

Second Annual Tribal and Native American Youth Field Day

Lockeford Plant Materials Center

The Second Annual Tribal and Native American Youth Field Day was held at the California Plant Materials Center on July 29, 2010. The Field Day commenced with an introduction by Reina Rogers, NRCS Tribal Liaison; then continued with a walking tour of the PMC, a lunch break, and then concluded with presentations on California native basketweaving materials and techniques by California native basketweavers, Kathy Wallace (Karuk/Yurok/Mohawk/Hoopa), and Ennis Peck (Mountain Maidu).

The walking tour gave participants a chance to view examples of different uses of native plants; for landscaping around buildings as well as for conservation purposes.



Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp *caerula*), redbud (*Cercis orbiculata*) and flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) growing in the landscaped area next to offices at the CA PMC.

The group next visited the Native Plant Resource Hedgerow planted in 2006. Culturally significant plants growing here include the Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), and White sage (*Salvia apiana*).



Reina Rogers describes plants the native plants and their uses in the Native Plant Resource Hedgerow.

The group continued on to the ten acre area close to the Mokelumne River, which has plantings of native trees and shrubs including oaks, elderberry, and willow and some tobacco, a plant of great cultural significance. This area is planned as the site of more native plantings and investigations into Indigenous Stewardship Methods (ISM).



Melany Johnson, Susanville Indian Rancheria Cultural Resource Specialist, describes the management and various traditional uses of elderberry.



Members of the Sierra Native Alliance enjoying a moment during their walk

As the group walked back to the main buildings along the Mokelumne River levee, which is well shaded with large black walnut and other vegetation, we stopped at areas previously planted with sedge for basketweaving material. Some of the youth had participated in the 2009 field day and were excited to see the willow they planted last year.

After a picnic lunch eaten outside under the trees, we divided into groups to rotate through stations for different activities.



Basketweavers Kathy Wallace and Ennis Peck gave presentations on plant harvesting and preparation of plant materials for basketweaving.



PMC Agronomists, Christina Smith and Annie Young-Matthews, helped the participants transplant sedge plants (*Carex barbarae*) to take with them for transplanting in the fall.

During the Field Day we asked for suggestions and partners in developing the ten acre native plant area. The 10 acre area contains many elderberry, black walnut, and oak trees as well as annual grasses and forbs. The area could be planted with traditional food, such as bulbs and other root foods, berries, or other fleshy fruit or leafy green producing plants. Native American elders will be invited this fall to visit the area and offer their suggestions.



Woven mat from Tule stems.