



California

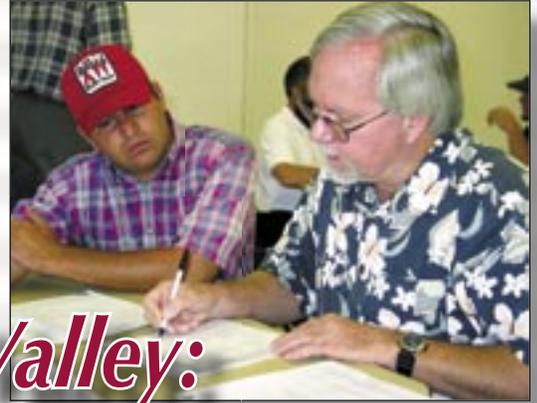
JULY/
AUGUST 2004

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS



*Bad air in the
San Joaquin Valley:*

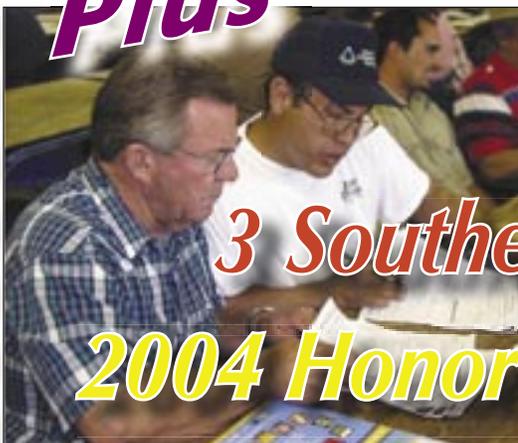
NRCS helps get the job done!



*Fish gotta love it, too:
Santa Rosa's one of the U.S.'s best cities*



Plus



*3 Southern Calif. EWP updates
2004 Honor & Conservation Awards*



A Message From Chuck Bell, State Conservationist

that is good for the agricultural community. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about our Conservation Technical Assistance budget. While funding available to our agricultural clients has increased dramatically, funding available to hire staff is about the same as last year. It impacts all of us in Calif., and I promise that we will keep pushing to get the needed resources. Meanwhile, I want to thank you for the hard work.

NRCS and our conservation partners are involved in many important and diverse activities in Calif. Some of these include technical leadership in the Air Quality, Conservation Management Plan workshops in the San Joaquin Valley; remediation efforts in the Southern Calif. wildfire area; accelerated Klamath Basin technical and financial assistance; expanded technical assistance to improve water quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and work with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern Calif. on water conservation.

I would like to congratulate the **National**

Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE) on their successful annual conference held in Sacramento. It was a great training and networking opportunity, and I am very proud that Calif. was selected as the host state. Thanks to everyone for showing the Organization that Calif. NRCS really knows how to put together an effective, high-quality conference. Thanks to **Chief Knight** for joining us for the conference. I hope that many of you took advantage of the opportunity to meet him.

Thanks to all of you who are assisting me in assuring that the public and legislators understand the agency's mission. We do this best by consistently keeping the NRCS name and logo prominently mentioned in publications and visible at conferences. We get the support we need for this vital Federal program by proactively marketing our work. I am proud of our agency and I know that you are too. Let's never stop getting the word out. The support we need, then, will follow.

Greetings to all NRCS staff and conservation partners in Calif. It's hard to believe that we are already moving toward the last quarter of the NRCS fiscal year. I know that all of our people are working very hard to meet expectations of clients and the agency. Fiscal year 2004 is a banner year for NRCS in Calif. We certainly have the largest Farm Bill financial assistance budget ever, and

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On the Cover

Central Valley Air Quality Workshops. NRCS employees participating in Workshops included (clockwise, from top left) Chuck Bell (TV interview), Don Nielsen (with client), Johnnie Siliznoff (with client), James Tillman (newspaper interview), Vince Moreno (with client) and Susan Perez (with client). See article on page 3. Photos: Brian Ziegler / Design: Jim Cairns

CALIFORNIA CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS STAFF

Editor: Jim Cairns
Editorial Supervision: Marsha Gery
Layout & Design: Jim Cairns
Contributors: Dave Sanden, Brian Ziegler, Lori Valadez, Reina O'Beck, Jon Gustafson, Phil Hogan, Joe Takai, Lisa Hokholt, Judy Carter, Donna Burcher, Paul Laustsen, Walt Sykes 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
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Farm Plans Readied To Settle The Dust

With San Joaquin Valley air quality ranked in non-attainment status under the Clean Air Act, NRCS assists growers to help deal with the problem

By Brian Ziegler
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Fresno

When it comes to really bad air, Los Angeles grabs most of the headlines for its pollution. But central Calif.'s San Joaquin Valley—home to some of the most productive farmland in the country—is making a strong case why it deserves a share of the notoriety.

The San Joaquin Valley has been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to be in serious non-attainment for PM-10 emissions—particulate matter smaller than 10 microns in size—under the federal Clean Air Act.

Particulate matter is made of tiny particles of dust and soot. These particles are especially harmful to the elderly, young children, and those suffering from

respiratory problems.

Because of the serious ranking, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Air District is required to achieve a five percent per year reduction in emissions until attainment is reached.

Agriculture has been identified as one of the causes of PM-10 emissions. So, to reach its goal the Air District has adopted new rules that will affect 6,000 farmers in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare and Kern counties.

Rules require all agriculture producers with 100 contiguous acres to implement a Conservation Management Practices plan (CMP), which are crop-specific dust reduction plans.

Dust control practices had to be in place by July 1, and a conservation plan must be filed with the Air District by December 31, 2004.

A farm found not complying with the terms of a conservation plan can be warned or fined up to \$10,000 per day, depending on the severity and emissions caused by the violations.

NRCS has created an air quality team headed by State Coordinator **John Beyer**. He is assisted by San Joaquin Valley area air quality specialists **Johnnie Siliznoff, Carol Rush, Livy Coe, Susan Perez, and Erik Merriman**. The air team has been



Cutting dust is good farming: Chipping (above) and other particulate matter-reducing activities enable growers to comply with Clean Air Act requirements and help everyone breathe a little easier. Photo courtesy of Brian Ziegler

busy conducting a series of air quality workshops throughout the valley to assist farmers with developing dust control plans.

Growers attending these workshops were able to realize substantial time and cost savings. Not only could they have their plans developed, reviewed, approved and filed with the Air District, but if the plans were first submitted to NRCS for verification of completeness, the farmer obtained a 50 percent discount on the application fee.

The NRCS air quality team and district conservationists met with approximately 1,800 growers over a three week period. State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** told reporters that he was pleased by the turnout. "It allows us to get our foot in the door," he said. Bell added that the air quality issue is not one that will be resolved in a short time period. "It's taken us many years to get into this position. It's not an issue that's related solely to agriculture, but rather to all of us who live and work in Calif."

Growers have dozens of options available to reduce dust, including applying a suppressant to unpaved roads, chipping instead of burning, replacing old diesel engines used for irrigation pumping, and reducing the number of trips machinery make across fields.



State Conservationist Chuck Bell (right) during an interview with a Fresno Bee reporter. Photo: Brian Ziegler



Clearing the air: Applying a suppressant (above) to an unpaved road in rural San Joaquin Valley. Photo courtesy of Brian Ziegler

Helping Tribes Imagine The Possibilities

By Brian Ziegler
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Fresno



Big Sandy Rancheria Environmental Protection Manager Kathy Childers (left) points out resource concerns on tribal land near Auberry, Calif., to the NRCS's Curtis Tarver and Sharon Nance. Photo: Brian Ziegler

Uranium-tainted drinking water, hazardous brush, inadequate fire emergency escape roads, and soil erosion are some of the problems faced by Indian tribes in Area 3.

To help solve these challenges, NRCS is intensifying its outreach effort with the tribes, meeting with leaders and learning their needs.

The effort is a culmination of a February 2004 meeting in Sacramento where tribe officials from around Calif. met with NRCS to learn about the agency and how it can help them.

Tribes requesting formal assistance will receive a NRCS-written conservation plan, followed by help identifying cost-share programs that address conservation concerns. Nationwide, there are more than 70 full and part-time NRCS field offices serving tribes.

Districts Celebrate Completed Soil Survey In Bieber

By Dave Sanden
Area Public Affairs Specialist/
Red Bluff



Bob McClain (right) accepts a certificate of appreciation from State Soil Scientist Dave Smith on behalf of the Calif. Department of Forestry (CDF). McClain negotiated the contract between CDF and the Soil Conservation Service for the Soil Vegetation Survey Program. Photo: Dave Sanden

Local landowners joined representatives from federal and state agencies to celebrate completion of the long-anticipated Soil Survey of Intermountain Area, Calif.

The Pit and Fall River Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) sponsored

the festivity, which included information and discussion about the importance and use of the published soils information. Speakers included State Soil Scientist **Dave Smith**, Soil Scientist **Dean Burkett** and District Conservationists **Bob Bailey** and **Ken Weaver**, as well as **Kim Wolf** from the Pit RCD and **Bill Buckman** from the Fall River RCD.

“The wealth of information contained in this survey will be an important tool for a multitude of land users,” said Smith.

Begun in 1989, the completed survey updates all earlier surveys of the area. Larger than the State of Rhode Island, the survey area includes parts of Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou and Shasta counties—an area of about 1,774 square miles.

“The fieldwork proved to be challenging because of the vast area covered, range of climatic conditions, terrain, and the rocky soils in many areas,” said Burkett, project

lead soil scientist. “The survey was done by 10 full-time professionals, including soil scientists, foresters, botanists, and agronomists,” he noted.

A soil vegetation survey of the area, showing the dominant plant species in each soil map unit, was done for the first time in Calif.

“The Calif. Department of Forestry, Soil Vegetation Survey, was a key collaborator on this project,” said Smith. “I want to recognize and thank all of the entities that made this survey come together.”

This is one of the first soil surveys in the nation to be published in multiple formats, including printed, Adobe Acrobat PDF, compact disc, and online versions.

Partners included U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Calif. Department of Forestry, and University of Calif. Agricultural Experiment Station.

Access the survey online at the NRCS Web site at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/mlra02/.

‘Round the State



Power lunch: Joining Mariposa County RCD President Mike Hubert (clockwise, upper right) at a RCD regional meeting in Yosemite were Elk Grove District Conservationist Surjit Toor, State Conservationist Chuck Bell, Mariposa District Conservationist Jerry Progner, and Assistant State Conservationist Curtis Tarver. Photo: Brian Ziegler



Tim-berrr!: A NRCS Tree Mortality Team Program contractor cuts the top section of a tree at Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County in early July. Photo courtesy of Paul Laustsen



Another one bites the dust: After working his way down the tree at Big Bear Lake, the Tree Mortality Program contractor makes the final cut. Photo courtesy of Paul Laustsen

USDA Honors Shasta Partnership In Annual Awards Ceremony

By Dave Sanden
Area Public Affairs Specialist/
Red Bluff



NRCS Chief Knight (left) presents District Conservationist Bob Bailey with an award at the USDA Honor Awards in Washington, D.C.

NRCS Chief **Bruce Knight** honored the Shasta County

Conservation Partnership for maintaining and enhancing the nation’s natural resources and environment in the 58th annual USDA Honor Awards Ceremony, held June 25 in Washington, D.C. These are the most prestigious awards bestowed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

“The Honor Awards are a tribute to our employees for their commitment to doing the best job possible and serving local communities,” Knight said.

The Partnership between NRCS and the Fall River and Western Shasta Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in Shasta County was recognized as an outstanding example of locally led

conservation in action.

“I am extremely gratified to be a part of the Shasta County Conservation Partnership,” said NRCS District Conservationist **Bob Bailey**. “The directors and staff of the conservation districts and NRCS have worked very hard to develop and implement conservation programs that address natural resource issues that are important to Shasta County residents.”

“The watershed approach being used by the conservation districts is effectively addressing some of the most serious natural resource concerns in Shasta County,” said **Lin Brooks**, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations.

NRCS Southern Calif. EWP Efforts Protect Communities & Save Lives

Lori Valadez, NRCS Montana, recently completed a short-term detail in Area 4, and shares her experiences in three articles on EWP projects in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

By Lori Valadez
State Public Affairs Specialist/Bozeman, Mont.

Emergency Watershed Work Protects San Bernardino County Communities

The northern edge of the City of Highland sits on the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. The mountainsides behind many of the community's homes were left bare by the Old Fire, which burned 91,000 acres in San Bernardino County in late October 2003.

"The fire created a situation where the land is now barren and subject to flash flood after a rain event," said **Ernie Wong**, engineer for the City of Highland. "The city was worried about the imminent threat of flood."

That's when the city received much needed technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "NRCS came out immediately after the fire and walked all of the burned areas with me," Wong said. "They identified potential problems and proposed

[many] protective measures..."

Jim Earsom, NRCS District Conservationist in Redlands, said several homes in the City of Highland were at risk of damage from mud and debris flows. Earsom said the city easily qualified for NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP).

EWP was created by Congress to respond to emergencies caused by natural disasters. It is designed to help people reduce imminent hazards to life and property caused by fire or other natural disasters.

Through EWP, NRCS and the city planned for the placement of k-rails to divert water away from homes and sandbag barriers to trap sediment and protect homes from flood water. The cost for the work was approximately \$21,000; potential damage estimates exceeded \$710,000.

Assistance & Practices Work To Protect Lives & Homes After Fire

Dealing with the aftermath of the largest fire to ever burn in Calif. proved challenging to government officials at all levels. The Cedar Fire that threatened 25 communities in San Diego County burned nearly 275,000 acres, taking 14 lives and nearly 2,300 residences. To complicate matters more, two additional fires burned 102,000 acres in the county.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) responded immediately after

the fires by evaluating the potential for damage from mud and debris flows and recommended practices to lessen the damage potential.

Alice Dillon, a homeowner in Country Estates, said she knew flooding of the creek behind her home could be a problem. "My husband and I knew the watershed behind us was completely burned and that we were in tremendous need," she said.

Jason Smith, NRCS engineer from the Escondido Field Office, visited the Dillon's



As a result of the Simi Fire in Ventura County, v-ditches (above, left) were reinforced with sandbags to prevent water from overflowing to residential properties below. Photo: Lori Valadez

City Grateful For NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Work

Before the last flame of the Simi Fire was extinguished in November 2003, officials with the City of Simi Valley began planning for the next potential disaster—flooding.

"Our immediate concerns were residential properties that were in danger of being flooded or in the path of mud and debris flows," said **Dan Paranick**, assistant to the city manager for the City of Simi Valley. With a weather forecast for storms and hillsides left

bare by the fire, that is when he called NRCS for both technical and financial assistance. "NRCS came in and had flood control practices in our high priority areas on the ground in three or four days," Paranick said.

As the local sponsor, Paranick said the financial assistance provided by NRCS through EWP was helpful, but even more useful was the technical assistance. "Honestly, the expertise provided by NRCS was the biggest help to us," he said.

One of the many NRCS experts who worked on the EWP flood prevention effort was **Stephen Jewett**, NRCS District Conservationist from the Somis Field Office. His goal was to provide the city and others affected by the fires practical solutions to the potential problems they faced.

Even with flood control structures in place, Jewett said they were lucky not to receive big rains immediately after the fires. "We were hoping we wouldn't have to test the practices, and we didn't," he said. Fortunately, Ventura County did not receive significant rainfall in November 2003.

home after the Cedar Fire and recommended k-rails and sandbags to provide a barrier between the creek and the home. "Jason's technical expertise was a big help to us," Dillon said. "He was our life line."

Dillon said the barrier they constructed along the creek was tested shortly after it was installed. "We had about an inch-and-a-half of rain. The water came up to the k-rails, and they did their job." Dillon said the protection around her home is reassuring. "I didn't feel safe from the time the fires started until the k-rails were installed in February."

Fish Also May Find Santa Rosa “One Of America’s Most Livable Cities”



Detail of an aquatic under-bridge wall mural along the Santa Rosa Creek. Photo courtesy of Walt Sykes

By Dave Sanden
Area Public Affairs Specialist/Red Bluff

State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** was at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., in April to celebrate Santa Rosa’s recognition as one of “America’s Most Livable Cities.” **Jeffrey Kolin**, Santa Rosa’s City Manager, invited Calif. NRCS to the ceremony as a Federal partner because of our support for the city’s ongoing efforts to enhance its quality of life and assistance with an ongoing stream restoration. The chain of events leading up to this invitation began many years before.

It really started decades back with the Central Sonoma Watershed Work Plan, a PL-566 flood control project begun by the Soil Conservation Service on June 17, 1958. Part of the project included channelization and streambank protection along Santa Rosa Creek. Most of the Santa Rosa Creek project was built in the 1960s. And in its time, it was considered a model of how a flood control project should be done. By addressing flooding problems, the project protected people and property and allowed for

the city to develop along the creek. The channel work was designed to maximize hydraulic efficiency. The design included features to accommodate fish passage, but only minimal vegetation.

Years later, the City of Santa Rosa developed a master plan that included making Santa Rosa Creek more fish-friendly. The creek was home to threatened steelhead trout, and the city wanted to redesign the channel to enhance habitat for the fish and to make the creek more accessible and attractive to the community.

To that end, the city started work in 2000 on the Prince Memorial Greenway along Santa Rosa Creek near downtown Santa Rosa. The multifaceted project included fish and wildlife habitat restoration, the development of an urban park, and a multi-use pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists. By 2003, Phases I and II of the three-part project had been fully funded and finished. But the City Council needed funding for Phase III to bring the project to completion.

Rep. **Lynn Woolsey** (D-Petaluma) brought the restoration and funding needs to the attention of NRCS. “Funding for the Prince Memorial Greenway Project will help the city’s efforts to restore natural habitat and protect threatened species while also promoting bike transportation and

helping to revitalize downtown Santa Rosa,” said Rep. Woolsey.

District Conservationist **Charlette Sanders** and the Watershed Planning staff in Davis put their heads together to find a solution. Noting that the portion of Santa Rosa Creek to be modified was part of the old Central Sonoma PL-566 Watershed Project, they looked into the possibility of finding funding there. And through the support of the local **Sotoyome RCD** and **Sonoma County Water Agency** and hard work of **Charles Davis** and others, they were successful. The watershed project had never been closed out and it was possible to amend the original work plan to include fish and wildlife enhancement. NRCS was thereby able to provide \$2 million in 2003 for fish and wildlife enhancement.

“This gets us very close to completing the Prince Memorial Greenway,” said **Steve Rabinowitsh**, a member of the Santa Rosa City Council. “It’s been the city’s dream for 14 years, and now it’s almost there.”

“The original Santa Rosa Creek Watershed project served a flood protection purpose that was appropriate at that time,” says Bell. “Now we are pleased to partner with progressive local leaders and project sponsors to help make this watershed restoration project a reality.”

Calif. Rancher Receives Excellence In Conservation Award

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presented its 2004 Excellence in Conservation Award to Calif. rancher **Michael J. Byrne**, who was recognized during the NRCS Honor Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., June 25th.

“This year’s Excellence in Conservation Award winner epitomizes the best in efforts to conserve, maintain and improve the environment and its natural resources on America’s private working lands,” said NRCS Chief **Bruce Knight**.

State Conservationist **Chuck Bell** said, “Byrne, a rancher from Tulelake, Calif., has been at the forefront of pushing better collaboration between agencies and landowners. He was instrumental in securing special funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for water conservation in the Klamath Basin. His leadership and influence have contributed significantly to the outstanding participation rate in basin area conservation programs.”

As a key spokesperson for conservation-minded farmers and ranchers, Byrne

spoke with local and national news media, legislative representatives and government officials to help resolve water and endangered species issues in the Klamath Basin.

Bell added: “Mike brought the Lava Beds/Butte Valley Resource Conservation District to a leadership role in upper basin communities. The district is now a critical part of a coalition of Klamath Basin districts



NRCS Chief Bruce Knight (left) with 2004 Excellence in Conservation Award winner Michael Byrne. Photo courtesy of Ted Kupelian, NRCS/NHQ

working with NRCS and other partners toward long-range solutions for the problems facing the entire basin.”

Interdisciplinary Success: Planning For Wildlife Habitat In The Rangeland Setting

By Jon Gustafson
State Rangeland Management
Specialist/Davis

Biologists, foresters and rangeland management specialists took time out of their busy schedules to join in a workshop at Tomales Bay, in Marin County.

In an effort to tie veteran knowledge with enthusiastic new recruits, the State RTS staff designed a format balancing field and classroom experiences for 25 NRCS and two local RCD employees for three days. Local landowner

Marsha Barinaga allowed free access to her property for several field sessions and offered her rare insight in nearly each session.

Some of the workshop topics included wildlife corridor planning, ecological site description interpretation, and rangeland health evaluation.

Given the overwhelmingly positive response, the RTS staff looks forward to providing additional, similar workshops. Contact **Wendell Gilgert** or **Jon Gustafson** at the State Office for further information.



NOPHNRCSE planning committee members take a break during the festivities for a group portrait. Photo courtesy of Reina O'Beck

Calif. Hosts 11th Annual NOPHNRCSE Conference

By Reina O'Beck
Public Affairs Specialist/Davis

Calif. had the special honor of hosting this year's NOPHNRCSE Training Conference for 180 Hispanic employees.

The conference planning committee, led by **Carmen Ortiz** (Program Analyst, Area 2), was composed of subcommittees chaired by employees from Calif. and other states. Calif. committee members, all from the State Office, included: **Ana Soria** (Administrative Assistant), **Arturo Carvajal** (Water Management Engineer), **Teresa Velasquez** (Civil Engineer),

Carlos Velasquez (Civil Engineer), **Marina Barajas** (Program Assistant), **Rachel Lopez** (Program Assistant), **Jen DeLorenzi** (Editorial Assistant) and **Reina O'Beck** (Public Affairs Specialist).

Held in Sacramento, the conference fulfilled its theme of "Bringing Diversity to the Nation's Conservation Needs," providing a variety of tools necessary for employees to incorporate diversity into NRCS's conservation mission.

Chief **Bruce Knight's** presentation challenged employees to make our Civil

In Focus

Secretary's Awards Honor Flach

Assistant State Conservationist Helen Flach was recognized in the 58th Annual USDA Secretary's Honor Awards Ceremony in June for Protecting and Enhancing the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment.

The award citation reads, in part: "For aggressively leading innovative and strategic approaches to implementing conservation cost-share and easement programs..."



Flach also picked up an award for Superior Service, shown at right. Photo: Jim Cairns

Rights statement a reality by encouraging limited resource farmers to apply for cost-share programs, informing partners about NRCS awards programs that recognize partners for their workforce diversity efforts, insuring that old and new Farm Bill programs are provided to all eligible applicants, promoting work with minority TSPs, and continuing to support workforce diversity.

Filmmaker **Sandra Robbie** introduced conference participants to the important Civil Rights case *Mendez vs. Westminster* that was a model for social change. Diversity Consultant, **Byron Kunisawa** suggested that organizations identify systematic problems perpetuating discrimination and exclusion. **Kathie Starkweather**, Rural Sociologist for the Northern Plains Region, explained "unconscious discrimination" and its effects, as well as assessment tools for cultural competency.

"The diversity theme was chosen to reflect the fact that the nation is experiencing diversity in the general population and land ownership/operation. NRCS can best serve this change by reflecting diversity in it workforce," said Carmen Ortiz, conference committee chair.

Chuck Bell welcomed conference participants and hosted a breakfast for Calif. university students with State Conservationists from other states.

Training workshops were held in crucial areas, such as ArcGIS, New IT Developments, Air Quality, and GPS Technology in the field.



Training sessions were held during the conference to update and improve technical skills. Photo: Reina O'Beck

Caligrams

Statewide News In Brief

Phil Hogan, District Conservationist in Woodland, completed the Certificate Program in Land Use and Environmental Planning from UC Davis Extension in June.

This intensive program required the completion of five core courses and eight electives, which took about 15 months from start to finish.

"I am by no means now an expert in the field of land use planning," said Hogan, "but at least I am in a better position to work with our local partners here in Yolo County to provide better technical assistance for proper decisions to protect our best farmlands from development."

Hogan sees an increased emphasis on the need for farmland protection by NRCS as being necessary. "The American Farmland Trust has identified the Central Valley Calif. as being the number one

threatened agricultural area in the country," said Hogan. "The Salinas Valley is number 15 and the Imperial Valley is number 17."

According to Hogan, NRCS has always been available to assist local landowners in applying conservation practices to their individual farms. "Now, given the threat to these farms from development itself, NRCS needs to be better prepared technically to give assistance to local units of government and organizations to help protect these farms. The knowledge gained through this certificate program will help to accomplish this goal." *Congratulations, Phil!*

Jon Gustafson, State Rangeland Management Specialist (Davis), attended the Work Family Ranch NCBA Environmental Stewardship Award in Southern Monterey County in June, and tells *Current Developments*: "Cal Poly professors and students and members of the Calif. Cattlemen's Association (CCA) joined the National

Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and NRCS in a field day at the Work Family Ranch to celebrate the family's recent National Environmental Stewardship Award. This award, presented by NCBA, was cosponsored by NRCS and Dow Chemical for the first time this year marking a new partnership to recognize land managers that exemplify the steward ethic." *Contact Jon for further information.*

Judy Carter of the Trinity RC&D Council (an Earth Team Volunteer, too) and **Donna Burcher** of the Ore-Cal RC&D Council report that community gardens are getting Earth Team assistance: "With the help of NRCS Earth Team Volunteers in partnership with their local RC&D Councils and other community members, Community Gardens in Weaverville, Hayfork and Dorris are a success in NRCS Calif.'s Area 1." *The Garden helps beautify and educate community members, too!*



Team USDA: NRCS honored FSA Lead Program Technician Ruth Ford (right) for her "Outstanding Assistance" to the Concord Service Center and Livermore Local Partnership Office. District Conservationist Terry Huff appears at left. *Photo courtesy of Joe Takai & Lisa Hokholt*



Kids thinking ag: Bakersfield Air Quality Specialist Carol Rush (above) teaches inner city kids about natural resources during a recent event at the fairgrounds in Bakersfield. *Photo: Brian Ziegler*

HR Personnel Actions

Name	Position	Action	Grade	Location	Date
Alan Lerner	Forester	New Hire-TERM	GS-7	Lake Arrowhead	5/30/04
Therea Berg	Soil Consvst	New Hire-CIP	GS-7/9/11	Yuba City	6/13/04
Shannon Daniels	Soil Consvst	New Hire-CIP	GS-5/7/9	Tulelake	6/27/04
Bo Hands	Ag Eng	New Hire	GS-9	Redding	6/27/04
Michael Liga	Ag Eng	New Hire	GS-7/9/11	Salinas FO	6/27/04
Matthew McNicol	Forester	New Hire-TERM	GS-9	Big Bear	6/27/04
Bryan Petit	Forester	New Hire-TERM	GS-11	Big Bear	6/27/04
Harold Carey	Forester	New Hire-TERM	GS-9	San Jacinto	7/11/04
Timothy Morin	Forester	New Hire-TERM	GS-11	San Jacinto	7/25/04
Beau Schoch	Ag Eng Cluster	New Hire-CIP	GS-9/11	Salinas FO	8/8/04
Chip Bouril	Soil Consvst	Career Promotion	GS-9	Napa	5/2/04
Chris Delaney	Ag Engr	Career Promotion	GS-11	Petaluma	5/2/04
Kristen Jean	Ag Engr	Career Promotion	GS-9	Stockton	6/27/04
Jackie Shick	Ecologist	Conv to CC Appt	GS-9	Livermore	6/27/04
Richard Cernaski	Civil Engr	Career Promotion	GS-11	Chino LOP	7/25/04
Cindy Montepagno	Soil Consvst	Career Promotion	GS-9	Redlands	7/25/04
Jonathan Chilcote	Ag Engr	Conv to CC Appt	GS-9	Fresno FO	7/28/04
Larry Norris	Area Biologist	Promotion	GS-12	Visalia	5/2/04
Linden Brooks	ASTC-FO	Promotion	GS-14	Red Bluff	5/16/04
Carter Christenson	ASTC-FO	Promotion	GS-14	Salinas	5/16/04
David Heilig	ASTC-FO	Promotion	GS-14	Riverside	5/16/04
Curtis Tarver	ASTC-FO	Promotion	GS-14	Fresno	5/16/04
Jeff Raifsnider	Pub Aff Splst	Promotion	GS-11	Ohio-Salinas	7/11/04
Kate Symonds	RC&D Coord	Promotion	GS-12	FWS-Santa Rosa	7/11/04
Rod Freeman	Soil Con Tech	Retirement	GS-9	Los Banos	6/3/04