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LAGUNA VIEWS



A Publication of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

Spring 1995

Goals Set for the Laguna de Santa Rosa

REPRESENTATIVES from a diverse group of organizations and agencies and individual landowners have been meeting over the past year to develop a long-term, flexible resource management plan for the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The group has agreed on the following ten long-term goals:

- Coordinate resource management.
- Preserve, restore and enhance native habitats.
- Accomplish recovery of native species.
- Assist landowners in conserving and enhancing natural resources.
- Support the long-term viability of agriculture.
- Improve water quality.
- Improve integrated floodplain management.
- Improve public access and educational opportunities.
- Protect cultural resources.
- Preserve and enhance scenic values.

The group is now looking for projects that will accomplish at least two or more of these goals. An example is replanting trees along the streambanks. This will improve water quality, improve floodplain management, enhance native habitat, assist recovery of species and enhance scenic values. Other cooperative projects could include enhancing habitat along the flood channels, reducing sedimentation, assisting individual landowners to develop management plans, restoring and enhancing historic wetlands and uplands, and encouraging public acquisition of land from willing sellers.

This issue of *Laguna Views* highlights cooperative implementation projects that achieve several goals.

For more information on the plan and the planning process, see page 2; find out how you can become involved on page 4.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation provides a forum for expressing divergent views about the Laguna de Santa Rosa and conducts activities that investigate, preserve, restore or enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This community-based, non-profit organization educates members of the public about the Laguna and provides technical and background information to interested agencies and organizations.

Laguna Views will be published periodically to update the community about on-going projects in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Waterfowl Enhancement

ALTHOUGH THE LAGUNA is one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the Coast Range—and the most biologically diverse—more than 2,500 acres of marsh have been lost. Of the waterfowl that historically migrated to the Laguna 100 years ago, only a fraction are here today. Some waterfowl species such as the trumpeter swan are now gone from the Laguna. Other species such as the wood duck are barely holding on. Lack of cover and poor forage keep waterfowl numbers low. (Continued on page 2)

Workshop for Landowners and Volunteers on April 8

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, April 8, 1995. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation will be sponsoring a two-hour workshop for landowners and volunteers who are interested in working to improve the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Workshop participants will identify projects they would like to be involved with in the Laguna. The workshop will also link landowners and interested volunteers.

The workshop discussion groups will meet from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Building, 282 South High Street. A choice of one-hour guided walks in the Laguna de Santa Rosa will follow the meeting. Participants should wear casual clothing, and if they go on the walks, bring sturdy shoes, food and water.

The workshop is free and open to anyone interested in projects in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call Kim Cordell at 874-0100.

TO FIND OUT MORE about the projects described in *Laguna Views*, write to the Laguna Foundation or call Kim Cordell, the Executive Director, at 874-0100. For more information on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, ask for the **Laguna Collection** at the Sebastopol Branch of the Sonoma County Regional Library.

Agricultural Landowner Projects

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP will continue to be the dominant pattern in the Laguna. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is committed to helping landowners who wish to increase wildlife use of their property or develop resource conservation plans. Often agricultural techniques—called best management practices (BMPs)—can be used to enhance native habitat. Fencing water courses, maintaining filter strips and managing grazing are examples of BMPs that also benefit wildlife and the public at large.

By managing livestock, individual landowners can help improve water quality and floodplain management, as well as enhance native habitat. Fencing, seasonal use and stocking densities can become part of a vegetation management program to stabilize channel banks and support intact riparian corridors. Using BMPs on irrigated pasture can help protect soil structure and forage vitality.

Other Projects in the Laguna

IN ADDITION to the projects highlighted in this issue of *Laguna Views*, some of the other projects in the Laguna de Santa Rosa include regular bird counts by the Audubon Society, a study of otters begun by Santa Rosa Junior College and studies of heron and egret rookeries by Audubon Canyon Ranch. The City of Santa Rosa is also working to develop grazing management strategies that work for both Laguna restoration and local ranchers.