

***BIG CHICO CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE  
STRATEGIC PLAN, 2007 - 2009***

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance is to protect and enhance the ecological integrity and economic vitality of the Big Chico Creek watershed through cooperative efforts. In partnership with landowners, interested citizens, government agencies and private enterprise, we work to foster education, understanding, sustainable land management, and ecosystem and water quality restoration and conservation.

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**ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

**GOAL 1: BROADEN BOARD REPRESENTATION**

By early 2008, the Alliance will broaden its board membership, recruiting directors from key stakeholder areas or organizations, resulting in a diverse and active Board of Directors.

Objective 1.1 Recruit board members from sub-watersheds.  
A. Sycamore Creek  
B. Mud Creek

Objective 1.2 Establish an advisory board.

Objective 1.3 Recruit Sierra Pacific Industries.

**GOAL 2: DEVELOP ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS**

The Alliance will establish organizational documents to support its work.

Objective 2.1 Develop annual budget and report by mid 2007.

Objective 2.2 Develop job descriptions by mid 2007.

Objective 2.3 Develop personnel and subcontractor policies by mid 2008.

Objective 2.4 Develop organizational history of previous grant projects/achievements/etc. by mid 2007.

**GOAL 3: DEVELOP MEMBERSHIP BASE**

By end of 2007, in order to provide a stable source of funding and to increase the participation of the community in management of the Big Chico Creek watershed, the Alliance will develop and implement an effort to obtain dues-paying members for the Alliance.

Objective 3.1 Establish membership subcommittee. Implement membership campaign w/membership classification scheme (including developing specific annual goals/strategies for securing memberships/schedule of annual membership drive events or membership thank-you dinner and site tours such as spring-run viewing, monitoring, restoration, non-native, site tours. The committee will explore opportunities for organizational members, materials and activities to support memberships and personal connections to jumpstart the membership.

#### **GOAL 4: COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Establish and regularly implement an annual communications strategy for stakeholder outreach.

Objective 4.1 Establish a communication and media strategy subcommittee including presentations and tours, events and joint efforts with other activities (board workshop).

Objective 4.2 Update the Alliance's website to convey general information about the organization and its projects and programs and to post meeting agenda, minutes and documents for review.

#### **WATER QUALITY**

#### **GOAL 5: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF WATER QUALITY ISSUES**

Maintain citizen monitoring program to assess health of Big Chico Creek to engage stakeholders in management of creek's water quality and expand to include school watershed education program and groundwater education for the general public)

Objective 5.1 Seek funding to continue Citizen Monitoring Program. Develop programmatic objectives/goals, business plan, and strategy for achieving long-term objectives including program evaluation plan. Continue to provide public education on water quality impacts of urban runoff.

Objective 5.2 Continue developing partnerships to support citizen monitoring efforts, such as Chico Urban Streams Alliance.

#### **FISHERIES**

#### **GOAL 6: RESTORE FISH PASSAGE THROUGH IRON CANYON**

By mid 2008, together with the CSU, Chico Research Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alliance will obtain funding to restore the fish ladder at Iron Canyon.

Objective 6.1 Support CSU, Chico Research Foundation in applying for grants for fish ladder construction costs by attending funding agency meetings and writing letters of support.

Objective 6.2 Identify constituencies of Big Chico Creek's salmonid populations and build a public outreach campaign including fact sheets w/species and habitat descriptions, protection and enhancement tips.

Objective 6.3 Conduct tours for local government staff, community members, and media representatives.

#### **GOAL 7: IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE GRAVEL MANAGEMENT FOR BIG CHICO CREEK SYSTEM.**

By end of 2008, develop a gravel management plan for Big Chico Creek that addresses habitat in both Lindo Channel and Big Chico Creek.

Objective 7.1 Determine current status of gravel in area downstream of Five-Mile and One-Mile dams.

Objective 7.2 If gravel needs replenishment, work with Butte County, City of Chico and fisheries agencies to develop opportunities.

Objective 7.3 Investigate options in low flow management to provide habitat in both Lindo Channel and Big Chico Creek.

### **WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

#### **GOAL 8: PARTICIPATE IN BUTTE COUNTY/CITY OF CHICO GENERAL PLAN UPDATES AND BCAG HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN/NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN AS RESOURCES ALLOW.**

During the time frame of the development of the HCP/NCCP and general plans, the Alliance will identify key issues and provide input to the degree possible.

### **GROUNDWATER**

#### **GOAL 9: PARTICIPATE IN AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN BUTTE COUNTY AS PERTAINS TO THE BIG CHICO CREEK WATERSHED.**

During the strategic plan period (2007 – 2009), the Alliance will continue its efforts to engage the public in groundwater management efforts that are developing in Butte County.

Objective 9.1 Continue BCCWA representation on Groundwater Coordinating Committee.

Objective 9.2 Seek funding to implement public outreach effort on groundwater in Butte County and to develop Watershed Environmental Hydrology model for Big Chico Creek watershed.

### **STREAM CHANNEL AND RIPARIAN HABITAT**

#### **GOAL 10: DEVELOP A LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR SYCAMORE CREEK FLOODING ISSUES AT COHASSET ROAD**

By end of 2008, the Alliance will seek an agreement among the agencies and landowners that are involved in management of Sycamore Creek to repair the headcut in Sycamore Channel that contributes sediment that is deposited at Cohasset Road bridge.

Objective 10.1 Work with the Department of Water Resources, Butte County and the City of Chico to develop solutions to the migrating headcut in Sycamore Channel.

Objective 10.2 Seek funding to implement selected solution.

#### **GOAL 11: DEVELOP NEXT PHASE OF FLOODPLAIN AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION ALONG BIDWELL AVENUE SOUTH OF NORD AVENUE BRIDGE**

By the middle of 2008, the Alliance will develop an agreement with Butte County to cooperate on floodplain and riparian restoration and bank stabilization that protects natural resource values of Big Chico Creek and addresses potential bank erosion impacts to roads and homes.

Objective 11.1 Identify common goals for management of Big Chico Creek downstream of Nord Avenue.

Objective 11.2 Identify erosion sites and potential stabilization concepts.

Objective 11.3 Seek funding for cooperative efforts with County to restore floodplains and riparian areas and, where justified, stabilize streambanks.

### **FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

#### **GOAL 12: COOPERATE WITH ROCK CREEK RECLAMATION DISTRICT AND BUTTE COUNTY TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO ROCK CREEK AND KEEFER SLOUGH FLOODING**

By end of 2009, the Alliance will work with Rock Creek Reclamation District, Butte County, the Department of Water Resources, the City of Chico, the Butte County Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and affected landowners to reduce flood damages from the Rock Creek/Keefer Slough system while maintaining the habitat values of that system.

Objective 12.1 Obtain support from Butte County Supervisors and convene forum on past history and potential for the future. Include broad public participation.

Objective 12.2 Seek funding to identify and evaluate options for managing flood flows.

Objective 12.3 Seek community consensus on preferred option.

Objective 12.4 Seek funding for planning, design, environmental review and construction of preferred option.

### **INVASIVE PLANTS**

#### **GOAL 13 REDUCE THE POPULATIONS OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE BIG CHICO CREEK WATERSHED**

By end of 2007, the Alliance will establish partnerships and provide web-based outreach on invasive plants in the Big Chico Creek watershed.

Objective 13.1 Coordinate with partner organizations to eradicate invasive plants in the Big Chico Creek watershed.

Objective 13.2 Distribute fact sheets and brochures on invasive control measures and post on website.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

#### **GOAL 14: EXPAND CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY AND BIG CHICO CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE'S BROOM ERADICATION PROJECTS TO OTHER**

**PARTS OF THE WATERSHED AND COORDINATE RIPARIAN REMOVAL WITH UPLAND AREAS TO PREVENT REINFESTATION.**

By mid-2007, the Alliance will establish an agreement with stakeholders in Forest Ranch concerned about broom and will continue efforts to fund a next phase of broom eradication.

Objective 14.1 Provide organizational support to Forest Ranch Broom Education and Eradication Program.

Objective 14.2 Seek inclusion of Big Chico Creek watershed broom efforts in Weed Management Area grant proposal.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

**GOAL 15: DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EXISTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AND K-12 UNDERSTANDING OF WATERSHED FUNCTIONS**

By mid-2008, the Alliance will establish a program to provide education on watershed functions.

Objective 15.1 Provide watershed education to public schools.

Objective 15.2 Develop opportunities for students to participate in citizen monitoring program.

Objective 15.3 Develop a partnership with Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve for providing watershed education.