

Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Fall 2007

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Lewiston Gazebo Project

There is a new facility for hikers, cyclists and equestrians to enjoy on their treks in the Lewiston area. Lewiston Trails Committee volunteer Jerry Hauke and Trinity County RCD crew spent several days in November on the Lowden Ranch constructing a timber-pole gazebo complete with benches and metal roof. The gazebo, situated near the ranch's historic apple orchard, was funded by the Trinity Alps Bike Association. Lowden Ranch is public land administered by Bureau of Land Management.

Hauke and TCRCDD's John Condon collaborated on the project that showcases round-wood construction as a productive use of timber too small to be sold to a mill. Developing value-added products from such "sub-merchantable" timber helps reduce cost of doing fuels reduction. Small wood biomass formerly considered valueless, and merely burned or chipped, can instead be sold as material for the production of goods like this gazebo if enough demand is created.

The gazebo was built from a kit designed by Bob Mountjoy and developed by the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork. All wood in the kit was from fuels reduction projects within Trinity County and processed at the Hayfork Small Diameter Sort Yard. It arrived pre-cut and pre-drilled, with metal roofing and basic connectors purchased separately.

TCRCDD plans on building other such examples of biomass utilization that incorporate small diameter wood from local forests. Future projects will include a picnic pavilion at Lee Fong Park funded by a grant from the USFS to the Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council.



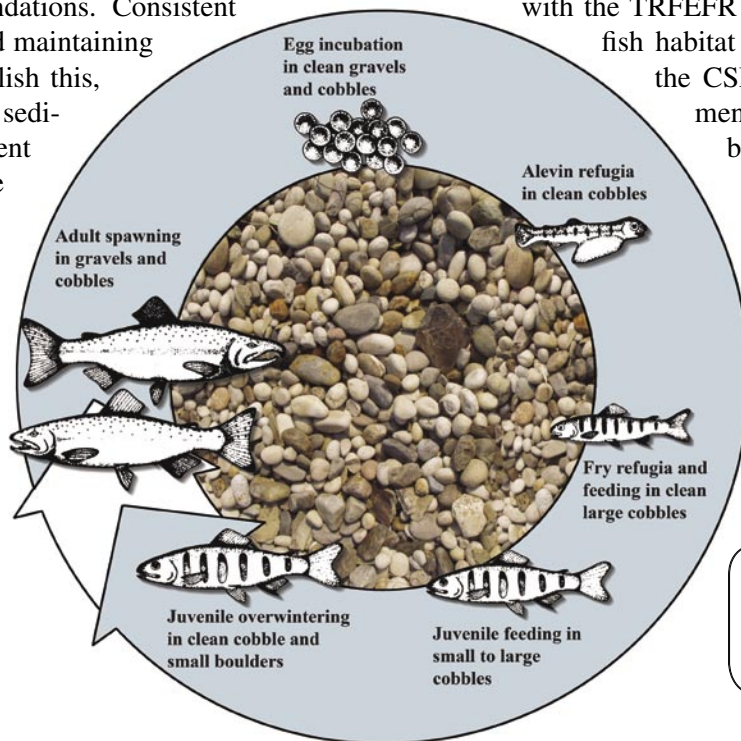
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TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM COARSE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN, Part 2

Foundation

The Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (ROD), signed by the Secretary of the Interior in 2000, attempts to reverse impacts to the river below Lewiston Dam using high flow releases from Trinity and Lewiston dams, coarse sediment management, fine sediment management, and channel rehabilitation. The Trinity River Flow Evaluation Final Report (TRFEFR) and ROD provided recommendations for coarse sediment management. Significant work to better understand sediment transport dynamics on the Trinity River has occurred since these recommendations were developed for the TRFEFR, and thus, the Coarse Sediment Management Plan (CSMP) adds considerably more detail to the initial TRFEFR recommendations. Consistent with the TRFEFR and ROD, the CSMP adopts the strategy of restoring and maintaining fish habitat by restoring fluvial geomorphic processes. To accomplish this, the CSMP must: (1) replace a portion of the upstream coarse sediment sources lost by the dam by below Lewiston Dam, and (2) place introduced coarse sediment sizes and volumes to transport, introduced coarse sediment sizes and volumes into diverse and complex fish habitat.



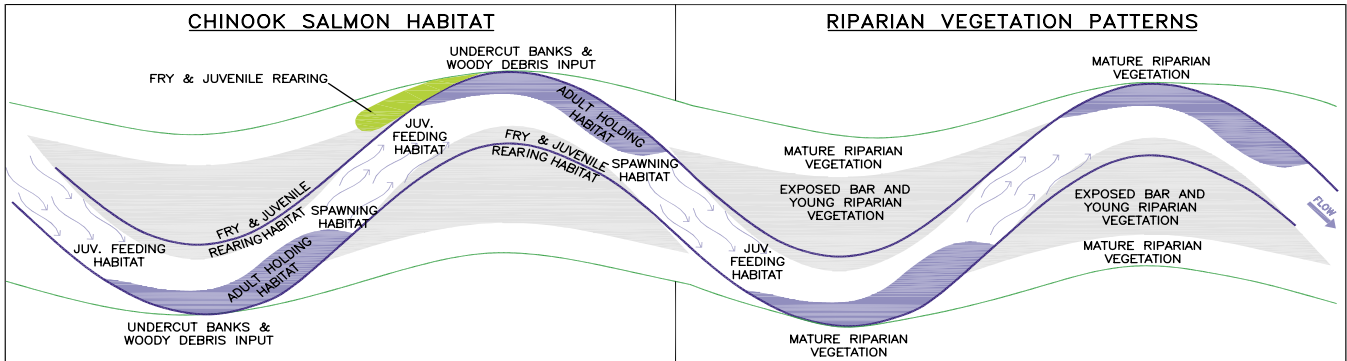
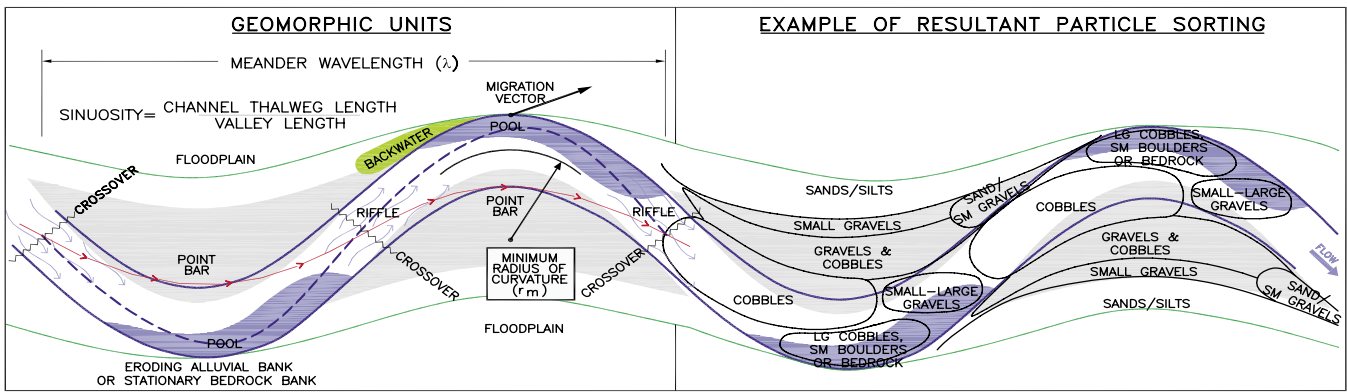
General habitats provided by coarse sediments for fall-run Chinook salmon life-stages.

Impacts to the Fishery

Salmon, steelhead and other aquatic and terrestrial species on the Trinity River depend on channel complexity to develop channel shape, flow patterns, and vegetation for their health and production.

An improved high flow regime and coarse sediment supply encourages diverse bars to form, which in turn creates complex habitat such as pools, riffles, alcoves, side channels, and young riparian vegetation, used by salmonids during their various life stages. Coarse sediment is not only important for spawning habitat, but is also important for creating fry and juvenile rearing habitat, identified in the TRFEFR as the current factor limiting salmon production from the Trinity River.

This article is the second one in a series excerpted from **Trinity River Restoration Program's** brochure, **Coarse Sediment Management Plan (CSMP)**, describing how this project benefits salmonids. Look for more in the winter issue of **Conservation Almanac**.



Conceptual alternate bar unit showing relationship of bar units to particle diversity, salmonid habitat, and riparian vegetation. An improved coarse sediment supply and high flow regime is important in order to create and maintain habitat diversity.



To be continued...

Forest Workshop



Ken Baldwin, Registered Professional Forester, leads a field trip to the Weaverville Community Forest as part of a recent workshop on "Forest Management for Small Landowners" sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension and Trinity County RCD.

TRINITY ROOTS
www.trinityroots.org

"Trinity Roots" is your online guide to the farms, ranches and forests of Trinity County and is sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) in Trinity County. The project seeks to promote agritourism and locally-supported agriculture. Check it out this great source at www.trinityroots.org



Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp



Tiffany Riess, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), explains how to use a compass to find hidden prizes.



NRCS Biologist, Tim Viel, identifies macro-invertebrates that live in Hayfork Creek and are an important food source for fish.



NRCS District Conservationist, Jim Spear, teaches students about soil structure and how to determine the texture of the soil.

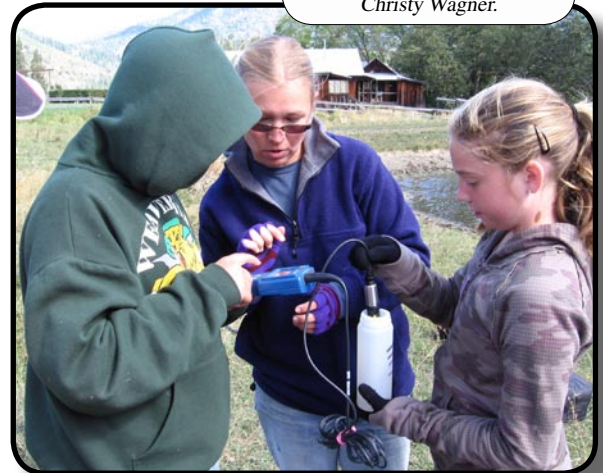


Pat Frost guides students in calculating stream flow.



Students learned about water quality and how it affects the populations of insects that feed fish.

Students take water sample and test for quality with Americorps Watershed Steward, Christy Wagner.



NRCS Forester Randi Paris explains how to measure the diameter and height of a tree.

2007 Salmon Festival

*This year's Salmon Festival was held on the meadow at Highland Art Center. Highlights included a wide range of educational games and activities for children, a salmon barbecue and an apple cider pressing. Christy Wagner talks with Trinity County residents at the **Creek Watch** Booth about volunteering to monitor streams in their neighborhoods.*



2007 Salmon Festival Poster Contest

The 2007 Salmon Festival Poster Contest drew some strong contenders from among Weaverville Elementary School sixth graders, making it hard to select winning entries.

The posters, started as one of many activities at the annual Environmental Camp, added to the color and fun of this year's Salmon Festival where they were judged on October 13.

Judges chose the work of Sandy Drawyer as the winning piece, with posters by Bradlee Plotzke and Travis Palermo for second and third. Public balloting of Salmon Festival attendees led to Michael Jones' art being named People's Choice. Other entries worthy of recognition and receiving Honorable Mention awards were those by Jack Contos, Bella Hedtke, Kristin Jepsen, Stephanie Martin, Nick Moreno, Ricardo Powers, Karry Van Matre, Becca Watson, and Jackie Woodhouse. Trinity River Restoration Program Executive Director Doug Schleusner presented certificates to winners. All winning art will be used in a calendar listing events of community organizations. To view the winning art visit www.tcrd.net.



RCD Establishes Conservation Fund

Do you have a passion for programs that improve forest health while making our communities more fire safe – programs like the Weaverville Community Forest, the Fire Safe Council or our popular Community Chipper Program?

Have your children or grandchildren attended our summer day camp or enjoyed a science field trip led by the RCD? Ever taken a hike on the Weaver Basin Trail System? Are you concerned about the management of our local streams and fisheries?

Perhaps you have an idea for a project that we never tried?

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District Fund is a way you can help us provide these programs and achieve the goal of community guided conservation. If you are looking for a meaningful way to invest in local conservation of our natural resources please consider a contribution to the Trinity County Resource Conservation District Fund. Many Trinity County residents and land-owners volunteer regularly and support non-profit groups of their choice. Your end-of-the-year gift can help us extend our programs and increase our effectiveness. You can create an enduring legacy that perpetuates your commitment to conservation by supporting the RCD Fund through a gift in your will. Please give thought to this new opportunity for you to contribute to community-based conservation programs through the District's Conservation Fund.

If you like the notion of supporting the RCD's long-term conservation and stewardship strategy with your gift please call us for further information. You may also wish to contact a professional advisor, someone who can make sure you get maximum legal and tax benefits allowable for your gift, and who can help you with estate planning and paperwork.

If supporting the RCD's long-term conservation and stewardship strategy is important to you, you can get started by:

[1] Thinking about what program is important to you or give us a call.

[2] Get a hold of a professional advisor – someone who can make sure that you get the maximum legal and tax benefits allowed for your gift and who can help you with estate planning and paperwork.

Alex Cousins, New TCRCD Employee

It would be hard to imagine Alex Cousins ever getting bored with his new job at the District with all the hats he gets to wear. Alex, who joined the RCD in April, has quickly garnered new responsibilities as the need has arisen, kind of like a snowball rolling downhill in a blizzard, with a tailwind.

Some of his current roles include being the Trinity River Watershed Coordinator, a grants writer, Biomass Utilization Coordinator, and serving as the District's CEQA coordinator for a Trinity River Restoration Program project. Alex has dived into each of these jobs with enthusiasm and surfaced with a grin.

As watershed coordinator he helps bring together local, state and federal natural resources agencies doing work in the Trinity River watershed. The purpose is to help improve communication, prioritize projects and create a synergy of efforts to achieve and maintain watershed health. As biomass utilization coordinator Alex works with the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council to find and promote innovative applications for forest materials too small to be processed into boards. This woody biomass is often residue like tree limbs, tops, or undersize trees from fuels reduction projects or timber harvests and typically has no commercial value. The goal is to find applications that add economic value to this underutilized material that ordinarily is disposed of by burning. Applications include manufacture of specialty products, generation of electricity, production of pellets for heat, and other products such as garden mulch. As CEQA coordinator, Alex ensures the District complies with the California Environmental Quality Act and that the public receives ample opportunities to comment on proposed projects.

Alex is a Trinity County native. His parents moved to Hyampom in the early 1970s, and he was raised in that community until his parents moved to Weaverville in the mid-80s. He attended Trinity High School, got his Bachelor's degree in anthropology and Latin American studies before heading to San Diego State University to earn his Master's degree in Latin American Studies with emphasis in economics and politics. He enjoys traveling and has traveled extensively in Central and South America. When he finds time to play, Alex is out of doors, cycling, kayaking, hiking and exploring all the great places and activities Trinity County is known for.



District Manager's Corner Pat Frost

Fall is a time of transition. If you garden or have fruit trees it is the time to harvest and then get things ready for winter. Pages of the autumn issue of Conservation Almanac always highlight transitions as well. The Trinity River Restoration Program's Indian Creek Rehabilitation sites are done and it is easy to see how they have changed the river to take advantage of next year's spring flows. Drive along the river and you can see these changes first hand. The banks of the river just outside Douglas City have been reshaped and exposed to the natural forces of flowing water – forces that will create a wide range of conditions necessary for fish.

The District is experiencing changes, too. Alex Cousins has joined us and I am excited about what he brings to the RCD family – not only his skills and experience, but also his enthusiasm for conservation and living in Trinity County. It is a transitional season for our AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards members, too. Christy Wagner will complete her term with us in December. Christy has been a wonderful asset to the District – and affected a lot of you through her work with children in the schools, at our summer day camp and at the Salmon Festival. Christy is poised for new adventures and all of us wish her great success in the coming year. The baton is being passed on to Tom Dey and Erica Spohn – our newest Watershed Stewards members, who will join us in January.

I'd like to take a moment to highlight another change. The District's Board of Directors has established the Trinity County RCD Fund through the Trinity Trust and Humboldt Area Foundation. If you have ever wondered how you could help us meet the conservation needs in Trinity County for you, your children and grandchildren, this is one way. Please look at the article on page 6 and then give us a call.



Agritourism & Nature Tourism Workshop

Save the Date!

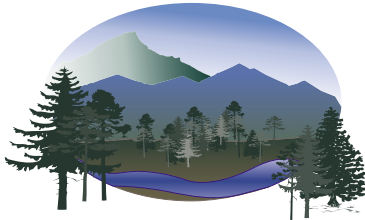
**Wednesday January 9, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
at the McConnell Foundation in Redding.**

Featuring speakers on market trends, risk assessment, regulatory considerations and business planning. Local operators of vineyards, pumpkin patches, ranch B&Bs and U-pick farms will share their real-life lessons.

Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and a reference manual. Call (530) 628-5495 or visit <http://cetrinity.ucdavis.edu>.



Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093



Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

TCRCD Office

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Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
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Internet: www.tcrcd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district whose board of directors volunteer their time.

The TCRCD Vision

TCRCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economic diversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

The TCRCD Mission

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation programs.

**TCRCD Board of Directors are
Mike Rourke, Rose Owens, Patrick Truman,
Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.**

The RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work. The RCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The RCD provides information on the following topics:

- **Forest Land Productivity**
- **Watershed Improvement**
- **Water Supply and Storage**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Erosion/Sediment Control**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
- **Soil and Plant Types**
- **Fuels Reduction**

This issue of the *Conservation Almanac* is funded in part by grants from the Trinity River Restoration Program, Northwest CA RC&D Council, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Fire Safe Council and the State Water Resources Control Board.

