo opportunity during June’s Ministerial Conference & Expo in Sacramento caught Jolene Lau (NRCS/Salinas) left, and Amy Cody (FSA/Stockton) right, chatting with Secretary Ann M. Veneman. Other NRCSers not pictured that staffed the media room were Shelby Gatlin and Jennifer DeLorenzi from Davis.

Howard Mueller, a Civil Engineering Technician with NRCS, has over eight years experience at working with nurseries and over 43 years with agricultural producers in San Diego County.

“I tell the producer what the inspector will see and leave it up to them to make a change or ask us for help,” says Mueller. “That is the great part of our job—we are not regulatory.”

Producers like **Jose Luis Ramos**, founder of El Sembrador Nursery, welcome the assistance NRCS has to offer. Ramos was looking for ways to use his water more efficiently and save money, as well as address potential contamination problems in his compost operation. Ramos responded to a flyer from the RCD of Greater San Diego about a meeting for EQIP. Realizing this would be an excellent opportunity to receive help with his irrigation system and tail water runoff collection systems, he attended and made the necessary contacts to get an evaluation of his operation. Soon after, NRCS’s Howard Mueller visited the site and made a number of suggestions on how the operation could be improved.

The NRCS Escondido Field Office is currently working with 15 nurseries with old and new EQIP projects. These projects range from simply updating irrigation systems with new and improved sprinklers, drippers and pressure regulating devices to full reclamation systems that treat tail water runoff to produce sanitized water for reuse on the nursery products.

Proactive SPI’s Conservation Efforts Recognized

By Dave Sanden
Area Public Affairs Specialist/
Red Bluff



From left to right, 2003 California SWCS President Erik Beardsley, SPI Forestland Operations Manager Mike Mitzel, and SPI Forester Mike Thrush.
Photo: Dave Sanden

On June 13, **Erik Beardsley** presented **Mike Mitzel** and **Mike Thrush** of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) with an award from the California Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) in recognition of SPI’s proactive conservation work on Piaute Creek in Lassen County.

While assessing 60,000 acres of land recently purchased by Sierra Pacific Industries, SPI Forester Mike Thrush identified seven head cuts along Piaute Creek, some measuring up to 15 feet deep. Thrush enlisted the NRCS field office in Susanville and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Private Lands office in Sacramento to provide additional assessment perspectives.

NRCS soil conservation, rangeland management, and bioengineering specialists and a FWS biologist concurred the head cuts most likely resulted from hydrologic changes caused by improperly designed logging roads and wild fire effects.

Thrush shared the findings and treatment actions he developed with NRCS, FWS specialists, and Mike Mitzel, SPI Forestland Operations Manager. This information led to a proposal to secure conservation cost-share and technical support from NRCS and FWS.

EQIP Program Popular in Central Calif.

By Brian Ziegler
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Fresno

Judging by the number of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts signed in Area 3 this year, the program has proven to be quite popular. Maybe too popular.

Employees learned at a recent area-wide meeting at the Plant Materials Center (PMC) that in 2003 NRCS has entered into 670 EQIP contracts with private landowners in Area 3, an area approximately the size of Louisiana. More than half of the contracts focused on air quality improvements.

Despite the program's success, State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** told the group that there is disparity between the number of people applying for funds and those who actually receive them. "Just because the amount of money given to California for conservation programs has been doubled, it doesn't mean the



State Conservationist Chuck Bell (left) listens as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations Curtis Tarver addresses NRCS Area 3 employees. Photo: Brian Ziegler

NRCS will be signing double the number of contracts," Bell says. "We'll ask for ways to improve EQIP. That will include input from the Farm Services Agency," he adds.

Area 3 employees also engaged in a discussion, led by Resource Conservationist **Steve Crow**, on ways to pre-screen EQIP applicants in counties with larger-than-average application activity. Another topic was how to handle requests from land owners who want to use EQIP money to thin timber from their property.

Elk Grove Wetland Team Biologist **Karen Fullen** spoke about NRCS's requirement to annually monitor Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements and conduct on-site visits at least once every three years. "So far," Fullen says, "Area 3 leads the state in WRP monitoring."

Auburn Soil Conservationist **Carol Rutenbergs** brought up the need for publications printed in different languages. The California Conservation Programs brochure has been translated into Spanish and progress is being made to convert it into Hmong.

During the two-day gathering, employees toured the PMC with Plant Materials Specialist **Tish Espinosa**, participated in a mentoring activity led by Madera Soil Conservationist **Jenny Gabor**, discussed challenges and possible solutions with Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations **Curtis Tarver**, and heard a presentation on soil history from Madera Soil Scientist **John Rule**.

North Coast Gets a New RC&D

By Jolene Lau
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Salinas

We have 11 Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) offices throughout California, and in July, Secretary **Ann M. Veneman** announced the establishment of a new office for the North Coast, which will serve Lake, Marin and Sonoma counties (population of over 750,000).

More than three years ago, rancher and vineyardist **Warren Dutton** led an effort to establish an RC&D Council for the North Coast. When he passed away in 2001, **Bev Wasson** stepped in to become the new North Coast RC&D President. In partnership with federal, state and local agencies, a stellar proposal was submitted. Support was also provided by the Resource Conservation Districts of East Lake, West Lake, Gold Ridge, Sotoyome, Southern Sonoma, and Marin.

"The announcement of this new area is a great thing. We're all very excited and know that Warren is smiling down on us," stated Bev Wasson. "This is a magnificent honor and now the work begins," she added.

When the discussion began in 1999 for a RC&D, District Directors gathered to form a Steering Committee. **Lisa Woo Shanks**, Area Resource Conservationist, assisted the forming Council and members to organize public meetings, put together an Area Plan, and form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Support from District Conservationist **Len Kashuba**, **Charlette Sanders**, and **Tom Schott** helped to move the effort forward.

Twenty-eight high caliber applications were received nationwide and areas were selected based on local needs, technical merits of the application and readiness for designation. California's North Coast RC&D joins six other new areas

established in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Virginia and Wisconsin.

"The application procedure is a very competitive process that identifies resource issues and economic concerns, and this new designation in California will address those," said **Chuck Bell**, California State Conservationist. "The North Coast RC&D will be a vehicle to create economic opportunities for communities and improve their standard of living, while conserving our wealth of natural resources for future generations," he added.

The North Coast RC&D has been working on the "Birding Trail," a campaign to diversify agriculture by providing a birding map, bird and plant lists, nature trails, and workshops on plant and bird identification. The RC&D is also interested in conducting workshops on native plant education for sudden oak death to manage diseased trees.

Congratulations North Coast and welcome aboard!

Plan Now! Join Us in Nashville, Tenn.

National Conference on Grazing Lands!

Nashville Convention Center • Dec. 7-10, 2003



Learn More About:

- Economic Benefits of Grazing Lands
- Science-based Technology for Grazing Lands
- Environmental Benefits of Grazing Lands

For Information: www.glci.com

Then & Now

Pine Creek Detention Basin Memories



See
article
on
page 8

20 Years Ago

Above, left to right: SCS'ers Robert Sneickus, Gene Andreuccetti (Ret.), Charles Davis, Dave Rexroat (Ret.), Billy Bruner (Ret.), (unknown person), Bill Morgan (Ret.), and Milt Kubicek (Contra Costa County Flood Control District).



Today

Left to right (above, right): Mitch Avalon (CCC Flood Control District), Gene Andreuccetti (Ret.), Lisa Hokholt (District Conservationist), Charles Davis (State Conservation Engineer) and Bill Morgan (Ret., Contra Costa RCD Associate Director). *Photo: Dave Sanden*

District Tour Focuses on Stream & Meadow Restoration

By *Dave Sanden*
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Red Bluff

Conservationists, community leaders, agency officials, and a field representative from the office of California Assemblyman **Rick Keene** viewed successful demonstration projects and learned about innovative stream restoration techniques during a district tour co-hosted by the Sierra Valley and Feather River Resource Conservation Districts on June 12.

Participants visited two recently completed projects in Carman Valley, a sub-watershed to Sierra Valley, and a more mature project site in Clover Valley where a segment of Clover Creek was restored using rock drop structures nearly 18 years ago. Among the group were State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** and District Conservationist **Dan Martynn** from the Local Partnership Office in Greenville.

Carman Valley was once a major stop for migrating birds and still hosts the Sandhill Crane. Over the years, natural events and human activities resulted in a gullied meadow system in which water rushed through, confined to a very narrow channel.

This restoration project demonstrates meadow function restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement. It was made possible through the leadership of Sierra Valley Resource

In Focus

Kern County Grapes Worth the Travel



Earth Team volunteer Celeste Hanson and Soil Conservationist Raul Ramirez (center) show a Kern County grape vineyard to Sayed Hussain Anwari, Afghanistan minister of agriculture and livestock. Anwari was studying how to increase his country's production of table grapes.

Conservation District, the cooperation and support of 12 other organizations and agencies, and more than \$750,000 in private and public funding.

"In the early 1900's a railroad grade was built across a two-mile stretch of Knuthson Meadow, which changed the natural water flow and resulted in draining of the water table throughout the meadow system," said **Terry Benoit**, Hydrologist for the Plumas National Forest. "The water did not irrigate the meadow like it once did. Instead it cut deeper, further eroding the channel bottom. During the dry summer months there was not enough water to support the natural plants and animals of a meadow system."

The flow of water was changed using a technique called "pond and plug." Existing gullies were closed by installing soil barriers (plugs) with material excavated from the channel area. The borrow sites became ponds and water filled them from the underground water table. A series of ponds and plugs replaced the existing gullied stream channel.

The projects have produced astonishing results—rehabilitated and improved fish and wildlife habitat, r e e s t a b l i s h e d meadows with flood plain function, and restored natural irrigation in the meadows. For more information, contact District Conservationist Dan Martynn in Greenville at (530) 284-1300.



Restored meadow systems and an increase of wildlife are just two benefits explored by residents and agency officials touring portions of the Sierra Valley and Feather River Conservation Districts. *Photo: Dave Sanden*

Dixon Students Help Install Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden

By *Tacy Currey*
Solano RCD District Manager



What do you get when you combine 28 environmental science students, a half-acre demonstration garden and enormous piles of decomposed granite (DG) and mulch? Over 600 feet of DG paths in the soon-to-open Solano RCD Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden, about one-eighth acre of mulched beds and some tired kids!

Dixon High School science teacher **Al Colombano** and Solano RCD's District Manager **Tacy Currey** coordinated the event to provide environmental science students with an opportunity for community service and hands-on watershed restoration and enhancement experience.

The group car-pooled to the RCD's Native Plant Nursery/Garden Site in Vacaville and was greeted by SRCD staff. After a quick snack, the students divided into five groups. Each group was assigned a task: Hauling and spreading DG

Dixon High environmental science students seized the opportunity to participate in community service and a hands-on restoration and enhancement experience. Most of the 28 hard workers are pictured above.

on the garden paths; hauling and spreading mulch for weed suppression on garden beds; planting native plants in the garden; painting bird and owl boxes for installation at the nursery site, or transplanting Toyon for future conservation installations in the county.

Each group worked at a task for 30 minutes, then rotated to another job. Everyone got to do everything, but as the morning wore on it was clear that students gravitated to the work they liked best; some students preferred to haul DG and make paths all morning! The RCD staff was amazed and pleased with the students' quality and quantity of work. The RCD hosted a lunch for the hard workers, and plans were made to repeat the event soon.

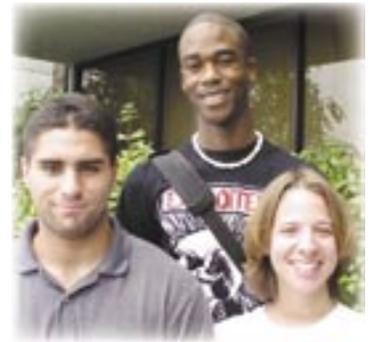
Solano RCD is working under a grant from the California

Department of Conservation to install the Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden at its nursery/yard. When the garden is completed in early April, the site will offer local landowners examples of ways to install landscapes on their own properties that use water efficiently, reduce the need for chemical inputs on their property, reduce the spread of noxious invasive species and provide wildlife habitat.

Solano RCD's Native Plant Nursery and Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden are community resources for Solano County. Teachers or community groups interested in arranging a field trip or setting up work projects at the Watershed Friendly Garden can contact Solano RCD District Manager **Tacy Currey** at (707) 678-1655, ex. 101 or e-mail: tcurrey@solanorcd.org.

Area 3 Interns Learn About Life & Work

By *Brian Ziegler*
Area Public Affairs Specialist/
Fresno



On her first day working as an intern in Area 3, Fresno State ag business major **Katie Matthews** was driving a car to the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) office in North Fork, Calif. when its transmission gave out. That first day was trying, but Matthews wouldn't let it deter her. "I worked on breaking down a census of Madera, Tulare, and Fresno counties to determine what communities are in need of economic development through the RC&D," she said.

NRCS interns (left to right) David Ramirez, Brian Riley and Rachel Autenrieth. Photo: *Brian Ziegler*

From Matthews' introduction to government vehicles to surveying a YMCA summer camp to analyzing irrigation plans, she, **Roberto Castro**, **Judith Ball**, **David Ramirez**, **Rachel Autenrieth**, and **Brian Riley** learned a lot about life this summer while gaining valuable experience working as NRCS interns.

Castro, Ramirez and Autenrieth were based out of the Fresno area office. Ball worked in the Fresno field office and Riley was assigned to the Hanford field office.

Ramirez, a civil engineering student attending Fresno State, was able to study culvert design as well as perform hydraulic checks on many irrigation systems.

He and Autenrieth, a University of Texas geosystems engineering major, also used what they learned in their survey classes to help the local YMCA. The organization wanted to stop soil from silting into its summer camp at Sequoia Lake. The two surveyed the camp as part of a plan to prevent further erosion.

Riley, a civil engineering major from Southern University, ranked diesel engines needing to be replaced with newer ones to improve central California's air quality. "This internship has shown me that there's a broader area for civil engineering," Riley says. "There's engineering applications in the ag industry, too."

Ramirez looks forward to a government career and recommends an internship with the NRCS. "I actually got to see how agriculture should be done," he says.

Calif. Drought Information Available

By *Shelby Gatlin*
Public Affairs Specialist/Davis



The State Office has compiled a packet of drought information, resources and tips. The information is available online at our Web site www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html, or by contacting **Jennifer DeLorenzi** at (530) 792-5647.

Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of climate. With the help of NRCS land-users can plan for and mitigate the effects of drought.

Bruce Lindsay Receives State Civil Rights Award

NRCS California has recognized **Bruce Lindsay**, Soil Scientist in the Arcata Soil Survey Office, for his efforts in participating as a team member of the Hoopa Valley Technical Outreach Team.

The Hoopa Valley Technical Outreach Team has been awarded the California Civil Rights Group Award for their exceptional work in developing a soil survey and a conceptual irrigation system design for the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe, which is the largest reservation in the state of California. The outstanding efforts of the team led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the government-to-government relationship.

Please take the opportunity to congratulate Bruce on his exceptional work as part of the Hoopa Valley Technical Team.

By Lisa Hokholt
District Conservationist/Concord

Pine Creek Detention Basin: A Highly Appreciated Urban Landscape

In 1983, a ceremony ushered in change that would ultimately make an indelible mark on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's role in large public works projects. The Pine Creek Detention Basin was dedicated to the people of Contra Costa County, and has functioned ever since to protect expanding downstream urban areas from potential disastrous flooding.

Two decades later, on April 26, 2003, the Pine Creek Detention Basin was "rededicated" (see photos of both events on page 6) in memory of Contra Costa County's lead project engineer, **Milton F. Kubicek**, who passed away in 2002. The multi-million dollar PL-566 project was sponsored by the Contra Costa County Flood Control District in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Contra Costa RCD.

State Conservation Engineer **Charles Davis** spoke to the crowd of old acquaintances, public officials and members of Kubicek's family about his cutting-edge ideas. Kubicek successfully employed those ideas using input

from community members and integrating landscape design concepts into large-scale public works projects. Since SCS provided construction funds and was a technical partner, these new ideas about shaping a project with public input were soon tried in its processes as well.

According to Davis's recollections, Kubicek came up with the innovative idea of a detention basin after a public uproar resulted over the two dams originally proposed. Kubicek arranged for public input meetings that used a scale site model to help people better understand the project. "Now, we wouldn't even think of doing a major project with visual impacts and changes in the landscape of that scale and significance without public interaction," Davis said. "At that time—20 years ago—it was revolutionary. Milt was a real leader in making these kinds of public partnerships work."

Community members spoke about how they value the detention basin as an important part of their community, providing open space and wildlife habitat. As one looks out over the vast landscape flanking Mt. Diablo, recognizing the site as a detention basin is not a detraction, but a cutting-edge, highly prized and appreciated piece of urban landscape.



Name	Position	Action	Grade	Location	Date
Richard Cernasky	Civil Engr	New Hire	GS-9	Ontario	7/14/03
Heidi Carp. Harris	Range Consvst	Career Promo	GS-9	Eureka	6/29/03
Kenneth Weaver	DC	Promotion	GS-12	Susanville	6/29/03
Cori Calvert	Soil Consvst	Career Promo	GS-9	Madera	7/14/03
Jennifer DeLorenzi	Editorial Asst	Career Promo	GS-6	Davis	7/14/03
Brook Murphy	Range Consvst	Career Promo	GS-9	Placerville	7/27/03
Ora Goldsmith	Soil Consvst	Career Promo	GS-9	Stockton	7/27/03
Jonathan Chilcote	Ag Engr	Career Promo	GS-7	Fresno	8/10/03
C. Montepagano	Soil Consvst	Conv to CC Appt	GS-7	Redlands	7/14/03
Kristen Flynn	Soil Consvst	Conv to CC Appt	GS-7	Petaluma	7/14/03
Reina O'Beck	Pub Aff Splst	Conv to CC Appt	GS-7	Davis	8/10/03
Diana Waller	Range Consvst	Conv to CC Appt	GS-7	Arcata	6/29/03
Frank Corral	Ag Engr	LWOP	GS-9	Salinas	7/27/03
Patrick Evans	Soil Consvst	Promo to DC in ID	GS-9	Placerville	7/27/03
Giulio Ferruzzi	Agronomist	Reassign from Salinas	GS-11	Templeton	7/27/03
John Tiedeman	Ag Engr	Reassign from S. Maria	GS-11	Weaverville	8/24/03
Brent Schumacher	Ag Engr	Reassign from Eureka	GS-9	Petaluma	9/7/03
Lisa Roberts	Biologist	Resignation	GS-11	Somis	7/27/03
Nicole Vollrath	Soil Scntst	Resignation	GS-11	Concord	7/31/03
Sharon Larivee	Range Consvst	Resignation	GS-9	Elk Grove	7/31/03