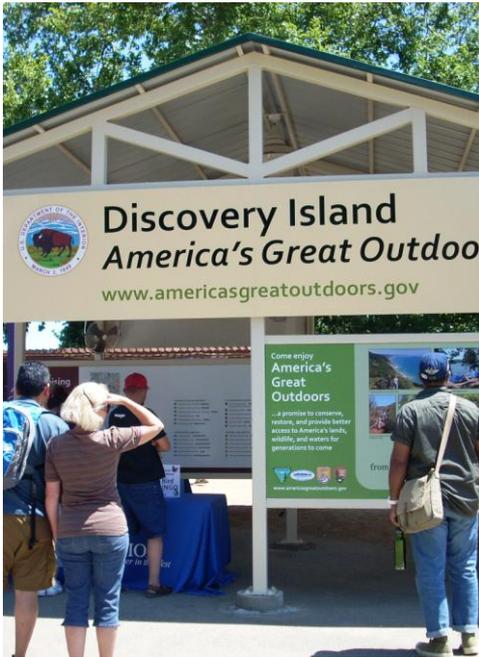


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California State Fair Exhibit Promoting AGO

Hundreds of thousands of visitors to the 2011 California State Fair are enjoying America's Great Outdoors, showcased in an exhibit staffed by employees of agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior. The large exhibit at the State Fair, which continues through July 31, is a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.



The exhibit, located in the popular "Discovery Island" portion of the fairgrounds, is high profile, beginning with its 20-foot-long banner.

Displays and activities for all ages highlight various aspects of the America's Great Outdoors initiative and the roles of the agencies within the Department of the Interior.

Key aspects of the exhibit demonstrate to visitors the myriad ways they can enjoy the

AGO exhibit at California State Fair

outdoors, from watching birds and rafting white-water rivers, to paddling canoes and driving dune buggies.

California State Fair Exhibit...



At left, children color wildlife drawings; below, visitors touch antlers on display; and bottom left, a ranger staffs the 'Bird Bingo' table.



...Is Bringing AGO to the Public



Top right, children post their promises; center, displays promote AGO; and at right, an exhibit staff member holds a rereilded hawk.

Sampling of Other AGO Programs, Events...



Finding Gold at New Melones Lake

The Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region recently gave two dozen children and their parents the thrill of panning for gold and finding a few glittering flakes! The event was part of an ongoing recreational and educational program at New Melones Lake, overseen by the Central California Area Office. The lake is in the heart of California's Mother Lode region, site of the 1849 Gold Rush.



Going Batty

The Mid-Pacific Region's Central California Area Office also recently drew an audience of about 50 to an interpretive evening program at New Melones Lake. Participants in "Bats Are Your Buddies" learned about the importance of bats in our ecosystem. Above, youths hang arts and crafts created during the event.



Reclamation and City Celebrate Shasta Dam, America's Great Outdoors Initiative

Members of the Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region's Northern California Area Office recently joined the City of Shasta Lake to celebrate the building of Shasta Dam and to promote the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Reclamation's float at the 60th Annual Shasta Damboree and Parade showcased the recreational benefits of Shasta Dam, fitting for both the theme of the parade, "*Stay and Play at Shasta Lake*," and for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Federal Agencies and Tribes Meet to Begin Developing Tribal Youth Initiative

Representatives of federal agencies and tribes met recently in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to discuss formation of a Klamath Basin initiative designed to increase employment and education opportunities for tribal youth.

The program is part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to employ, educate, and engage America's young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural and cultural heritage.

The Klamath Basin program meeting included representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Western Fisheries Research Center, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency and National Marine Fisheries Service.



C.A.S.T. Fishing Events for Youth Embody Spirit of AGO, 'Let's Move Outside' Initiatives



'Catch A Special Thrill' for Kids Event at New Melones Lake

A recent C.A.S.T event at Reclamation's New Melones Lake in Central California provided an opportunity for children to fish and boat, many for the first time. More than 100 disabled, disadvantaged and developmentally impaired children attended the event, staffed by more than 80 volunteers. The event also educated children about stewardship of the land, water safety, eating right, and healthy living habits.

C.A.S.T for Kids Event at Shasta Lake



The recent C.A.S.T for Kids Event at Shasta Lake in Northern California drew a large crowd and big fish catches. The centerpiece of the event was the Cavern Queen, a large tour boat provided by Lake Shasta Caverns. In addition, five fishing clubs participated, using their boats to take children out on the lake.

Earlier This Year:

Secretary's Visit Kicks Off AGO Program

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar conducted a three-state tour in February 2011 to highlight the importance of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. During that tour, Secretary Salazar visited an AGO event near Fresno in California's Central Valley. The Secretary joined about 100 volunteers who were planting native trees and carrying out other habitat restoration work at Jensen River Ranch along the San Joaquin River.



At left, Secretary Salazar meets one of the volunteers at the Jensen River Ranch event; below, the Secretary paddles a canoe with one of the volunteers during the event; and at right, volunteers at work in the fields.







Swimming Fundraiser

Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region employees participated in a 200 meter Community Freestyle Relay hosted by the Willows Hydro Jets Swim Team. From left, are E. Ann Butler, Natalie Wolder, Amber Pierce, Vicky Haney.

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