Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Teams with Local Group and Students to Restore Local Habitat

BROOKS, CA (March 17, 2011) – The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is once again partnering with the Center for Land-Based Learning to put Yolo County high school students in local fields to help restore the region’s natural habitat. It is part of an important program designed to help students learn first-hand the importance of environmental stewardship.

The Field Day, held March 17, included students from The Academy at Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and Esparto High School who are involved in the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program. These students planted native grasses, an important component of Yolo County’s ecosystem, and applied organic walnut shell mulch around native plants to slow weed growth. This is not a first time partnership; last winter the students planted vegetation along a wildlife corridor and around a water retention pond.

“Native Americans have a long history of respecting and preserving the earth and its resources through eco-friendly farming and a balanced approach to land management,” said Jim Etters, Director of Land Management for Yocha Dehe. “The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is dedicated to instilling these values of land stewardship in the next generation.”

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has a longstanding collaboration with the SLEWS program. Support from the Yocha Dehe Community Fund has allowed the program to provide hands-on environmental field trips to more than 3,000 students since 2001.

“We are delighted and grateful for Yocha Dehe’s generous support of our farming programs,” said Mary Kimball, Director of the Center for Land-Based Learning. “Local students finish our programs with a deep knowledge of sustainable farming and ranching and its effects on the community.”

Kimball said Center for Land-Based Learning is the only non-profit in the state that offers hands-on environmental field trips to high school students. “The future is in their hands,” Kimball added. “We need to make sure they are equipped with the right tools.”

###

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the Capay Valley, CA community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations.

Contact: Greg Larsen 916.441.0160

glarsen@yochadehe-nsn.gov