

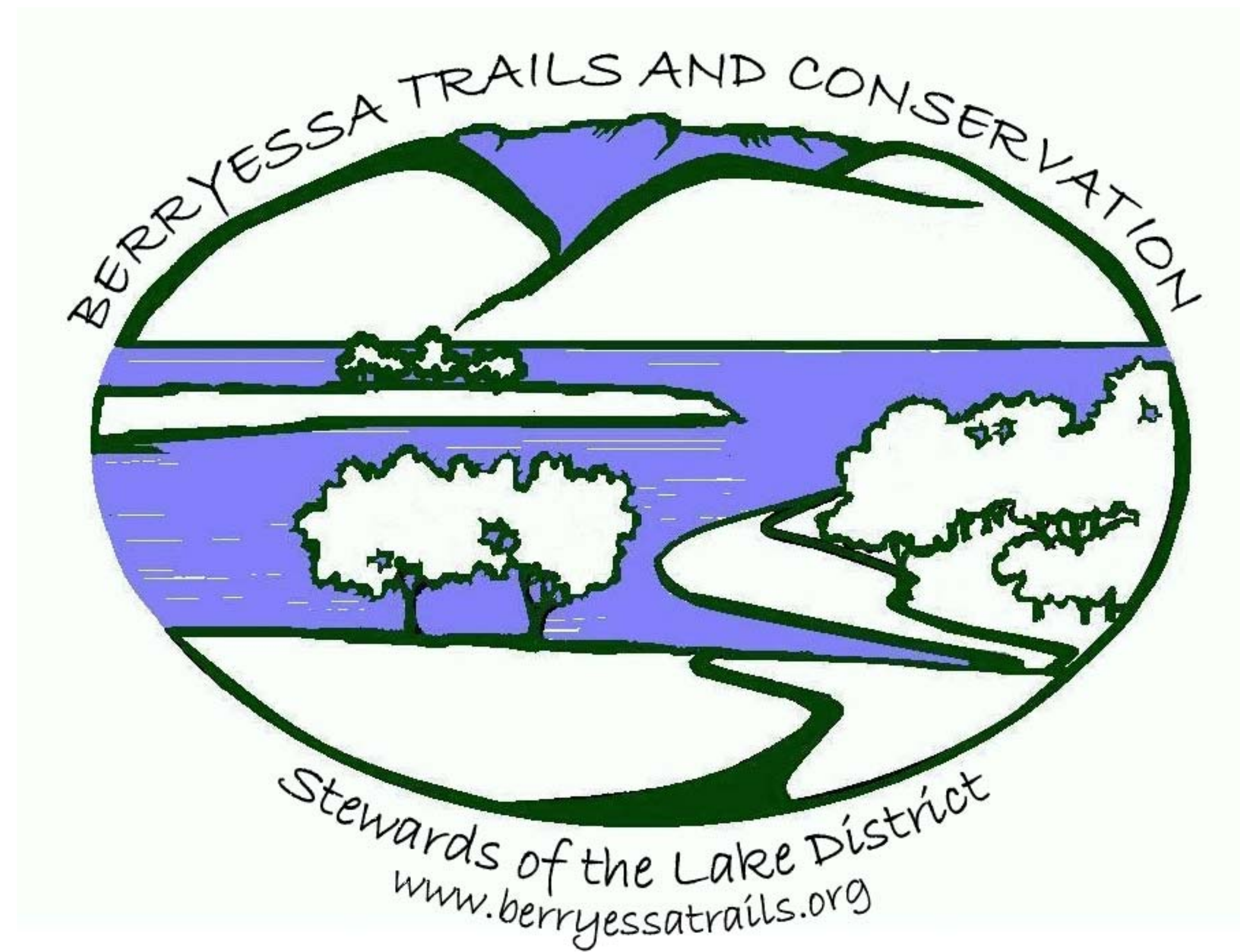
# BERRYESSA TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

## Lake Berryessa Volunteers Habitat Restoration First Up: Pope Creek at the Bridge, February 2011

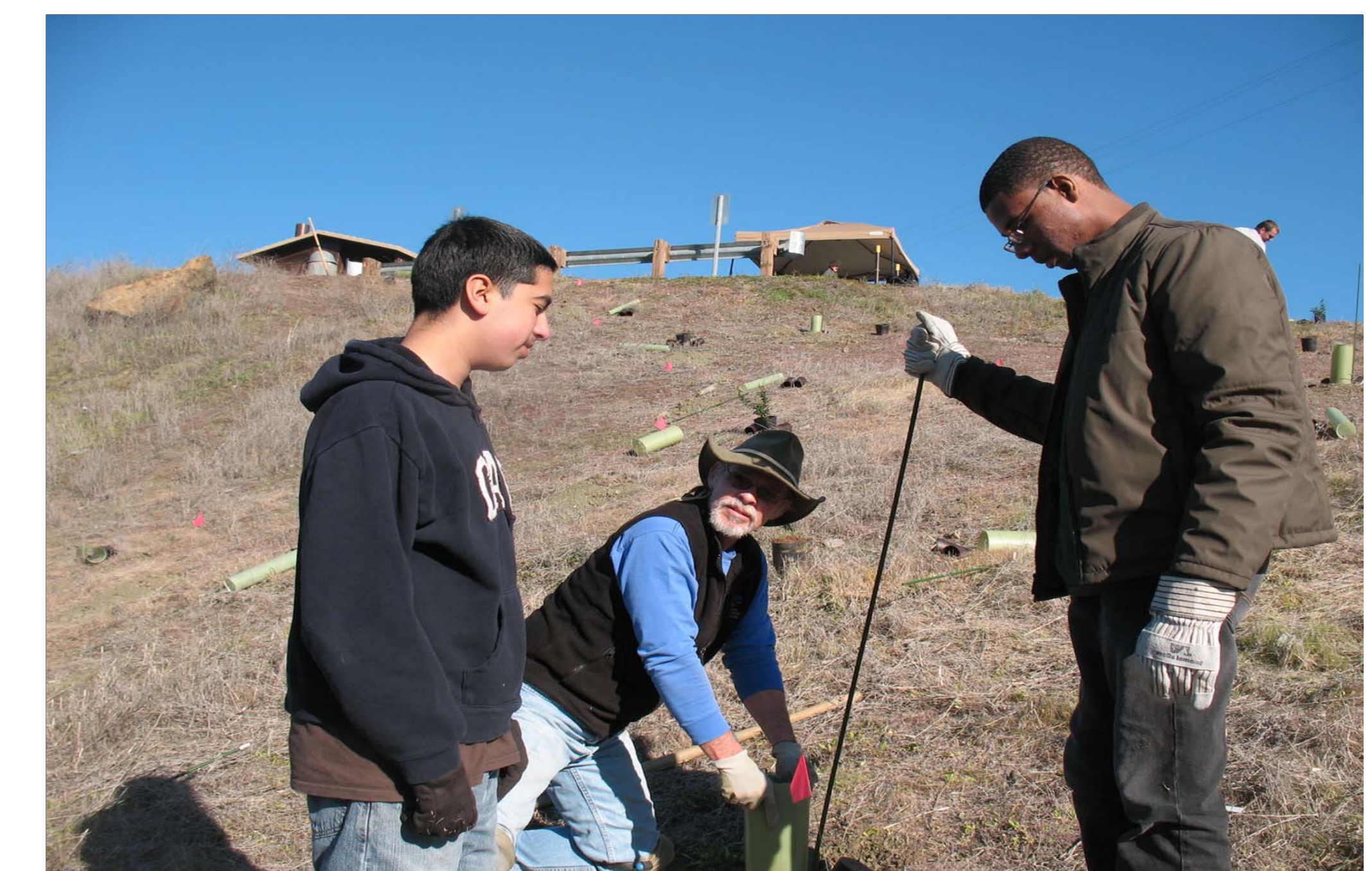
**Problem and Opportunity:** One of the most highly used day use areas at Lake Berryessa presented a field infested with star thistle, fennel and other invasive species that visitors had to traverse to reach the lake. A sad site that needed help. At the same time, given the heavy use of the area, we believed that it was an opportunity to educate users about invasive and native species and the values of habitat restoration for wildlife. In addition, it was a chance to create visual evidence of the positive changes happening at Lake Berryessa.

**The Restoration Plan:** We planted 5 different kinds of native grass plugs, acorns, and container plants, including oaks, redbud, lupine, etc. The most difficult issue was irrigation. After exploration of various options, and in view of concerns that any irrigation system or pump equipment left on site for any period of time might disappear, we decided on using dri-water. This included installing plastic containers next to the larger plants into which dri-water gel could be repeatedly inserted to ensure the plants would survive the first two summers. This is our first experience with this product. We also have some bird houses that have yet to be installed. Interpretive signage also needs to be designed and posted.

**Ongoing Maintenance:** It soon became clear that we needed regular visits to the site beyond the longer term maintenance needs. We are currently exploring the possibility of creating a project for a Pacific Union College biology student who is looking for an internship opportunity. Potential tasks would include site maintenance, creation of a database to monitor the success of the project, reporting on maintenance needs that require more intensive efforts, creating a proposal for interpretive signage and installing the bird houses.



Many Helping Hands



### Berryessa Trails and Conservation

- Planned project and obtained funding
- Organized and managed the project
- Recruited volunteers

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Provided the site
- Worked with us to review and approve the restoration plan
- Coordinated on equipment and storage
- Staff joined us in installing the plants

### California Audubon Landowner Stewardship Program

- Provided the restoration and ongoing maintenance plan
- Acquired the acorns and plants
- Managed the volunteer efforts
- Supplied information for future interpretive signage

### Volunteers

- Napa, Solano and Yolo County
- Pacific Union College biology students and professors

### Coastal Conservancy

- Funding



Lupine coming up strong

Doing well so far . . .



We collected acorns from the area and stored them until we were ready to plant. The dri-water for this little oak will be replaced a couple of times a month to irrigate the plant over the summer months until the rains begin again.

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