



RUNOFF

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

SUMMER IN THE SAGEBRUSH:

CA-NV CHAPTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY HOLDS JOINT CONFERENCE WITH THE COOPERATIVE SAGEBRUSH STEPPE INITIATIVE

by Tom Esgate

The California Nevada Chapter of the SWCS held a summer conference June 23-25, 2010 in Lassen County in conjunction with the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), a partnership of the Pit Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. and the Susanville Indian Rancheria. Many members attended a pre-conference tour of the 35-megawatt Honey Lake Power biomass/geothermal power plant. This was followed by the CA-NV SWCS Annual Meeting, where Andrea Casey was installed as our new president, and then a full day of presentations on sagebrush restoration by individuals from across the western United States. These included Tim Griffiths, lead for the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative, Dr. Terry Messmer, Professor and Utah State University Wildlife Specialist and Associate Director of the Jack H. Berryman Institute, Dr. Jon Haufler, Executive Director of the Montana based Ecosystem Management Research Institute and a wide array of CSSRI partners. A fun filled evening followed with entertainment provided by Michael Hearne & South by Southwest.

The conference concluded with a field tour and barbeque lunch on the CSSRI South Knob Project site. The partnership began their first project in the area in 2002 and it now includes over 8,000 contiguous acres of restoration treatments across 3 ranches and public land managed by the Alturas BLM Field Office.

The CA-NV SWCS Chapter embarked on a new method of getting our members together with this conference, and it was deemed a great success (we actually made a small profit!). The idea is to work in partnership with local groups to showcase their conservation accomplishments. If you have a partner in mind or an idea for a combined event for future meetings, please let us know.



Conference attendees enjoy a barbecue lunch on the South Knob Project site in Lassen County. Photo by Tom Esgate.

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS TALLIED

Pat Grover and Walt Bunter met on May 16 at the USDA office in Davis as the Chapter Ballot Counting Committee and tallied the following results from the 2010 election:

159 ballots were mailed to Chapter members.

49 ballots were received; 46 were valid; 3 were invalid for lack of voter's name and address.

For President-Elect: Bill Daily received 45 votes

For 3 Directors: Eric Berntsen received 45 votes

Phil Hogan received 44 votes

Michael Hogan received 42 votes

All four candidates have been duly elected to office.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrea Casey

Greetings Everyone,

It's amazing how fast time flies. It doesn't seem like it was that long ago that we had our Annual Conference in Susanville CA, and here it has been five months!! WOW!! I hope all of you who attended, enjoyed yourselves and learned a thing or two about Sagebrush Steppe Restoration. For those of you who couldn't attend... we hope to see you at the next conference. We are beginning to plan for 2011 so stay tuned.

A brief update... if you haven't checked out our website recently, take a look. We've made a few changes, a few updates, and given you, our members, a chance to get involved. Please see Bill Daily's article about submitting photos for our website. Also, if you have any suggestions to make our website better, to get members and non-members to click on our link and come back again and again, we would love to hear from you.

Get involved! As a member, and a council member, I can tell you firsthand what makes a Professional Organization successful is its involvement of its members. To provide training opportunities and information transfer that is relevant and up to date we need your help. We, the Executive Council need to hear from you. Do you have ideas for a technical workshop? Is there a topic or focus that you think would be a great addition to our annual conference? Let us know. The Annual Conference is for you our Chapter's members. It's an opportunity to learn about the newest innovative practice, to discuss the latest environmental concerns, to share success, and to network with others who share your passion for sustaining our natural resources. Please contact me directly, or any one of our council members. Let's make the 2011 Annual Conference one that nobody wants to miss.

Sincerely,

Andrea Casey



Andrea receives the President's gavel from past President Erik Beardsley at the Annual Conference in June, 2010.

INTERNATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION (ISCO)

by Dr. Samir El-Swaify

The International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) held its 16th Congress (ISCO 16) at Santiago, Chile during the second week of November, 2010. The Congress was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Soil Science Society of Chile.

ISCO was "conceived and born" in Hawaii in 1983, and held its first conference two years later in Venezuela. It is now 27 years young, and our conferences have taken us to every continent several times, all the while advocating a mission of ever increasing importance, namely the wise management and conservation of soil and water resources to ensure the sustainable, productive, and efficient use of these resources for the benefit of humankind and the earth's other living species.

ISCO conference participants include researchers, teachers, educators, and practitioners representing

Continued next page

KEESEY AND ESGATE PRESENT AT INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE IN CHILE

by Tom Esgate

CA-NV SWCS members Tim Keesey and Tom Esgate were selected to present at the Bi-annual Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organization held at Universidad Mayor, Santiago,



Keesey, left, and Esgate, right, present their paper at the ISCO Conference in Chile, in November 2010.

Chile last year. They presented the results of a 3-year NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant project recently completed by the Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), and the ongoing NRCS/Pit RCD/CSSRI Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative project. Participants from around the world gathered to discuss a variety of issues critical to soil conservation. "We left impressed with the global perspective on soil conservation," said Esgate. "Two of the prominent issues discussed were that by 2050 the world will need to double food production, which seems at odds with agricultural land being developed for non-ag uses; and broader adoption of no-till farming is seen by many as critical to soil conservation and enhancement. The USA has less than 20% of cropland in no-till on an intermittent basis, while France has more than 70% permanently."

ISCO, *continued*

the physical, biological and social aspects of natural resource management and conservation. Through improved understanding of topical issues and enhanced communication, participants return home energized with new ideas and renewed commitments to sustainable land management.

ISCO has thrived and continues to grow with a very flexible and informal format, working with a set of guidelines rather than a constitution. The hosts of a congress select a broad, multidisciplinary theme, work with relevant sister societies and co-sponsors to help with the planning and conduct of meetings, and publish the output of the conference as books, proceedings, or special issues of scientific journals.

Our Chilean colleagues and sponsors hosted a successful congress despite several difficult hardships. I invite you to visit the ISCO Website (<http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/isco/>) to know more



Dr. El-Swaify displays a soil-lover's sentiment at the ISCO conference! El-Swaify is Emeritus Professor, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, University of Hawaii; and serves as Coordinator for ISCO's Board of Directors.

about ISCO and our books and publications. I also invite you to join us at future ISCO meetings, which will continue to rotate among different continents, approximately every two years.

CHAPTER OFFERS \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

by Tina Vander Hoek

The Scholarship Committee will soon be mailing announcements and application forms to colleges and universities in California for our Chapter's \$1,000 scholarship. Applications are due by January 31 and a selection will be announced at the SWCS Annual Conference, and in time for the 2011/2012 school year.

The Chapter's goal is to encourage undergraduate students interested in soil and water conservation to obtain technical expertise and to pursue careers in soil and water resources. Application forms will also be available on our Chapter website at: www.caswcs.org.

Applicants must (1) have successfully completed two years of study at an accredited college or university, (2) be enrolled in an undergraduate curriculum related to soil and water resources, and (3) have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Chapter Executive Council Director Tina Vander Hoek, Soil Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at Templeton, chairs the Scholarship Committee and Dan Martynn, District Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at Quincy also serves on the committee.

CARE TO SERVE?

How would you like an opportunity to learn about the character, achievements, community involvement and contributions of our future conservation leaders? Consider serving on the Chapter scholarship committee. We are looking for more minds to help select our next deserving scholar from a diverse group of applicants. Please contact Tina Vander Hoek at tina.vanderhoek@ca.usda.gov if you are interested.

NEW CA-NV CHAPTER MEMBERS

by Walt Bunter

We extend a GREAT BIG WELCOME to the following 13 members who recently joined or rejoined the SWCS and our California-Nevada Chapter or transferred in from another state chapter. We have 158 members as of October 1, 2010.

Anita Brown, Davis, CA
Li-Chi Chiang, Las Vegas, NV
Rebecca Heston, Sacramento, CA
Tim Keesey, Susanville, CA
Davis Molmen, Los Angeles, CA
Rachael Morgan, Oroville, CA
Margaret Perry, Atascadero, CA
David Skinner, Redding, CA
Philip Smith, Templeton, CA
Octavio Solorza, Monrovia, CA
Nancy Stein, Martinez, CA
Ted Strauss, Fresno, CA
David Zilberman, Berkeley, CA



**Conservation Science and Policy:
 Global Perspectives and Applications
 66th International Annual Conference**
 Washington DC • July 17-20, 2011 • www.swcs.org/11AC

WANTED: GOOD SHOTS

The Executive Council is updating the Chapter web page and is seeking electronic photography from our members.

The photography will be used as rotating backgrounds on our homepage. The Executive Council will review and select ten to twenty images (or more), to be utilized from those submitted. If you have electronic imagery that you would like to submit for this purpose, please see the submission requirements provided below.

Photo submission requirements:

Photos must be electronic media only.

Just about any file format can be submitted for possible selection (we'll do the file format conversion).

Image file size per image can't be larger than 500 kilobytes. (Preferably 600 x 800 pixel resolution)

Submit only a copied image files, originals won't be returned. So keep your original, send us a copy.

You may submit up to ten photos per theme, please indicate which theme you think your image represents. Themes are:

- I. A practice or suite of practices illustrating conservation of natural resources in agricultural production of food or fiber
- II. Riparian restoration
- III. Wildlife habitat improvement
- IV. Timber stand or grassland improvement
- V. Coastal or inland waters erosion control, structural or vegetative

Important: If your image contains people you must provide a current signed and dated statement from the person or all persons appearing in the image, providing their permission to use their likeness in a publically viewed web page. A simple scanned signature text file statement must be submitted with each submitted image containing people. This is a legal privacy issue and must be addressed or we sadly won't be able to use your image.

If you wish your name to be represented under a photo credits link on the web page, please indicate with your submission and what name you want used; if not indicated, then all submitted images will be considered donated and not credited to the photographer. No submitted images will be utilized for any other purpose without a written request to the submitter for permission from the executive committee. A release form for your use is on the reverse of this page.

Image files may be submitted by emailing as an attachment to: swcsimages@charter.net

Deadline for submission is: Midnight PST, January 31st, 2011

Thank you in advance for your interest.

RELEASE AND CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH, DRAW, OR VIDEOTAPE/RECORD

Location

Date

TO: CA-NV CHAPTER SWCS
Executive Council

For good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which I agree to, I hereby grant you the irrevocable permission to:

- 1. Record, draw, edit, use and re-use on digital media, and all other publication and exhibition methods, the motion and still pictures and drawings from my location, photographed, drawn, and/or recorded by you (CA-NV SWCS).
- 2. I understand you have no obligation to include specific photographs, drawings and recordings made at my location in your published materials.
- 3. I give you permission to use any photographs that I supply.
- 4. In the event the photographs, drawings, and/or recordings are made at my place of business, I grant you permission to show the interior and exterior of the property in your published materials.
- 5. I am over 18 years of age and represent that I have read this carefully and understand you are relying on this Release and Consent.

Very truly yours,

X _____
Signature of person providing their privacy release

Signature date

Name printed

Address

Phone (optional)

Signature of member providing submission: X _____



CALL FOR PAPERS



**PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES WITH CONSERVATION BUFFERS WORKSHOP
APRIL 19-20, 2011 IN PORTLAND, OR**

Conservation professionals are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations for the **Protecting Natural Resources with Conservation Buffers** workshop.

Abstract deadline: February 14th, 2011.

The Conservation Buffer Workshop will include plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations, and a technical tour. This workshop will raise awareness of recent developments in the science and art of designing conservation buffers for a designated purpose, and the means used to measure, model, and demonstrate buffer effectiveness in mitigating off-site transport of agricultural chemicals.

There are two ways you can propose to be part of the Conservation Buffers Workshop:

Oral Presentation: Concurrent sessions for oral presentations will take place the morning of April 20th during the conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience. Each presenter will be given 30 minutes to make the presentation and 15 minutes for questions. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters.

Poster Presentation: Posters will be on display throughout the conference. Presenters are expected to be present at their boards during the Tuesday evening Poster Session to answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) on a specific topic to a four-foot high by eight-foot wide (4'x8') poster board.

We welcome proposals for oral and poster presentations that disseminate results, lessons learned, or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, or demonstration projects in one or more of the general topic areas of emphasis outlined below. Please choose one of these areas when submitting an abstract:

- Conservation Buffer Design
- Installation and Maintenance of Conservation Buffers
- Buffer Effectiveness Modeling
- Agricultural Chemical Application Technology
- Agricultural Chemical Transport and Fate
- Pesticide Registration and Labels

More information about the workshop venue, program and schedule is online at <http://www.swcs.org/buffers>.

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FIRST CLASS

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RunOff is the official California-Nevada Chapter SWCS newsletter.

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Phil Hogan, Director
Dan Martynn, Director
Tina Vander Hoek, Director

**ARE YOU A GOOD SHOT?
YOUR PHOTOS ARE WANTED FOR THE
CA-NV SWCS WEBSITE.
SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.**

