

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Spring Wildlife Events in Sunol

Sunol Area BioBlitz – March 22-23

The Alameda Creek Alliance is organizing a BioBlitz in the Sunol region of Alameda County on the weekend of March 22-23, 2014. A BioBlitz is a unique combination of taxonomic inventory, public outreach, and science education. At a BioBlitz, professional scientists and naturalists lead teams of community members to discover the biodiversity of an ecosystem, often finding previously unknown species. Our goals are to discover, map, and learn about the living creatures in this region, and to highlight the area's biodiversity. While our focus will be on the public lands of Sunol Wilderness, we're interested in observations from the wider Sunol area, including Sunol Valley, the town of Sunol, the Sinbad Creek watershed and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

We invite you to participate in the 2014 Sunol BioBlitz! No special expertise is required, and it's a great way to explore and learn more about our local ecology and meet other with similar interests. You can choose to go out on your own during the 2-day event to record observations, or we'll set you up to be part of an expert-guided team. Please use [this form](#) to express your interests and availability in the event.

We're also recruiting field biologists, naturalists and taxonomic experts to participate in the BioBlitz. We invite you to join us and lend your expertise! We would greatly appreciate your help – from a few hours during the BioBlitz event to more extended effort both before and/or during the event. You can [signup to be a Team Leader here](#).

BioBlitz observations can be recorded on [iNaturalist.org](#). We invite interested participants to download the free app and begin to explore iNaturalist before the event.

The Alameda Creek Alliance is also looking for volunteers to help staff an outreach and help table in Sunol Park over the course of the BioBlitz. Please contact Ralph@alamedacreek.org if you'd like to help, and indicate what days and times you would be available.

Everyone who participates is invited to our wrap-up barbecue from 2-5 pm on March 23, 2014 - the final afternoon of the BioBlitz. We'll meet at a picnic area near the visitor center in Sunol Regional Wilderness to enjoy refreshments and discuss our observations and experiences. More details to come as they develop!

Sunol Wildflower Festival - April 12

Saturday, April 12, from 11 am to 4 pm

It's time to celebrate the season of the birds, bees, flowers and trees! Join the EBRPD for hikes, crafts, music, slideshows and nature activities. Hikes are geared for different ages, distances and topics - there is something for everyone. Pack a picnic lunch, put on your hiking boots and join us for a glorious day filled with flowers in this very special wilderness! Fun for the whole family! Carpooling encouraged. Co-sponsored by the Alameda Creek Alliance.

Free event, but \$5 parking fee will apply. No food will be sold at the event. Pack a picnic lunch. Please carpool, parking is limited. Call (510) 544-3249 or e-mail svisit@ebparks.org for hike schedule - available one week prior to event.

Caltrans Meetings for Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon

Caltrans will be circulating a Notice of Preparation for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Niles Canyon, in preparation for release of an Environmental Impact Report. Caltrans will hold two public scoping meetings on the proposed project:

Sunol – February 25th. 7:00-9:00 PM, Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main Street, Sunol.

Niles – March 4th, 7:00-9:00 PM, Niles Elementary School, 37141 Second Street, Fremont.

More information on our [Protect Niles Canyon](#) page.

SFPUC Update on Calaveras Dam Replacement Project

Read about construction on the new Calaveras Dam, completion of the new Geary Road Bridge in Sunol Park, and other water system construction projects in the Sunol Valley on the SFPUC's blog: <http://wsipsunolvalley.blogspot.com/>

The new Geary Road Bridge replaces an old bridge across Alameda Creek within Sunol Park, and will protect Alameda Creek by eliminating the need for large vehicles to drive through the creek's low-water crossing. Planting and restoration of the site are underway.

Alameda Creek Cleanup Tackles Ivy

We had a fantastic turnout for our January 20 work-party along Alameda Creek in Fremont in recognition of the MLK Jr. National Day of Service. Thanks to the twenty-four volunteers who came out to share their time and energy to improve habitat along the creek! We had a great day picking up trash and pulling invasive cape ivy in the unseasonably warm weather at our adopted spot. We filled 36 large compost bags with ivy pulled from native willows and oaks, picked up a large bag of recyclables, some large bags of trash, and a few other random trash items such as garden hose, pieces of carpet, and a weed-whacker.





Speak Out Against The Delta Tunnels!

Delta “Twin Tunnels” – A Doubled-Barreled Shotgun Aimed At North State Rivers

The long awaited draft Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and its draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) are now available for review by the public. The government is soliciting public input on the controversial plan and its proposal to build massive “twin tunnels” intended to divert fresh water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta Estuary. Now is your opportunity to speak out against this environmental travesty at upcoming open houses and by sending an email opposing this expensive and destructive water project.

Completion of these twin tunnels could pave the way for new dams on the American and Eel Rivers to name just a few. Plans to expand Shasta Dam and drown a protected segment of the McCloud have already been proposed. Off-stream projects like Sites Reservoir which could take as much as 67% of the Sacramento's average flows in April would gain new momentum. Please take action today to prevent this unwise and wasteful proposal.

Go to the Friends of the River [action alert](#)

February 20 Forum and Debate On the Peripheral Tunnels

Thursday, February 20th, from 6 to 8 pm at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, in Castro Valley. This is a free event. Please [register](#) in advance, as seating is limited.

Regional Salmon News

[Commission Closes Fishing In American, Russian Rivers Due To Low Flows](#)

Indy Media – February 5, 2014

[Scott River Salmon Face Possible Relocation](#)

Siskiyou Daily – February 4, 2014

[Drought Politics: How to Use California's Historic Crisis to Score Political Points](#)

Think progress – February 4, 2014

[State and Feds Drained Northern California Reservoirs During Drought](#)

Elk Grove News – February 1, 2014

[**Salmon Spawning Rebound Put At Risk By Drought**](#)

CBS – January 31, 2014

[**CDFW Puts Closures in Effect on Some Rivers**](#)

CDFW press release – January 29, 2014

[**Beavers, Salmon Returning To Los Gatos Creek**](#)

ABC7 – January 27, 2014

[**California Drought Threatens Coho Salmon With Extinction**](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – January 26, 2014

[**After the Flood**](#)

Earth Island Journal – January 23, 2014

[**Drought Hitting Fish Populations Hard**](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – January 23, 2014

[**Salmon Advocates Decry Move to Use Drought as Subterfuge to Seize More Salmon Water**](#)

Golden Gate Salmon Association press release – January 23, 2014

[**California Drought a Big Deal, but Misconceptions Abound**](#)

Slow Water Movement – January 23, 2014

[**Governor Brown Promotes Twin Tunnels and Fracking During Record Drought**](#)

IndyMedia – January 22, 2014

[**Steelhead and Salmon Threatened By Low Water Conditions on American River**](#)

Daily Kos – January 22, 2014

[**Why State's Water Woes Could Be Just Beginning**](#)

U.C. Berkeley News Center – January 21, 2014

[**Extreme Drought by the Numbers**](#)

FishBio – January 20, 2014

[**Environmental Water Caucus Slams Suspension of CEQA in Drought Declaration**](#)

The Fishsniffer – January 20, 2014

[**Drought Threatens Coho Salmon**](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – January 16, 2014

[**Drought Imperils California Salmon, Steelhead**](#)

Vallejo Times-Herald – January 13, 2014

[**California's Pot Farms Could Leave Salmon Runs Truly Smoked**](#)

NPR – January 13, 2014

[**Studying Salmon: Numbers Are Up, but the Population Is Fragile**](#)

Marysville Appeal-Democrat – January 12, 2014

[**Delta Fish Survey Reveals an Ecosystem in Collapse**](#)

Daily Kos – January 10, 2014

[**Salmon From Feather River Hatchery Headed for San Joaquin**](#)

Chico Enterprise-Record – January 10, 2014

[**New Fish Ladder to Boost Coho Spawning In Graton Creek**](#)

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat – January 9, 2014

The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by becoming a member.