

CCC Willow Planting at Toro Creek; State Directors on Hand

BLM-California State Director Jim Kenna and California Conservation Corps Director David Muraki got a first-hand look at a restoration project underway on BLM's Fort Ord Public Lands last week. The two agencies have a long-standing partnership.

The restoration project is being completed by young adults from the California Conservation Corps' Monterey Bay Center. Under the direction of the BLM, the crews are planting willow cuttings along the banks of Toro Creek to help stabilize the stream banks and reduce the risk of future flooding. The work is funded through the Proposition 84 Bond Act of 2006. (text continues below)



CCC crew members plant willow cuttings along Toro Creek

BLM State Director Kenna presented Muraki with a photo of Fort Ord in appreciation and thanks for CCC's work to restore the former army base lands.

"Our partnership with the CCC and the men and women who make up these crews benefits everyone in the state," Kenna told Muraki and the crew members. "Your work here to restore public lands is important now, and will be important for future generations of Californians as well."

The California Conservation Corps is a state agency that hires young men and women for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. There are 27 CCC centers and satellites throughout the state, including the Monterey Bay Center in Watsonville and the Salinas Satellite.



The two crews were on hand to accept the BLM's appreciation



Jim Kenna and BLM botanist Bruce Delgado talk to a CCC corps member



Kenna talks to members of the CCC crew, whose motto is "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions...and more!"



CCC Director David Muraki poses with a CCC crew. Muraki is the first CCC director to have served previously as a staff member, including a period where he spent more than 60 weeks living out of a tent, supervising three trail crews in the backcountry of Yosemite National Park.

- Erin Curtis, BLM California Public Affairs (Jan. 24, 2012)

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