NEWSLETTER OF THE MT. Lassen CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1994

Executive Board Meeting
Robin Fallscheir Residence
(Call 891-4945 )

Wednesday, September 28, 1994
7:00 PM

General Meeting
Butte County Library
Sherman and First Avenue, Chico

Monday, October 3, 1994
7:30 p.m.

Slide Programs
Mt. Saint Helens
Mycorrhizae
by Sharol Lindenstein
and
A Mojave Desert Trip
by Gary Lindenstein
REVISION OF GENERAL PLAN
CITY OF CHICO

For the past three years the City of Chico has been in the process of revising its General Plan that is designed to carry it into the next century. Past President Diane Mastalir has been busy representing the Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society as a member of the task force of citizens representing a cross section of the people of Chico. Although the City of Chico has limited authority over activities outside its legal boundaries the State guidelines require it to consider all outside areas that may or could have activities that might impact the City.

The General Plan is required by State law and must follow prescribed procedures. It is intended to guide the City Council and City Planners with respect to what will be needed to support the anticipated population growth of the City over approximately the next 20 years. It does not lay down specific rules as much as general guidelines. For example, it does not say specifically where a new development may go but it defines certain areas for certain housing densities, establishes the zones that designate whether an areas will be residential or business and identifies and describes where new facilities such as parks, shopping centers, schools and related infrastructure will be needed.

The final draft of the General Plan, and the associated Environmental Impact Report that describes the pros and cons of the various consequences that may arise from implementing the Plan are now ready for public review.

Among the environmental concerns of the citizen groups were how best to protect the existing natural resources in the form of riparian areas, wetlands, trees, plants and animals, ensure adequate open space, parks, and provide for clean air and an ample supply of clean water in the future.

Although of primary concern to those living in or commuting to work in Chico, anyone is free to comment on the proposed General Plan and its Environmental Impact Report. The City Planners, and the City Council, which will ultimately approve the Plan, genuinely seek input and opinions from the public, residents and otherwise. And, based on the experiences of other municipalities with their General Plans, public comments are a real factor in the fine tuning process leading to approval of the Plan.

Copies of the General Plan and the related Environmental Impact Report are available for review from the Planning Division, Chico City Hall, at the local Butte County Public Libraries, and at the CSUC Library. These are massive documents but those portions of particular interest are in a few sections and are easy to read. Recommended are a review of the General Plan Chapter 3, Land Use, and Chapter 7 Open Space and Environmental Conservation. Within the EIR Sections 4.2 and 4.8 Land Use and Community Character, Biological Resources, Chapter 5 Cumulative Impacts, and chapter 6 Alternatives.

There will be a series of public meetings, the first to be held September 27, 1994 with further announcements to be made later. Comments, preferably in writing, should be made to: City Planning Division Attention: Tom Hayes

P.O. Box 3420
Chico, CA 95928.
CONSERVATION NOTES
By David Anderson

1. **California Endangered Species Act Remains Unchanged.** The California Legislature adjourned August 31 without enacting bills to reform the California Endangered Species Act. After months of intense negotiations, a coalition of environmental groups (including CNPS) and representatives of farm, timber, oil, utility and developer interests actually reached consensus on several bills to reform CESA. During the last few days before adjournment, however, timber interests which had not participated in the negotiations raised objections which could not be resolved in the time remaining. CNPS Legislative Advocate, Kathryn Lodato, reported that it was heartbreaking to get all the opposing factions so close to agreement on how to improve CESA only to have the efforts fail at the last moment.

   Environmentalists can take heart, though, in that at least the line was held and prevented the threatened weakening of CESA. Moreover, the 1994 legislative session demonstrated that there is hope for a consensual approach to protecting endangered species.

   Some of the main points CNPS will be seeking in future bills to strengthen CESA are (1) greater protection for plants on private property, (2) the establishment of standards, procedures and requirements for recovery plans, (3) clarification of the term "take" to include habitat destruction and (4) merging of the Native Plant Protection Act and CESA.

(2) **Fifth Edition of the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California**

Now Available. Printed copies are available at the sales table at our regular program meetings (price $22.95), or call Sales Chairperson Rose Reiling at 872-3670. The Inventory is also available in electronic form, which application takes advantage of Microsoft FoxPro’s database programming capabilities. Its menu driven features allow for easy familiarization with the program’s sophisticated search and report routines (CNPS price $195.00).

   Alarmingly, the Inventory shows that 1742 types of California’s native plants are now rare, endangered or uncommon in California. This represents nearly 28% of California’s 6,300 native plants. Among the special status plants in California, the Inventory lists 857 species, subspecies and varieties that are rare, threatened or endangered, nearly 14% of the flora.

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**Field Trips**

Oct 16 Sun  Hike the Pacific Crest Trail at Donner Pass. A moderate 4 mile walk at 7,090’ elevation. Meet at Soda Springs Post Office at 10:30 AM. About a 2½ hr drive from Chico. Bring lunch, water, appropriate cloths and shoes. For further information call Marge McNair 343-2397

Oct 22 Sat  Chico Creek Nature Center Party (Work). Bring plants and garden tools at 10 AM for 2 hours of getting the Native Plant Gardens ready for the coming growing season. Leader: Gary Lindenstein 891-6894.

Oct 23 Sun  DeSabia Flume Hike. Fall colors and views of Butto Creek Canyon with some trestles to cross. About 4 miles of level easy walking. Bring lunch and water to Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 AM or to the trail-head parking lot at the flume ¼ mile east of Lake DeSabia (turn off Skyway onto Doe Mill Road thence to the bridge over the flume). Leader: Dave Anderson 873-1787
Refreshment Committee

Kathleen and Norman Martin have agreed to be co-chairs of the Refreshment Committee for one year.

They are replacing Dorothy Cowden who has arranged the refreshments for the Mt. Lassen Chapter meetings since October, 1988.

A great debt of gratitude is due Dorothy for all these years of service to the Chapter. Many, Many Thanks to Dorothy Cowden!!!!!!!