

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2004

Contact: John Arnold

(916) 653-7090

Thousands of Volunteers Expected for Earth Day 2004 Events in State Parks Throughout California

Thousands of volunteers are expected to help clean parks, repair and build trails and work on Earth Day projects throughout California.

California State Parks is again joining the California State Parks Foundation to participate in Earth Day events and projects throughout the state. The Foundation developed its annual Earth Day restoration and cleanup program in 1998 to facilitate completion of much-needed repair and maintenance projects at State and community parks with the help of program sponsors and volunteers. Since then, over \$570,000 in grants has been distributed and approximately 40,000 participants have contributed more than 173,000 volunteer hours worth an estimated \$4,016,000 in park maintenance and improvements.

Barbara Hill, Acting Director, of the California State Parks Foundation, said, "This year's projects are designed to restore and rehabilitate our treasured parks, everything from helping restore trails destroyed by fire at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to building duck boxes at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. People all across California have a strong attachment to their environment and on this day they turn out to prove it."

California State Park Director **Ruth Coleman** said, "In this time of severe budget constraints that impact us all, we're especially grateful to our volunteers who unselfishly pitch in and help. We invite everyone to join us in cleanup events throughout the state. There are all kinds of projects, including some in which families can participate together. Earth Day is the perfect time to remember what makes California great - and what better place to do this than in a California State Park?"

Thousands of volunteers will participate in 34 special events and cleanup projects. The California State Parks Foundation, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing California's State Park System, has granted over \$80,000 this year to fund Earth Day projects throughout California.

Earth Day program grants are made possible through generous contributions from corporate sponsors, including Pacific Gas and Electric Company, California Department of Conservation, Whole Foods Market, Southern California Gas Company, Oracle, Wal-Mart Foundation, Chevron Texaco, The Irvine Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of State Parks, and City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation. This year, volunteers at selected sites in northern California will receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb, courtesy of PG&E.

For general information, volunteers can call 1-888-98 PARKS or log on to www.calparks.org.

State Park projects include:

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Mount Diablo State Park, five miles east of I-680 on Diablo Road in Danville, is having a special event celebrating Earth Day on **Saturday, April 24**. Festivities will take place between 8 a.m. and 1p.m. at the Mitchell Canyon Entrance of Mount Diablo State Park. A variety of ecosystem restoration projects will take place. Projects include exotic plant removal, barbed wire fence removal, and trail restoration. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers can register by e-mailing or calling Ranger Ryen Goering at: junctionrangers@earthlink.net or (925) 837-6129.

EL DORADO and PLACER COUNTIES

Auburn State Recreation Area, one miles south of Auburn on Highway 49, is having an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** with a river cleanup with by volunteers and staff. Most of the work will be accomplished by walking, but also by using rafts and kayaks to collect trash from the inaccessible river channel. California Highway Patrol helicopters will assist with larger items by flying them out of the canyon. PG&E will also provide volunteers and equipment. In

addition, markers will be placed for an interpretive trail in the confluence area. For more information, call the park at (530) 885-4527.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

On **Saturday, April 24** in **Humboldt Redwoods State Park** the Humboldt Redwoods Mounted Assistance Unit (M.A.U.) will be participating in a "trail work day" for their Earth Day event. M.A.U. volunteers will gather at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp and will put in a full day of trail clearing and sign installing. They will also be clearing any debris, small trees, and litter from trails throughout the park. For information about the event, call Ranger Emily Peterson at (707) 946-1805.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The Los Angeles/Topanga Sector of State Parks' Angeles District, in conjunction with the California State Parks Foundation, will be conducting an Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 24 at the **Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook** in Culver City. Working together with the unique state park program, "Weeds To Wonder," the primary objective of the day is help eradicate castor bean, an invasive exotic plant that grows in the park. Workers should bring gloves to the event. Please contact Ranger Carlos Matamoros at 310-558-4566, extension 104 to volunteer.

Malibu Creek State Park, four miles south of Highway 101 on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road in Calabasas, will have two sites for volunteers on **Saturday, April 24**. One event will be in the lower parking lot of Malibu Creek State Park for the cleaning of the Malibu Creek watershed. State Parks will be partners with Heal The Bay to remove trash and debris as well as replanting native vegetation. Another project will be at Malibu Lagoon, which is located at Pacific Coast Highway and Cross Creek Road. For more information, contact Supervising Ranger Lindsey Templeton at (818) 880-0372.

Saddleback Butte State Park, 17 miles east of Lancaster on Avenue J East, in cooperation with the Antelope Valley Trails Recreation and Environmental Council is having an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will help clean up dump sites, trash, and litter in and around the park. This annual event began in the early

1990's. Each year approximately a dumpster load of trash is removed from the area. Participants will meet at the Office of Saddleback Butte State Park on Avenue J in Lancaster. From the office, volunteers will divide into groups. For additional information contact Craig Mattson at (661) 726-1668.

MERCED COUNTY

Great Valley Grasslands, five miles east of Gustine on Highway 140, in cooperation with the State Parks Foundation, will have an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The park preserves one of the last expansive native grasslands left in the Central Valley. Volunteers will perform general cleanup work along the San Joaquin River and remove exotic plant species. Volunteers should bring work gloves, water, bug repellent and wear sturdy shoes. State Parks will host a free BBQ for participants. For more information contact Joanne Karlton, jkarl@parks.ca.gov, (209) 826-1197.

ORANGE COUNTY

Crystal Cove State Park, off Pacific Coast Highway between Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach, will have an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to Noon. State Parks staff, the California State Parks Foundation and the Irvine Company are sponsoring the restoration of native coastal sage scrub and coastal bluffs habitats around Pelican Point. Volunteers will meet at Pelican Point parking lot #4, located off of Pacific Coast Highway at the stoplight at Newport Coast. At the entrance kiosk turn left and drive to the last parking lot. The parking fee is waived for volunteers. There will be a variety of projects, including planting, weeding, mulching, watering, collecting seed, removing ice plant, applying jute netting and cleaning the beach. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, hand trowel (if possible) and water. Earth Day sponsor Starbucks will provide coffee and the local Pavillions will donate morning munchies. Volunteers are asked to also bring a lunch and enjoy it at the park's group picnic area, the amphitheater or on the beach. For more information, contact Winter Bonnin at (949) 497-7647 or cyrstalcv@fea.net.

Doheny State Beach, off Pacific Coast Highway at Dana Point Harbor at Del Obispo Street, will have a cleanup of San Juan Creek and the shoreline at Doheny on **Saturday**,

April 17 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers will meet at Lifeguard Station #30, adjacent to the San Juan Creek River Mouth. On Saturday, **April 24**, from 9 a.m. to Noon, park staff and volunteers will be planting native trees in the northern grassy section of Doheny to replace Eucalyptus trees lost due to the “lerps” infestation. Volunteers will meet at Picnic Area #A for the planting project made possible from a grant from the California State Parks Foundation. For more information, call Naturalist Vicki Wiker at (949) 496-2704.

PLACER, EL DORADO and SACRAMENTO COUNTIES

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, located in the Sierra-Nevada foothills about 25 miles east of Sacramento, will have a cleanup project on Saturday, March 24. Volunteers and staff will be cleaning-up the Snipes-Pershing property as well as a general clean up around Lake Natoma. The projects will begin at 8 a.m. and will end by 1 p.m. Equipment will be provided, but volunteers should bring hats and sunscreen. For more information, call the park at (916) 988-0205.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

California Citrus State Historic Park, at 9400 Dufferin Avenue in Riverside, will have an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24**. Volunteers will plant trees, shrubs and flowers as a focal point that will sit on two knolls along a one-mile trail winding through the park. The project will emphasize the importance of biodiversity and native plants in the Southern California eco-landscape region. Education, interpretation and community involvement in a living, growing historic park will be emphasized. Also, interpretive signage will be placed along the planted sites. Registration starts at 9 a.m. For more information contact Shannon at (909) 780-6222.

RIVERSIDE, ORANGE and SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Chino Hills State Park [Directions: north of Corona, take the Soquel Canyon Parkway exit off Highway 71] will have an Earth Day project on **Saturday, April 24** in Upper Aliso Canyon Trail. The project will be an extension of a native plant restoration site along an interpretive trail. Volunteers will assist in transporting plants from the park nursery as well as removing exotic plants. Volunteers will also be transplanting native plants from the nursery to a

new campground currently under construction. Registration starts at 9 a.m. For more information contact Bart at (714) 572-0182.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area, located at 13300 White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova, will be co-sponsoring a tree planting and beautification project in celebration of Earth Day on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. Volunteers from the Prairie City Improvement Group, in collaboration with the California State Parks Foundation, will lead the event activities, to include planting of native trees and shrubs through out the park, area clean up, food and good fun. For more information or to become an earth day event volunteer, please contact Jennifer Buckingham at (916) 985-8521.

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, at 2701 L Street in downtown Sacramento, will be installing an interpretive panel, planting native grasses, and installing nesting boxes for wood ducks. This Earth Day event will take place on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. For information, contact Ranger Aaron Ward at (916) 324-7408.

SAN BENITO COUNTY

Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area, six miles south of Hollister via Cienega Road, is having an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** from 10 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers and staff will be removing yellow starthistle from the park's vintage motorcycle track. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, water and lunch, and wear hats and long pants. For more information contact Patty Forbes at (831) 637-8186.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, six miles north of I-8 on Highway 79, will celebrate Earth Day on **Saturday, April 24**, with activities aimed at reopening the park and restoring its valuable resources. The majority of the 25,000-acre park burned in the Cedar Fire, and the entire area has been closed since October 2003. Earth Day activities will focus on restoring visitor use facilities and include trail work and fence building. Volunteers interested in taking

part are encouraged to call ahead to register. A special Cuyamaca Earth Day hotline has been established at (760) 765-0623. Volunteers will gather at the Cuyamaca Outdoor School at 8 a.m. Work will take place during the morning and early afternoon, with crews returning for a wrap-up in mid-afternoon. Volunteers are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes and work clothes, including gloves. They are also advised to wear hats and sunscreen and carry plenty of water and snacks.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Caswell Memorial State Park, six miles south of Ripon on Austin Road, will have an Earth Day event on **Saturday, April 24** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. hosted by the California State Park Foundation along with partners PG&E and Starbuck's coffee. This year's project will enhance the campfire center by installing low voltage lighting, cleaning, painting, and doing a litter pick-up along the Stanislaus River. Participants are asked to meet at the campground amphitheater. The morning will start off with coffee and hot chocolate courtesy of Starbuck's. State Parks will provide a free hot dog BBQ for participants beginning at Noon. For more information, contact Ranger Terri Jensen at (209) 599-3810.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Montaña de Oro State Park, seven miles south of Los Osos on Pecho Valley Road, will have a project to reroute the park's East Boundary Trail on **Saturday, April 24**. Approximately 150 feet of trail will be constructed with one switchback as well as restoration of the abandoned trail. The former trail section is badly eroding and the project will correct that erosion. Another project on April 24 will be on the Ridge Trail, which will be re-graded and 20 water bars will be installed. This will improve the trail tread and reduce erosion on the trail. For more information about these projects, contact Park Maintenance Supervisor John Rivera at (805) 772-4006. Also, the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition will be showcasing a variety of clean vehicle technologies available in today's marketplace from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 24 at the San Luis Obispo Mission Plaza. The event will include educational exhibits, informative displays, food and entertainment. Hearst Castle will have the clean air vehicles they use on hand for the event. Contact Superintendent Ed Redig at (805) 927-2025 for more information.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

On **Saturday, April 24, Año Nuevo State Reserve**, 27 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Highway 1, will have special volunteer and staff-led walks focused on the story of how parkland wildlife habitat protection ensures the existence of plants and animals in California. The northern elephant seal will be used as an example of a species brought back from the "brink of extinction." For more information contact Gary Strachan at (650) 879-2028.

Also on **Saturday, April 24, Butano State Park**, seven miles south of Pescadero on Cloverdale road, will have presentations at the park's new visitor center dealing with wildlife and plant protection. Also Wildland Restoration will be organizing an invasive plant removal project for the day. For more information contact Gary Strachan at (650) 879-2028.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Wilder Ranch State Park, two miles north of the Santa Cruz city limits, is having a "Spring Garden Planting Day" on Saturday, April 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will help plant the park's vegetable garden with heirloom varieties, as it would have been done during the early 1990s. For more information, call the park at (831) 423-9703.

SONOMA/NAPA COUNTIES

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, seven miles east of Santa Rosa on Highway 12, will have an Earth Day project to build a bridge over a water crossing on Canyon Trail in the park on **Saturday, April 24**. Volunteers will meet at the Sugarloaf Ridge horse concession parking lot beginning at 9 a.m. Participants should wear boots (preferably water-proof) and warm clothing and bring gloves, water and lunch. The event is co-sponsored by PG&E. For more information, call Toni McRorie at (707)538-3164.

For complete information about all volunteer locations, visit:

<http://www.calparks.org/index.htm>.

#