



The Dirt

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SIR Newsletter Insert
February 2017

*Cultural and Environmental News
brought to you by the Susanville Indian Rancheria
Natural Resources Department (NRD)*



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Surface water flowing into West Barry Creek on the Upper 875 after large January storms.



Meet the NeRDs...

Natural Resources Department Mission Statement:

To assess, protect and enhance the tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR in order to maintain a healthy community and to manage for multiple land uses.

If you have any questions or comments about the stories or programs in this newsletter please contact the writers:

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From left to right: Melany, Sarah , Aaron, and Roselynn



**SIR Natural Resources Department
735 Joaquin Street, Susanville, CA 96130**

Cultural Event...**ATTENTION: LOCAL NATIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

The Susanville Indian Rancheria Tribal Government Liaison Committee proudly presents:

**BEADWORK WORKSHOPS**

BY INVITED GUEST

LORENA GORBET

Lorena Gorbet will be teaching local community members how to bead. Participants will make their own beadwork projects. Supplies for projects will be provided for free.

Due to the nature of the work, we are limited to up to 20 participants per workshop series. Please sign-up with the SIR Natural Resources Department at (530) 251-5636. Free Potluck lunch is planned for each workshop session.

NOTE: CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT TO ATTEND.

**(WORKSHOP 1) SAT & SUN,
FEBRUARY 11TH & 12TH, 2017
SIR TEEN CENTER, 10:30AM-3:00PM**

**(WORKSHOP 2) SAT & SUN,
FEBRUARY 25TH & 26TH, 2017
SIR TEEN CENTER ROOM,
10:30AM-3:00PM**



**For more information contact: Aaron at the SIR Natural
Resources Department at (530) 251-5636**

Education and Outreach...

Tribal Citizens Participation in Environmental Management: Role of Education and Outreach

The Mission Statement for SIR Natural Resources Department (NRD) is: to assess, protect, and enhance the Tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR in order to maintain a healthy community and to manage for multiple land uses.

Each year NRD receives funding from multiple agencies and also; from the Tribal tax fund to implement relevant programs and plans geared toward fulfilling the above mentioned mission. Through the programs established, we are focused on two things: protecting public health and improving the environment for all tribal members of SIR for now and while thinking of the future generations. As part of that effort; NRD staff has the responsibility to explain the work we do to all tribal members and educate them on the importance of healthy ecosystems as being vital to the protection of the environment.

Our department has used various avenues such as TBC, Community events, and interdepartmental collaboration to educate the tribal members and staff on environmental concerns. While there is a growing awareness among tribal members about environmental concerns and efforts being made to address those concerns, environmental illiteracy is still a major impediment to protecting our life support base. In order to fill such a gap in knowledge, NRD has outlined many viable projects to be undertaken this year; including; water management projects, solid waste management; conservation projects; cultural resources protection projects and education and outreach among others. Some of the planned projects will require participation of the tribal members including the youth because, "together we can achieve our long term goals for a healthy environment and healthy community".

Here are some specific activities under the Education and Outreach for 2017:

- Hold two meetings to inform Tribal members about SIR environmental programs and issues impacting SIR tribal lands and resources. Feedback received through these meetings will inform NRD of changes and improvements to be made to projects and; will also foster relationships between NRD and tribal members as they collaborate efforts towards meeting tribes environmental needs;
- To educate the tribal members on areas of involvement in NRD projects and the importance that they will play in protecting the environment and the health of the Tribal community;
- The NRD will participate at community events such as; Pow Wow, Community Clean-up and Earth Day during which NRD will provide specific guidance for environmentally conscious waste management such as; integrating pollution prevention ideas into traditional uses and care of the environmental; importance of recycling, reducing and reusing and; Green practices; protecting you and your family from the dangers of household hazardous waste;
- The NRD will develop and present environmental protection educational activities to the Tribal youth education center participants;
- The NRD will make PowerPoint presentation on impacts, risks, and activities the Tribe is pursuing to address the effects of climate change and:
- The NRD will engage 4 tribal youth in NRD summer youth conservation projects.

Outreach and Education...

Benefits of involving Tribal Members in Outreach and Education Events

- **Information sharing:** providing information to help them understand the resources on tribal properties, issues, and projects set up to address the issues;
- **Consulting with the Tribal members:** to obtain their feedback on NRD practices for environmental management;
- **Involving the Tribal members:** to ensure their concerns are considered throughout the decision making process and particularly in the development of best management practices;
- **Collaborating with the Tribal members:** to develop future projects geared towards meeting the needs of the tribal members;
- **Empowering the Tribal members:** by ensuring that they are part of the decision making process on issues affecting their properties.

In conclusion, we feel that by educating the tribal members and allowing them to offer their observations, and ideas regarding their environment, they will be proud owners of the positive outcomes. Through the education and outreach, NRD will be transparent concerning programs being implemented and will be open to getting feedback from them and hence build stronger relationships and trust from tribal members. The verbal feedback received from the tribal members at these events will be incorporated and or considered in NRD future programming efforts that are reflective of people's feelings.

With any questions regarding environmental programs in general and education and outreach in particular feel free to contact me or any of the NRD staff at (530) - 251-5623.

Thank you,

Roselynn Lwenya
Natural Resources Director

Basket Making Workshop...

Frances Shaw and her daughter, Tammy Henry traveled from Reno, NV to teach the whole process of creating a miniature burden basket. This two day class and Cultural Presentation/Event was brought to the community to revive cultural traditions on the Rancheria and our community. The National Park Service (NPS) Tribal Historic Presentation Office (THPO) Grant is responsible for being able to bring this event to you!

The work involved, to bring Cultural Events to you is at times overwhelming, the grants are funded by the Federal Government, the work plan, financials, and budget must be approved by the National Park Service. Every year the THPO Melany L. Johnson and Grants Writer, Chandra Jabbs work hard to get the grant written and approved; by the Tribal Council and the National Parks Service. There is only a small pot of money available nationally for approved THPO's. There are 167 approved THPO's throughout the Nation. here is a formula to divide the pot of money to each approved THPO. It is not a very large amount, however, we do what we can with what we've got.



Frances Shaw

Tammy Henry



A person must be centered emotionally and spiritually to make a basket...or anything, really. It's our way, if you cook a meal with hate in your heart, your meal will be bad. It is the same concept with everything we do.

My sincere thanks to everyone who came to the Cultural Event.

Workshop Continued...



Willow is being split into 3 sections. Frances explained that it takes practice, practice, practice and everyone will be proficient at splitting the



Bundles of willow were cleaned and sized. When willows are soaked in water, they are super pliable. The ladies taught the class how to split the willow into 3 sections. It's harder than you might think.



Long straight willow that Frances and Tammy brought. Staff from the NRD helped gather willow also.



A split willow that has been soaked and wound into a circle. This is the way you store the product...when you need to work with the stored willow, you simply pop it in a bowl of warm water. Tammy made a deer figure made out of the split willow as revealed in the picture.



This little basket is taking form and looking great!



Angel and Auntie Dot are just getting started in the preliminary phase of building a small traditional basket. This was a joyful class; sprinkled with learning, sharing and good food!



Water Conservation...



Tips For Saving Water

There are many ways to conserve water. We need to always be thinking about conserving water. If we are thinking about it, we are less likely to be wasting the water that we use. It is our responsibility to conserve water whenever possible. People waste gallons of water every day. We must learn to save our water so that in the years ahead of us, we will have plenty of pure, clean water for now and future generations.

Saving water is a major issue, whether you're an ecologically minded environmentalist conserving for the good of the planet, or you are an average Susanville resident concerned about how your water bill may go up during a drought. It's the little things that we rarely think about that make the biggest difference. Here are some tips to help you with water conservation. If you get through all of them, you may even save



Brushing your Teeth: Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and turn off the water. You can turn the water back on when you are ready to rinse.

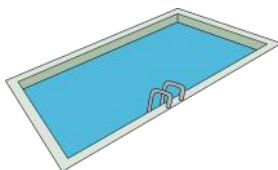
Showers: Take shorter showers. Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. You can also install a water-saving shower head to help reduce the amount of water used during a shower. A one or two minute reduction in your shower time can end up saving you up to 375 gallons of water per month.

Baths: Take baths instead of showers. A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.



Water Heater: If you have an old water heater, consider investing in a new one. Often these old heaters take forever to warm up, causing people to run (and waste) water waiting for it to get hot.

Washing Machine: When using your automatic washing machine, adjust the water level to the correct setting for the size of load you plan to wash. If you have a sink or shower leak and you can't afford, or can't be bothered to get, a plumber, consider putting a bucket beneath the drip. Then use the collected water to water plants.



Swimming Pool: If you have a swimming pool consider covering it to prevent water evaporation

Kitchen Sink: Rather than using an electric disposal for kitchen waste, start a compost pile.



Water Conservation...



Dishwasher: Use your automatic dishwasher only when you have a full load. Your dishwasher uses the same amount of water for a small load of dishes as it would for a full load. If you don't have an eco-friendly dishwasher consider washing your dishes the Europeans way. Fill up a clean sink with hot water and a touch of dishwashing liquid, and let dishes soak in there. Dry off with minimal water in the other sink.



Don't Leave Water Running. If you wash dishes by hand, don't let the water run down the drain. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a spray device or a pan full of hot water.



Drinking Water: Try keeping a pitcher or bottle of water in the refrigerator for cool drinking water. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful. Also, if you don't drink all of the water in your glass, rather than dumping the rest down the drain, use it to water a plant.

Check for Leaks: Often faucets and pipes can have leaks and we don't even notice. Even the smallest leak can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day. Leaks waste water 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It may cost money to hire a plumber now but it will save money in the long run.



Check Your Toilets for Leaks: Put a little food coloring into your toilet tank. If the color begins to appear in the bowl, without flushing, you have a leak that should be repaired as soon as possible.

Don't Use the Toilet as a Waste Basket: Every time you flush a facial tissue or other small bit of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water.



Car Wash: Don't wash your car with your hose on your driveway.



WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY STAYING CONSCIOUS AND SHARING INFORMATION

Environmental News...

Return of the Wolf

In early November 2016 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that a male/female pair of Gray wolves has been residing right here in Lassen County since early 2016!

The pair have been documented on several trail cameras (photo right) and DNA analysis had been performed on scat samples. The results reveal that the male is offspring of the famous Oregon wolf OR7 aka Journey and the female is not related to any of the known packs in Oregon and is most likely from another western state.

If the pair remain in the area Fish and Wild has stated they hope to collar at least one of the pair to get a better understand of what habitat they are utilizing.



Photo of one of the new Lassen County Resident wolves!

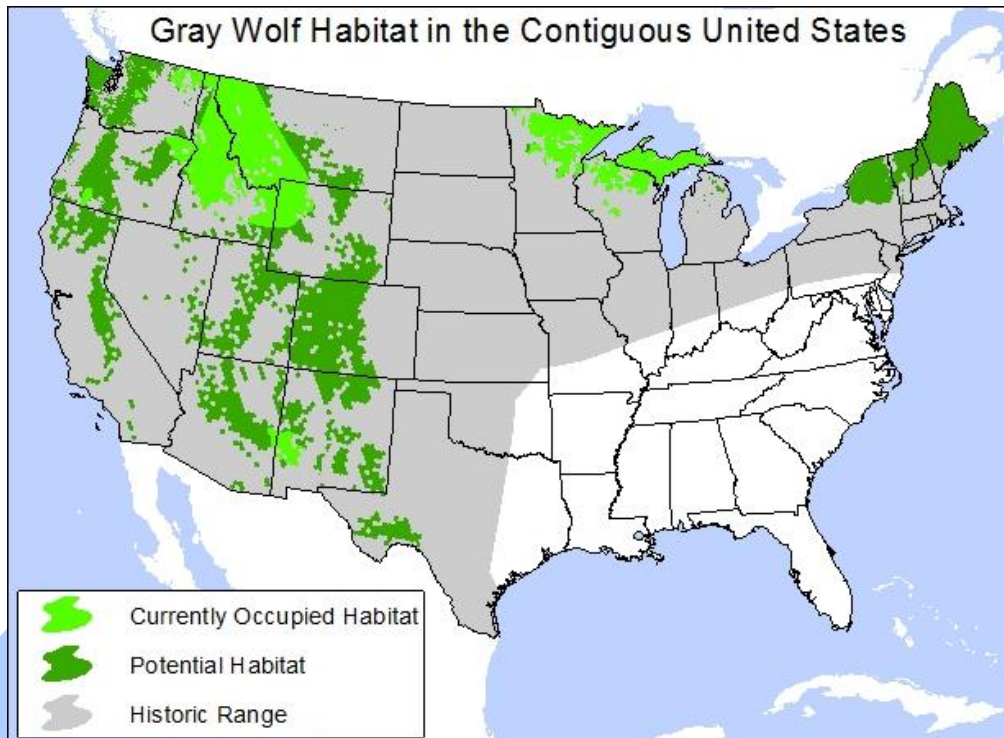
During the late 1800's and early 1900's, with arrival of ranchers, the Gray wolf was targeted for eradication across the Western United States. Ranchers almost succeed in their mission, driving Gray wolves to the brink of extinction. By the 1920's there were no wolves to be found in most states, including California.

The wolf didn't return to California for almost 100 years. In 2011, a male known as OR7 or Journey left his pack in Oregon and roamed through northeastern California before returning to Oregon. In 2015, a pair of wolves along with their 5 pups (photo right) were discovered and dubbed the Shasta Pack. The first wolf pack in California since the campaign to eliminated them.



Wolves are social animals living, hunting, and playing in packs of generally 2-12, but one as large as 60 has been observed in Idaho.

Environmental News...



Map of the where Gary wolves were found historically (gray), where they are found currently (light green) and where they could potentially be fount (dark green). Note that the white area is where a different species of wolf, the Red Wolf, is found.



Photo of the 5 pups of the Shasta Pack. The first pack of wolves in California in 100 years.

