

## Assistant Secretary of the Interior Anne Castle Tours the Mid-Pacific Region



**From left: Darcy Ayotte, Admin Asst; Mark Szydlo, Natural Resource Specialist; Tiffany Hopp, Office Clerk; Warren Kasper, Supervisory Park Ranger; Jeff Laird, Park Manager; Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science; Mike McGraw, Park Ranger; Pablo Arroyave, Deputy Regional Director; Peggi Brooks, CCAO Recreation Division Chief; Mike Finnegan, CCAO Area Manager.**

While touring Lake Berryessa's Manzanita Canyon concession area, the Assistant Secretary met with a 30-person California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew conducting clean up on the federal lands. Crew leaders Antoine Penn and Danny Debolt provided a great briefing on the CCC mission to build skills and education for young adults aged 18 to 25. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, CCAO has partnered with the CCC since 2010 to help clean up debris and hazards on federal lands. The results of their efforts are phenomenal as one can observe while driving through the concession area and admiring the landscape and wildlife.

On Thursday, July 19, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Anne Castle visited the Mid-Pacific Region and toured several areas and projects. The tour started at Lake Berryessa in Napa County where Ms. Castle was greeted by the Lake Berryessa staff and provided a tour of the visitor center. Later, Deputy Regional Director Pablo Arroyave and Central California Area Office (CCAO) Manager Mike Finnegan led a tour of concession areas on the west side of the lake to give the Assistant Secretary a unique perspective on the clean-up activities and concession operations currently under way.



**Ms. Castle poses with California Conservation Corps crew.**



**Bald Eagle with lunch at Lake Berryessa.**

One highlight of the Lake Berryessa experience was a boat tour of the lake during which a deer and fawn, turkey vultures and nesting osprey were spotted as well as majestic bald eagles feeding on the shore.

Folsom Dam and Reservoir was the next tour area with a briefing on Folsom Dam and the Joint Federal Project. U.S. Corps of Engineers representatives joined CCAO staff to brief on the partnership, challenges and successes of the project.

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

On Friday, July 20, the Deputy Regional Director joined the Assistant Secretary for an aerial tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where key features of the Central Valley Project were pointed out, beginning with a view of the Folsom complex, Nimbus Dam and the American River. The trip also covered the Sacramento River and the Delta Cross Channel, focusing on the levee systems and the complexity of the Delta. Items discussed included the way water moves through the Delta and the challenges faced in maintaining a reliable and secure water supply while preserving and protecting the ecological balance in the Delta.



**Monticello Dam at Lake Berryessa.**

Flying over the Delta provided views of the completed Intertie, Delta-Mendota Canal, the federal C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant and the state Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant, Tracy Fish Collection Facility, Los Vaqueros Reservoir and the Suisun Marsh and Bay. Heading north, the plane flew over the towns of Vallejo and Napa and eventually over Lake Berryessa and Monticello Dam where Ms. Castle got a great view of the Morning Glory Spillway.



**Ms. Castle helps a child from the Sacramento River Discovery Center Day Camp with planting vegetation along the Red Bluff damsite as part of America’s Great Outdoors.**

The flight continued north to Red Bluff where Ms. Castle was met by Northern California Area Office Manager Brian Person who led the party to an America's Great Outdoors Rivers Initiative habitat restoration project at the Sacramento River Discovery Center (SRDC). The SRDC is located across the Sacramento River from the new Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Fish Screen.

The event sponsored by Reclamation, the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and the SRDC, involved SRDC Day Camp children planting native grasses on the shoreline. The restoration of the Sacramento River at this location is part of the mitigation effort for the construction of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Fish Screen directly across the river. This restoration effort is part of a larger project to enhance and restore approximately 23 acres of open water, riparian and wetland habitat in East Sand Slough along the Sacramento River.



**Ms. Castle, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Manager Jeff Sutton, and Mr. Arroyave with children from the Sacramento River Discovery Center Day Camp at Red Bluff.**

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*



**Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Manager Jeff Sutton telling Ms. Castle and Mr. Arroyave about the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project.**

The Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project is one of the projects selected in May 2012 by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to serve as models of the America's Great Outdoors Rivers Initiative to conserve and restore key rivers across the nation, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and support jobs in local communities. After the event, Ms. Castle toured the new Pumping Plant and Fish Screen.



**Ms. Castle looking at Red Bluff Passage Improvement Project afterbay.**



**Ms. Castle and the Mr. Arroyave with Reclamation's mascot, Otto Otter, at the State Fair in Sacramento, Calif.**

Finally, that same afternoon, Ms. Castle visited the America's Great Outdoors exhibit at the California State Fair in Sacramento, where she was welcomed by Otto Otter, Reclamation's mascot. At the fair, she visited with volunteers and participated in some of the activities offered to the children by the agencies involved in the program. The interactive exhibit features free fun and educational hands-on activities for kids

emphasizing conservation, recreation and water

safety on public lands and waterways. The agencies involved in the America's Great Outdoors exhibit this year are Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Boating and Waterways.



**CCAO staff member Mary Ann Manges helps Ms. Castle create a water cycle bracelet in the Youth Activities area at the State Fair.**