

- 7. Watershed Planning Committee Report** – Soapy Mulholland, Chair of the Watershed Planning Committee, provides an update on the work of the committee including an announcement of the organizations being invited to submit a Land Stewardship Proposal for fee title donation in the Upper Mokelumne and Pit McCloud watersheds. Ric Notini, Director of Land Conservation, will provide a staff report detailing progress on the Land Conservation Program. Finally, Ms. Mulholland will request board approval of the Planning Committee’s recommendation on the prospective donees for the McArthur Swamp planning unit [View recommendation here: [McArthur Swamp Recommendation](#)] (*ACTION*). The board also will hear public comments regarding the McArthur Swamp donee recommendation. Finally, Ms. Mulholland will invite Mike Schonherr to make a presentation regarding PG&E’s listing of forested watershed lands in the Climate Action Reserve carbon offset program.
- 8. Public Comment** – Members of the public may address the board relating to any matter within the work of the Stewardship Council. The Council asks people wishing to speak to 1) fill out speaker cards; and 2) turn in speaker cards to staff. Speakers will be limited to **3 minutes**.
- 9. Board Member Announcements and Items** – Council members are given the opportunity to raise issues or communicate news or topics of interest.
- 10. Adjourn Public Meeting**

STAFF REPORT

To: Stewardship Council Board of Directors
From: Steve Hagler, Director of Youth Investment
Date: May 12, 2010
RE: Youth Investment Program Activities Update

YOUTH STAFF REPORT SUMMARY

- **Update on 2010 Grantmaking:** Over \$300,000 in Catalyst and Impact Grant Awards Announced.
- **Update on Outreach and Gatherings:** Over the past few months, the Stewardship Council has hosted or sponsored a series of meetings to help create a stronger bond of togetherness and common purpose among professionals in the field.
- **Grand Opening of Eco-Center at Herons Head Park:** One of our most recently finished grant funded projects was the Eco-Center at Herron's Head Park, which created one of the first off the grid buildings in San Francisco. This project was funded with a \$200,000 grant from the Stewardship Council.
- **Field Tour/Site Visit to Yosemite:** In April, board and staff members visited WildLink, a program of Nature Bridge, at the Yosemite Institute in Yosemite National Park. During the visit, we were able to meet with National Park staff to discuss the particular challenges of bringing youth from non-traditional park user backgrounds into Yosemite.
- **Other News:** Outdoor Youth Connections will receive State Park Director's Mott Award for Innovation.

UPDATE ON 2010 GRANTMAKING

We are on track to provide over \$2.1 million in direct grant funding. Recently, we announced over \$300,000 in Catalyst and Impact Fund Round 1 grant awards. (See attached lists of Catalyst and Impact Fund Round 1 awards.). We continue to see much demand and need in the field. As part of our efforts to improve our grantmaking, we will post on our website for public comment the Initiative Fund Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from organizations that have been invited to submit a full proposal. We hope that this will improve the quality and strength of the final proposals and allow for greater exchange between our Grantseekers and other professionals in the field.

Round 2 Catalyst and Impact Fund applications are due June 11. Initiative Fund Letters of Inquiry are due May 21 and Infrastructure Fund grants are due July August 13.

UPDATE ON YIP OUTREACH AND MEETINGS

The Youth Investment Program works diligently to bring together youth providers and outdoor professionals to connect, talk, and collectively strengthen the outdoor and environmental education field. Over the past few months, we have hosted or sponsored a series of meetings to



help create a stronger bond of togetherness and common purpose among professionals in the field. Some of the meetings we have held include:

Evaluation Meeting

We were asked by our grantees to host a meeting focused on the need for a more coordinated and deliberate attempt to assess and evaluate the work of outdoor and environmental programs. The goal of the meeting was to gauge the level of interest in bringing together practitioners in the field to discuss and find common ground and evaluation measures for outdoor programs.

Over 35 participants, mostly Stewardship Council grantees, but also outside stakeholders, including evaluators and university professors, attended the March meeting. The conversation was lively and focused on how to conduct more coordinated approaches to assessing the successes and challenges in the field. The group has expressed desire to continue to meet, and staff is working with the participants to move this conversation forward.

Native American Best Practices Workshop

Youth Investment Program staff, along with Mary Adelzadeh, of the Land Conservation Program staff, convened a workshop for Native American youth providers that focused on the particular needs and challenges associated with outdoor programming for Native American youth. Over 30 participants met at UC Davis, where the group was hosted by the Native American Studies Program, for a day of sharing of outstanding program practices and to explore how to improve existing efforts to connect both urban and rural Native American youth to the outdoors. The discussion was engaging. The participants identified many of the characteristics commonly found in strong programming for Native American youth, and explored some of the challenges common to these programs. The group has expressed desire to continue to meet, and staff is working with the participants to help facilitate further discussions.

Yosemite Youth Program Providers Summit

As part of the board and staff's site visit in Yosemite in April, staff convened a group of organizations that work to bring underserved youth to the Yosemite Valley for outdoor experiences. The group met to discuss the issues and challenges of providing programs to non-traditional national park users. The discussion covered a wide range of issues, from transportation and logistics challenges, to the capacity of Yosemite to provide support for these programs, to coordination of outreach and connectivity to underserved youth and communities. The group expressed a strong desire to continue meeting on an ongoing basis. Staff is working with the participants to move this conversation forward.

GRAND OPENING OF ECO-CENTER AT HERONS HEAD PARK

One of our most recently finished grant funded projects was the Eco-Center at Herron's Head Park, which created one of the first off the grid buildings in San Francisco. The Living Roof captures rain water and stores it for use in the building. This project was funded with a \$200,000 grant from the Stewardship Council. Other funders of the construction project included the State Coastal Conservancy, the Port of San Francisco, the San Francisco Department of Environment, and many private funders, including the Walter and Elise Haas Foundation, Mitchell Kapor, and the Richard and Rhonda Goldman Fund. This will house educational programs on bay ecology,



native plant restoration, and environmental education for children and youth primarily from the southeast side of the city.

WILDLINK AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK SITE VISIT

Board and staff members visited WildLink, a program of Nature Bridge, at the Yosemite Institute in Yosemite National Park. WildLink seeks to transform underserved youth through a series of wilderness and community-based outdoor programs designed to educate, inspire and empower youth to become long-term environmental stewards with strong connections to the natural world in both the wilderness and their home communities.

During our visit to Yosemite Valley, we were able to meet with National Park staff to discuss the particular challenges of bringing youth from non-traditional park user backgrounds into Yosemite. As snow fell around us, board members also visited a group of high school students who were preparing to head out on a five-day backpacking trip into the Yosemite wilderness. By coincidence, the students were from the Environmental Studies Academy in Martinez, which was a Stewardship Council grant recipient in 2006.

As discussed above, Stewardship Council board members also attended a meeting of youth providers, where the focus of the conversation was on the challenges of programming underserved youth into National Parks.

OUTDOOR YOUTH CONNECTIONS TO RECEIVE MOTT AWARD FOR INNOVATION

The Outdoor Youth Connections (OYC) program of the State Parks received the State Parks Director's Mott Award for Innovation. The award honors the State Park systems most notable and innovative programs and parks. OYC was created through a grant provided by the Stewardship Council. Outdoor Youth Connections provides a foundation that helps make parks and open space more relevant to our state's most disconnected populations by providing highly structured introductions to outdoor experiences for California's most disadvantaged youth. The collaborations and experiences are designed to create a pipeline of trained youth that will help build a bridge between local communities, youth providers, and a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the outdoors. The program will present these experiences in a more relevant and engaging way that will encourage more non-traditional populations to explore their parks.

STAFF REPORT

To: Stewardship Council Board of Directors
From: Ric Notini, Director of Land Conservation
Date: May 12, 2010
RE: Land Conservation Program Activities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **ACTION ITEM:** Staff has been working on the development of a recommendation for the McArthur Swamp planning unit located in Shasta County in close coordination with the Watershed Planning Committee. A recommendation regarding the selection of the prospective donees and transaction terms at the McArthur Swamp planning unit has been forwarded to the board by the Planning Committee for full board consideration and approval.
- Staff continues to make progress on soliciting and selecting organizations interested in receiving a donation of fee title to watershed lands at 10 planning units (Round 1) located in the Pit-McCloud River, Feather River, and the Upper Mokelumne River watershed areas. Staff has invited 11 organizations to prepare and submit land stewardship proposals for the Pit-McCloud and Upper Mokelumne River watershed areas. Staff has delayed inviting organizations for the third watershed area, the Feather River watershed area, pending further discussion with the organizations interested in being considered for a fee title donation in this watershed area.
- Staff is finalizing planning for initiating work on the next round of planning units (Round 2). It is anticipated that the next round will include the remaining planning units located in the Pit-McCloud and Feather River watershed areas, and possibly several additional planning units located in other watershed areas.
- Staff is currently hosting a series of regional meetings for Native American entities across the watershed lands as part of the Stewardship Council's outreach efforts.
- In April 2010, PG&E took the first step in a process that could result in the registration of PG&E watershed lands in the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) program. Staff will be working with the board and PG&E to evaluate the potential impacts of such registration on the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Program and desired outcomes.

MCARTHUR SWAMP RECOMMENDATION (ACTION ITEM)

The McArthur Swamp planning unit, located in Shasta County, is the fourth largest of the Stewardship Council's 47 planning units that comprise the watershed lands. The Stewardship Council received two proposals from organizations interested in receiving a donation of fee title to approximately 4,700 acres of land located within the McArthur Swamp planning unit. One proposal was submitted by Shasta County. The other proposal was submitted by a collaborative group consisting of the Fall River Resource Conservation District (RCD), the Shasta Land Trust, the Pit River Tribe, and California State Parks. Staff completed its review of the proposals and prepared its recommendation for consideration by the Planning Committee. The recommendation also included a number of initial terms and conditions. The Planning Committee carefully reviewed staff's recommendation and endorsed it. The staff and Planning Committee recommendations were posted on the Stewardship Council's web site on April 21, 2010.

Specifically, the Planning Committee endorsed the selection of:

- The Fall River RCD to receive fee title ownership to approximately 4,724 acres of the 7,663 acre McArthur Swamp planning unit. The remaining 2,939 acres would be retained by PG&E.
- The Shasta Land Trust to become holder of conservation easements over both the lands to be retained by PG&E and the lands to be conveyed.

The Planning Committee also endorsed staff's recommendation that the California Waterfowl Association, California State Parks, and the Pit River Tribe serve as conservation partners to participate in future efforts to preserve and enhance the beneficial public values on the lands to be conveyed. The Planning Committee is recommending that the board adopt this recommendation contingent on the terms and conditions described in the staff recommendation. These terms are expected to form the basis for subsequent negotiations with the prospective donees leading to a Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) to be considered for adoption at a later date, following public review and comment.

ROUND 1 FEE TITLE DONEES

Staff continues to make progress on soliciting and selecting organizations interested in receiving a donation of fee title to watershed lands at 10 planning units (Round 1) located in three watershed areas - the Pit-McCloud River, Feather River, and the Upper Mokelumne River watershed areas. Organizations interested in being considered for a fee title transfer of watershed lands located in one or more of these 10 planning units were previously invited to submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) to the Stewardship Council. A total of 26 different organizations submitted SOQs, including public agencies, conservation-based non-profit organizations, and recognized tribes. Thirteen SOQs were received for the Upper Mokelumne watershed area, eight SOQs were received for the Feather River watershed area, and 11 SOQs were received for the Pit-McCloud watershed area.

Staff has completed its review of the SOQs and held follow-up meetings with each organization to assess their specific interests and capacity. Based on this effort, those organizations that appear to potentially have sufficient capacity to own and manage watershed lands and to preserve and enhance the beneficial public values will be invited to prepare and submit a Land Stewardship Proposal further describing their interests and qualifications. Staff has invited 11 organizations to prepare and submit land stewardship proposals for the Pit-McCloud and Upper Mokelumne River watershed areas. Staff has delayed inviting organizations for the third watershed area, the Feather River watershed area, pending further discussion with the organizations interested in being considered for a fee title donation in this watershed area.

The organizations that have been invited to submit a Land Stewardship Proposal are as follows:

Pit-McCloud

- California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)
- County of Shasta
- Fall River Mills Community Services District
- Fall River Resource Conservation District
- Pit River Tribe
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

Upper Mokelumne

- Amador County
- Alpine County
- Calaveras County

- CalFire
- San Joaquin County Office of Education
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

ROUND 2 PROCESS

Staff is finalizing planning for initiating work on soliciting and selecting organizations interested in being considered for a fee title donation in the next round of planning units (Round 2). It is anticipated that the next round will include the four remaining planning units located in the Pit-McCloud watershed area and the four remaining planning units located in the Feather River watershed area. It is also likely that the next round will include several additional planning units located in one or more of the other 6 watershed areas. Once the planning units in Round 2 are determined, a 30-day closing period will be established and announced for organizations interested in registering and beginning the process of being considered for a fee title donation.

NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH

Staff is hosting seven regional meetings for Native American entities in May and June 2010. The purpose of these meetings is to conduct additional outreach concerning the land conservation program targeting Native American entities. The meetings will be conducted to provide an overview of the Land Conservation Program, and to obtain input on opportunities available to Native American entities and the development and implementation of a Native American communication and outreach plan. The results of these meetings will be shared with the board.

CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

In April 2010, PG&E listed 27 individual projects on its forested lands for consideration as part of the Climate Action Reserve's carbon offset program. Listed projects total over 63,000 acres, ranging in size from 700 to 8,000 acres. The projects were listed as "improved forest management projects." By listing these projects with the Reserve, PG&E preserved the opportunity to register Carbon Reserve Tons gained from pre-existing forest management projects on the watershed lands. During the next few months, staff, the board, and PG&E will be involved in a process, which includes seeking stakeholder input, to evaluate the potential impacts the potential registration of these projects would have on the Stewardship Council's Land Conservation Program and desired outcomes.