

Connect with Nature



10

Siskiyou Things to Do!

Spring 2010



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Connecting People with Nature" program is among the agency's highest national priorities. Locally, the Service's Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office is offering a variety of programs and activities, as well as funding classroom projects, to help connect people with nature.



Spring is upon us -- enjoy the longer days and sunshine by getting outside and exploring the natural wonders Siskiyou County has to offer. The Yreka FWO is providing a list of 10 things that you can do to enjoy nature locally. Individuals who participate in any one of the 10 activities can receive t-shirts, backpacks, and other prizes at the Yreka

FWO. To receive prizes, simply submit a brief write-up or photos describing your experience. A selection of these photos and essays will be featured on the Yreka FWO website at www.fws.gov/yreka.

For more information contact Jennifer Jones, Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature Coordinator, at (530) 841-3109.

1. Yreka Phlox Field Trip

Did you know that Yreka designated this pink flower as the official city flower? The Yreka phlox is an endangered flower that only grows in a few locations in the Yreka area. The Friends of the Phlox and the Yreka FWO will offer a guided walk to China Hill to view this beautiful and rare plant, as well as other spring wildflowers. Meet at the Chinese Cemetery Memorial gazebo at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 1. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and sturdy shoes for this one-hour walk on uneven gravel roads. Don't forget your camera! For more info, contact Sheri Hagwood or Nadine Kanim at (530) 842-5763.



Photo by Michael LeGuellec, USFWS

2. Dunsmuir's waterfalls

Dunsmuir features two waterfalls that are both easy to access from I-5. Take a mile long hike along the railroad tracks to Mossbrae Falls where water cascades from many springs down mossy canyon walls and into the Sacramento River. There is also a five-minute walk to Hedge Creek Falls that takes you down a mossy, wooded trail to where you can walk behind the falls through a natural lava cave. Spring is also the perfect time to visit the Dunsmuir Botanical Garden to see dogwoods, redbuds, and rhododendrons in full bloom.

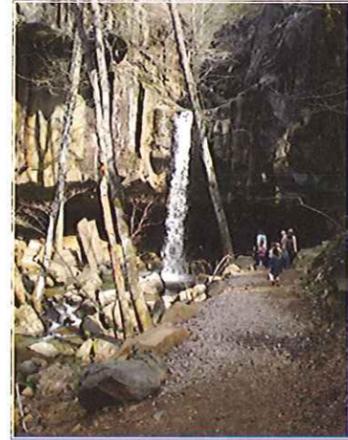


Photo by Holly Baun

3. Horseshoe Ranch

Explore by foot or bike the rolling hills of woodland oak, conifer forests, open meadows, and tributaries to Scotch Creek at the Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area. Located 14 miles north of Yreka between I-5 and Iron Gate Reservoir, the Wildlife Area is comprised of 5,017 acres of Fish and Game property, supplemented by an additional 4,000 acres Bureau of Land Management lands. Take the Hornbrook exit off I-5 and proceed east (right) on Copco Road for 10 miles to the confluence of Scotch and Camp creeks; turn left into the entrance of the Wildlife Area. For more information, call (530) 459-3926.

4. International Migratory Bird Day Field Trip

Come and join biologists and bird experts for a bird watching excursion on Saturday, May 8. This day will feature an intensive bird watching field trip led by Klamath National Forest, Klamath Bird Observatory, Department of Fish and Game, and local bird watching experts. The field trip will explore the diverse habitats of the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area and will include short presentations on songbird ecology and management. Bring binoculars, field guides and dress for the field. We will see owls, hawks, shorebirds, waterfowl and an assortment of warbler species. For more information call Sam Cuenca at (530) 468-1207.



Photo by J.&K. Hollingsworth for USFWS

5. Create a Butterfly Garden

Attract butterflies to your yard by creating a natural butterfly habitat. A simple window box, a section of your landscaped yard, or even a wild untended area on your property can be used. Research the types of butterflies that are common, and check with a local nursery or garden club to select plants that will attract them. For more information about butterfly gardening visit: www.thebutterflysite.com.



6. Sacramento River Festival

Join the Yreka FWO and others at the Sacramento River Festival in Dunsmuir on Saturday, May 1 to learn about watershed ecology, view wildlife up close, take a fire engine tour, and enjoy an operetta performance and live music. For more info, contact Rebeca Franco at (530) 945-6085.

7. Yreka Creek Earth Day Restoration Event

Join the Siskiyou Gardens, Parks and Greenways Association, along with the Yreka FWO, NOAA Fisheries and the Klamath National Forest, at the Yreka Creek Greenway (Oberlin Road Trailhead) on Earth Day -- Thursday, April 22 at 10 a.m. The group will wrap trees to protect them from beavers and pull weeds in an effort to enhance this beautiful area in time for spring. Bring sturdy shoes, gloves, and bottled water. For more info, contact the Yreka FWO at (530) 841-3109.



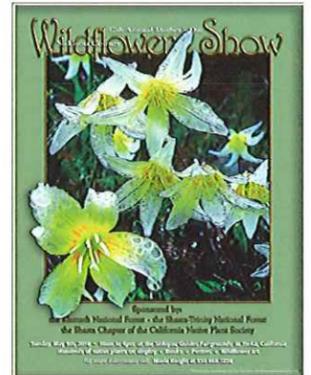
Photo by Jerry Mosier

8. Salmon River Watershed Fair

The Salmon River Restoration Council will be hosting its annual Watershed Education Fair on Thursday, May 6 at Junction Elementary School in Somes Bar on the Klamath River. This event gives students from Junction and Forks Elementary Schools a chance to share some of their projects with the community. Come learn about watershed topics such as the salmon life cycle and local fire history and ecology through hands-on, interactive activities. Also featured will be poetry and artwork of native plants and wildlife, fish prints and dissections, and live animals. For more info, contact Mitzi Rants at (530) 462-4665 or email watersheded@srcc.org.

9. Wildflower Show

The 17th Annual Siskiyou County Wildflower Show will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday May 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds. Last year a total of 310 wildflower species were featured. Admission is free. For more info, contact Marla Knight at the Klamath National Forest at (530) 468-1238 or maknight@fs.fed.us.



10. Yreka Community Garden

The Yreka Community Garden is hosting a plant sale on Saturday, April 17 from noon until 3 p.m., at 431 Knapp St. This plant sale follows a workshop, given by master gardener Lynn Schafer titled, "Yreka Gardening Tips for Planting...What, When, Where and How?" Another plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, contact Jane Hall at (530) 842-5056, Molly Renner at (530) 842-1868, or send an email to yrekacommunitygardens@gmail.com.

Photo by Holly Baun



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