Donor support and partnerships create great opportunities for Sacramento Valley Conservancy. We purchased the 4062 acres at Deer Creek Hills with the support of over 16 funding partners and over 400 individuals. Now, with great new donor support and partnerships (page 3), we are embarking on a public education process on the importance of oak woodlands, working ranches and future potential uses at Deer Creek Hills.

We still need over $100,000 to meet our $350,000 budget. Please help if you can!

Five workshops were held in Sloughhouse, Rancho Murieta, El Dorado Hills, Folsom and downtown Sacramento to. Over 100 people attended, including ranchers and landowners, residents of Folsom, El Dorado County, Sacramento, Rancho Murieta and other areas.

Feedback from these workshops are available for download on our website [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org). Just click on “public workshop materials” on the upper left corner of home page. Please give us your feedback via email at [info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org). We need your input!

Deer Creek Workshop participants help shape Master Plan.

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**Conservancy Wish List**

- 4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck
- Weed sprayers—backpack or truck mounted
- Quad-runner vehicle
- Free porta-potty service for one year

**Volunteers Needed**

- Administrative Work on Weekdays
- Booth Staffing on Weekends
- Future weeding parties

**Deer Creek Workshops Online**

Couldn’t make our recent workshops? Go virtual at [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) and click on “workshop materials” in the upper left corner of home page. Download info you want and email us with comments.

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**Oak Woodlands, Working Ranches and Deer Creek Hills Master Plan**

**By Aimee Rutledge**

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Dry Creek Parkway Easement Purchased

Sacramento Valley Conservancy has purchased an easement on 4.5-acres along Dry Creek in Rio Linda. This property contains valley oak seedlings, provides a trail link and adds to the over 370 acres that the Conservancy has directly helped to protect in the Dry Creek Parkway. The Country of Sacramento’s Dry Creek Parkway Plan combines trails, fish projects, flood control and traditional agricultural uses.

The Dry Creek Parkway links with the American River Parkway at Discovery Park (via the Ueda Parkway and Sacramento Northern Bikeway) and links near Lake Natoma (via Dry Creek Watershed in Placer County).

Oak Woodlands . . . (continued from page 1)

How can we successfully blend our three main goals – habitat, grazing and public access? Some workshop ideas are: rotate public use on a seasonal basis to lighten impacts on cattle grazing and habitat; educate public on ranching; provide field trips for kids; slowly integrate uses with needed security; identify areas to use mitigation funds from developers to help restore habitat at Deer Creek Hills and to work with willing landowners to protect and restore surrounding properties. Let us know your ideas!

A draft Master Plan will be posted on our website for review by early summer – a final draft by the end of 2005. Email us to make sure you are notified. The plan will undergo environmental review in 2006 and will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for adoption. The plan will identify goals for future uses, fundraising and volunteers.

Donor Spotlight

Big thanks to our Deer Creek Hills workshop supporters. We still need over $100,000 to meet our $350,000 budget. Please help if you can! See page 1 “Oak Woodlands” to participate in the workshop process. Heroic supporters so far include: Wildlife Conservation Board, CA Department of Fish & Game, CA Department of Parks & Recreation, AKT Development, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, American River Conservancy, Amador Land Trust, County of Sacramento, CA Department of Fire & Forestry, California Releaf, Great Valley Center, A. Teichert & Son, Inc., Sacramento Tree Foundation, Warmington Homes, Woodside Homes, Casano Kamilos Homes, Murieta Holdings, CA Native Plant Society, Sacramento Audubon, City of Folsom staff, City of Rancho Cordova staff, Rancho Murieta Association staff, East County Landowners Group members, Dan Macon of the High Sierra Resource Council, Sloughhouse Inn staff, Sierra Health Foundation, Eric Stackhouse, The Dangermond Group, Foothill Associates, for their very valuable help in hosting our website, and the many special individual donors who have stepped up at all different levels to support this effort!

Progress . . . (continued from page 1)

Vicariant uses like additional camping areas for Prairie City or Ag related businesses, “said Herb Garms, representative of Sacramento Ranches. “Enhanced business opportunities and neighbors friendly to ranching can help keep our cattle operation going.”

The portion of the ranch which provides buffer is located to the south and east of the OHV facility, which is located just over a mile south of Folsom, and borders on White Rock and Scott Roads. The buffer area extends several miles south along either side of Scott Road, to within a couple of miles (and two parcels) of the 4000-acre Deer Creek Hills oak woodland preserve and working ranch. Deer Creek Hills is owned by Sacramento Valley Conservancy, the Country of Sacramento, and California State Parks.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy continues to actively work with willing sellers to preseve Sacramento’s beautiful open space, natural habitat and agriculture.