

Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2019-2020 Vol. XXVIII No. 1

2020 TCRCD Annual Events



Weaverville Summer Day Camp

July 13-31, 9am - 2pm at the Young Family Ranch, Weaverville. Outdoor youth program, with participation for one, two, or three weeks, Mon - Fri. Cost: \$70/week per child. Discounts available for early bird and family registration. Ages: 6-12.

In July (date TBD), two separate trips between Lewiston and Pigeon Point Campground. An informative, free raft trip on the Trinity River with several stops at restoration sites. An RSVP is required, space is limited to 25 people per trip. All ages: adult supervision required for children under 18, not advised for small children.

Trinity River Float



Trinity River Clean-Up

In September, date TBD. Paddle and walk the Trinity River to clean up trash and recyclables; Free BBQ follows. Info and gear provided, bring your own watercraft and PFD if possible. An All-ages event.

October 10, Highland Art Center, Weaverville. Celebrate salmon with food, crafts, entertainment, and activities. Held as part of 'Super Saturday' in Weaverville. All-ages event.

Trinity River Salmon Festival

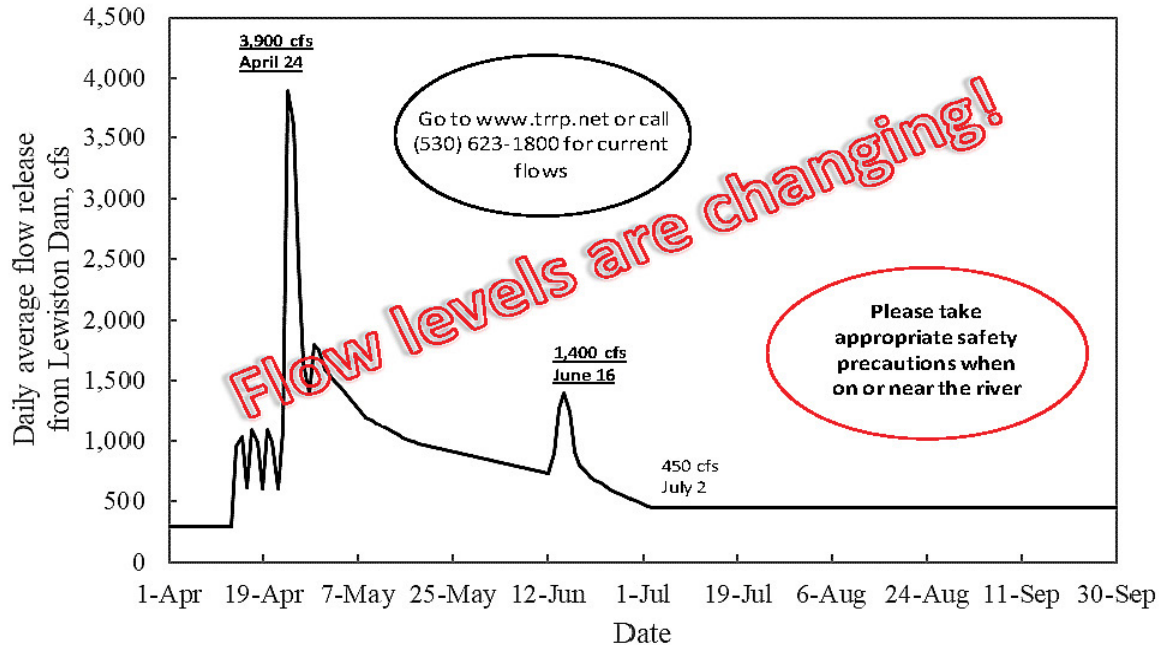


Contact Elizabeth at (530)623-6004 ext. 10 or esandoval@tcrd.net
*TBD event dates will be announced via www.tcrd.net | Facebook: Trinity County RCD
Instagram/Twitter: @TrinityRCD | ads in the Trinity Journal | flyers at local businesses

Trinity River 2020 Forecast and Release Schedule



Water Year 2020 is forecast as a Critically Dry year based upon the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 120 median forecast for April 1. The forecast is for 515,000 acre feet of inflow to Trinity and Lewiston Reservoirs over the water year, which allocates 369,000 acre feet to the Trinity River under the 2000 Record of Decision.



This Hydrograph shows average daily releases. For more information go to: <https://www.trrp.net/restoration/flows/current/>

Ascend Wilderness Experience 2020 Day Hikes, 3-Day & 5-Day Backpack Trips! Application Deadline: May 1

- Day Hike Series Ages 6-18 Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays June 29 - July 10
- Co-ed Ages 9-11 3-Day Trip: July 14-16, 3-Day Trip: July 21-23
- Co-ed Ages 12-14 5-Day Trip: July 13-17, 5-Day Leadership Training Trip: July 20-24

Applications and more information available online at:

<http://ascendwilderness.org/>

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Weaverville Summer Day Camp

2020 Weaverville Summer Day Camp is scheduled for July 13 through 31, Monday-Friday, from 9am to 2pm.

Weaverville Summer Day Camp provides memorable and meaningful outdoor summer experiences for youth in and visiting Trinity County. Camp is focused on exploring and learning about nature, food, farming, crafts, conservation, team building, individual creativity, environmental education, and much more!

Camp Fees

- \$70 per Camper week for the first two Campers from each family
 - \$65 per Camper per week for additional Campers from the same family
- Early Bird Discount!**
- \$60 per Camper per week by registering and paying by Friday, May 29, 2020
- Registration packets will be available on May 1, 2020

Sponsor a child to attend Weaverville Summer Day Camp!

Contact Elizabeth at Trinity County RCD: esandoval@tcrccd.net and (530)623-6004 ext 209. Learn more about Weaverville Summer Day Camp by visiting our websites at www.tcrccd.net in the "Projects" tab, and www.tcrccd.net/yfr.



Community Wildfire Protection Plan: 2020 Update is Underway

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District has a long history of wildfire protection education, outreach, planning, and coordination in Trinity County. Virtually every community in Trinity County has been identified as a high or very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone according to CAL FIRE. Recognizing the need for coordinated wildfire preparedness and planning, locally organized Fire Safe Councils have been established throughout California since 1993 to protect communities from and prepare communities for catastrophic wildfire.

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council (FSC) was established in 1998, with the District as a founding member. Other Trinity County FSC members include Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, CAL FIRE, Trinity County Fire Chiefs Association, Watershed Research and Training Center, Bureau of Land Management, Trinity County Board of Supervisors, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Trinity County Planning Department, and Northwest California RC&D Council.

For over 20 years, the Trinity County FSC has led community efforts to reduce hazardous fuels, create safer ingress/egress for communities, educate communities about defensible space, implement efforts that address community wildfire concerns, and coordinate emergency services for the event of catastrophic wildfire. Many of these efforts, including fuel reduction, are largely funded by competitive grants acquired by Trinity County FSC member organizations. Between 2000 and 2019, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District acquired \$8.5 million to complete fuel reduction, with \$2.9 million raised between 2015 and 2019.

In 2001, the Trinity County FSC finalized one of the first community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) before it was even coined a phrase, in the form of a Trinity County Risk Assessment. This document was then updated in 2005, 2010, 2015, and the Trinity County RCD is currently working on the 2020 update. While Trinity County FSC members coordinate and execute fire preparedness efforts annually, five year CWPP updates allow members to reevaluate priority areas and target future wildfire preparedness efforts with consideration of previously completed projects, updated wildfire risk, fire history, current fuel loads, professional concerns, and invaluable public input gathered at community meetings.

Recognizing that county residents have valuable knowledge of the local landscape, Trinity County FSC members have



encouraged community input on fuel reduction efforts, as part of CWPP updates. Community meetings allow residents to voice their wildfire preparedness concerns and identify important project areas in their communities.

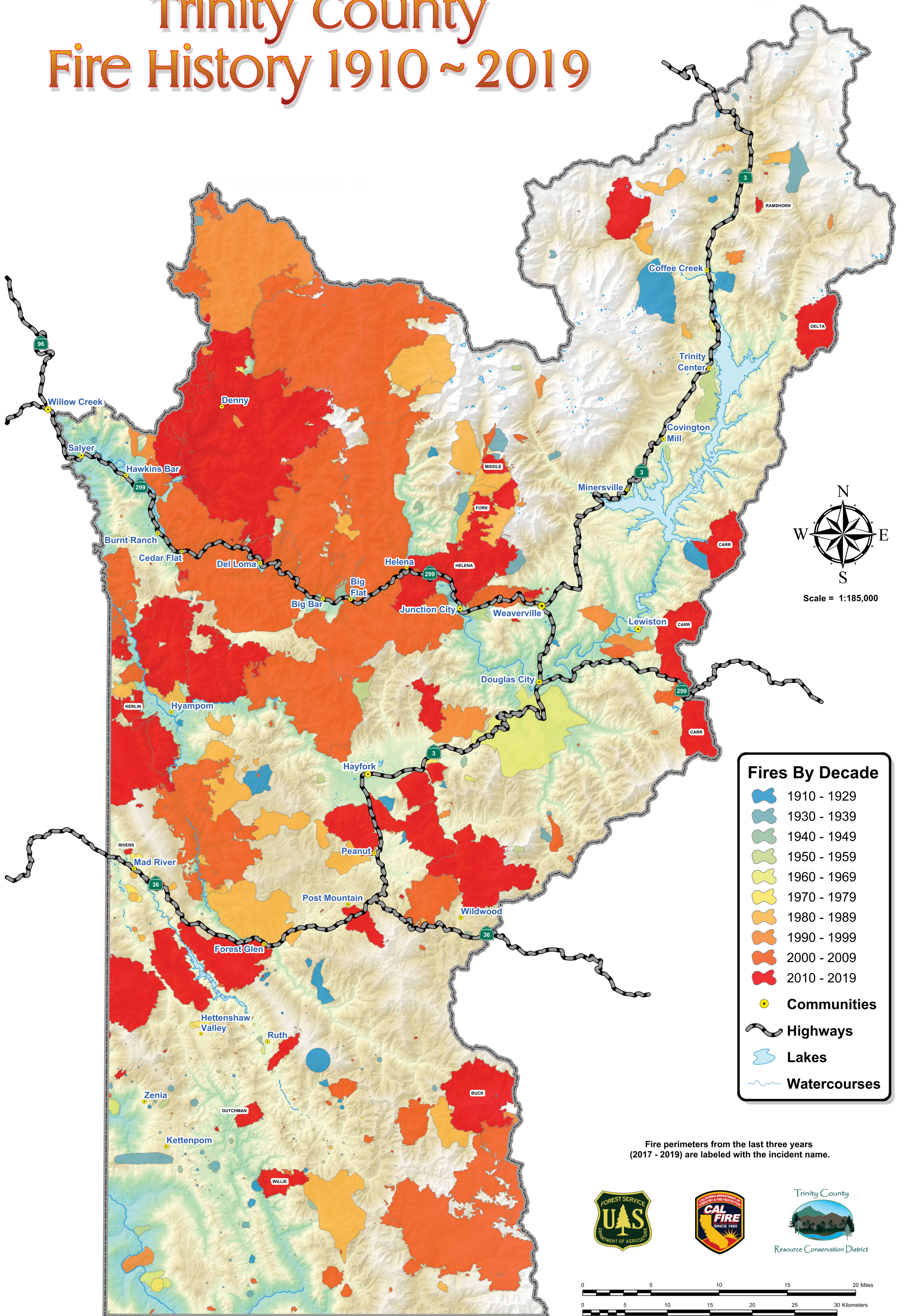
For the 2020 CWPP update, the Trinity County FSC held 12 community meetings between October 2019 and January 2020 in the following locations: Big Bar, Burnt Ranch, Douglas City, Hawkins Bar, Hayfork, Junction City, Lewiston, Mad River, Salyer, Trinity Center, Weaverville, and Zenia-Kettenpom. During these meetings, members of the public met with officials from CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, and local volunteer fire fighters to identify potential fuel reduction projects that would protect their communities. The Trinity County Office of Emergency Services and North Valley Catholic Social Service spoke to community members about emergency preparedness and discussed improvements to support the local alert systems. Cumulatively, 119 community members participated in these meetings, and this collaborative effort identified and a total of 263 fuel reduction projects identified in Trinity County.

Currently, the District is digitally mapping the 263 community identified project areas. Each project area will be ranked by priority based on several factors: community concern, distance to the wildland-urban interface (WUI), wildfire history, fuel loads, and previous fuel reduction projects. Once adopted by the by the Trinity County Fire Chiefs Association, Trinity County Board of Supervisors, and CAL FIRE, the CWPP will guide fuel reduction efforts and wildfire awareness events in the county for the next five years. The 2020 CWPP update is expected to be finalized and adopted in early 2021.

CWPP 2020 Update, cont.



Trinity County Fire History 1910 ~ 2019





Environmental Education Links

The Trinity County RCD strives to provide fun and engaging ways to inspire everyone to learn more about nature while becoming public land stewards. This list of Environmental Education resources includes activities, lesson plans, videos, and virtual tours that will have you seeing nature in a whole new light.

- Beetles Outdoor Science Programs: <http://beetlesproject.org/>

One of our favorites! Activities and lessons for outdoor and indoor science experiences. Think like a scientist.

- BLM Learning Resources: <https://www.blm.gov/educators>

“Connecting kids to public lands, Join the adventure!”

- Discover Water! <https://www.discoverwater.org/>

This super fun and interactive website will have you diving deep into the watery world that is our planet Earth.

- Earth Day (Digital!) <https://www.plt.org/news/earth-day-2020/>

- Freshwater Illustrated (short videos and photography) <https://www.freshwatersillustrated.org/>

“The Earth’s rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands are deeper than you think.” Check out these great short films, photography, and more! The Trinity County RCD has a membership with streaming access to all FI feature films, image archive access for educational use, member discounts on FI prints and products. If you are an educator and interested in incorporating this into your curriculum let us know!

- Green Education Foundation (Gardening and Composting):
<http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/for-students-landing.html>

A broad look at sustainability with lesson plans available for all grades. Includes activities for recycling, composting, energy saving, and much more.

- Learn about Public Lands! <https://greatoutdoorslive.org/resources/lesson-plans#2>

The great outdoors is waiting...just outside your door! Lesson plans for grades K through 12.

- NASA at Home – For Kids and Families: <https://www.nasa.gov/nasa-at-home-for-kids-and-families>

Explore outer space from your home space! Learn about Earth or travel beyond our planet with these activities and games.

- National Environmental Education Foundation: <https://www.neefusa.org/>

Everything Environmental Ed! Activity guides, educational projects, citizen science projects, educational apps, museum, and national park tours, and much more.



Environmental Education Links, cont.

- Nature Crafts and Kits for Kids: <https://www.nature-watch.com/>

A great catalog of kits and craft supplies to discover the wonders of nature.

- Nature Science Kits (many subjects): <https://enviroed.sou.edu/kits/>

Educators in Southern Oregon can reserve the science kits, but this website also includes activity plans.

- Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/activities-for-families/>

Some of our most frequently used activities for youth-based field trips. Play detective, explore a local park, backyard discoveries, indoor activities, and more.

- Project WET: <https://www.projectwet.org/distancelearning>

Another popular resource that we use. Includes free at-home learning resources.

- STEM Activities for Kids: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities>

Inspire young scientists with these engaging and fun science activities.

- Trinity River Website: <http://trinityriver.org/>

We work continuously to bring you the latest Trinity River news and resources. Do you recreate on the Trinity River or neighboring tributaries? Do you own a river related business? Reach out and we may be able to include you on the Trinity River website.

- Trinity River Restoration: <https://www.trrp.net/>

Why is restoration of the Trinity River important? What are key factors for returning and maintaining health fish populations? There is a lot to learn about our local watersheds! Find out more about the Fish in the Trinity River. <https://www.trrp.net/program-structure/background/fish-of-the-trinity/> or any of the restoration actions under the Restoration tab.

- University of California Cooperative Extension – Trinity County: <http://cetrinity.ucanr.edu>

Forestry, 4-H, Master Gardener resources, and healthy living information.

- University of Oregon Natural and Cultural History Museum: <https://mnch.uoregon.edu/museum-home>

Virtual museum tour, collections gallery, teaching resources, and more.

- US Forest Service Learning Resources: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/learning>

Visit the USFS Learning Center to learn more about nature, science, history, culture, outdoor safety and ethics, as well as resources for kids, parents, and teachers!

- Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper: <https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>

Helps monitor milkweed populations and learn about Monarch Butterflies!

- Wilderness Education! <https://carhart.wilderness.net/education/default.php>

Get wild about nature with these wilderness investigation toolkits for all grades.

Riparian vegetation consists of the plants along a stream or river that link the land and the water together.

Healthy riparian (river-adjacent) vegetation is a critical part of fish and wildlife habitat. The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) fosters this important habitat element throughout the design and construction of its restoration projects, both for regulatory permitting and for the benefits it provides fish and wildlife. River bottoms are typically fertile places where plants grow well. Many of us are familiar with the lush riparian forests, agricultural fields, and orchards found in the Sacramento Valley but establishing plants along the Trinity River can be difficult. This is partially due to historical impacts that washed away nutrient rich topsoil needed for riparian plants to thrive. Dedicated effort is required from a team of specialists from various entities for successful revegetation of riparian plants on the Trinity River.

Much of the TRRP's revegetation work has a link to environmental laws. The TRRP works with state regulators and federal land management agencies to ensure that the revegetation strategy meets the goals of restoration and is consistent with the requirements of permitting agencies. With this guidance in place, TRRP leadership works to ensure that adequate funding is in place to cover vegetation needs at each restoration project.



A temporary nursery with deer fencing at the 2019 channel rehabilitation site (left photo) was constructed for the container plants that were planted in the fall. Deer tend to eat many of the more palatable trees and shrubs. The current approach to this problem is to plant specimens that are taller than deer (right photo). Notice the lack of leaves on the base of this blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).

Based on the revegetation need and funding, riparian ecologists from various partners then develop the revegetation design for individual projects. These projects and the revegetation designs may be quite extensive, sprawling hundreds of acres that cross private and public lands. The plans often call for tens of thousands of container plants and cottonwood poles, as well as hundreds of pounds of native grass and forb seeds.

Implementation follows those designs. Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries (HVFT) employees generally do the planting and monitoring. They frequently work long hours in the hot sun during channel rehabilitation projects, salvaging willow and cottonwood trees from areas that will be excavated to replant them in suitable areas where survival is likely. To ensure success, the crews monitor the progress and irrigate revegetated sites for up to three years after planting, pull competing weeds, and replant areas where needed.



Experience has shown that a combination of overhead irrigation and woody mulch provides adequate moisture to allow planted trees to become established (left photo). Elton Baldy with the Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department stands in front of an overhead sprinkler array that he set up during the three-year effort to irrigate plants at the 2016 Bucktail channel rehabilitation site in Lewiston (right photo).

Successful revegetation on the Trinity River is a challenging task, but the revegetation team has learned many lessons from previous projects and improved techniques have led to better survival rates. Early designs relied heavily on planting cottonwood and willow poles, which are cuttings from live trees that can root themselves if planted under the right conditions. Monitoring showed that the poles needed to be planted directly into the water table for the best chance to survive. In response, the TRRP started creating more low-lying areas to plant riparian plants in moist soil and using regular

irrigation for container plants that are planted higher above the river channel. where the water table can not be reached. These techniques have improved the revegetation success rate at restoration sites.

Other types of revegetation strategies are also employed by TRRP. Over the past several years, revegetation designs have incorporated willow trenches at channel rehabilitation projects to improve river function. Willow trenches are long (up to 100 feet) trenches dug to the water table where willow cuttings are placed very densely (up to 10 cuttings per linear foot). They are placed in locations that flood in the winter and spring to restore natural river processes, slow the flow at the edge of the river channel, and cause fine sediment to deposit. Willow trenches are a living, dynamic force that helps the Trinity River change its shape over time. Additionally, the TRRP is focusing more on native grass and forb establishment, using different seed mixtures, application rates, and soil treatments to create and enhance native grasslands along the river corridor.

Well-planned revegetation strategies are integrated into the larger effort to enhance river function on the Trinity River to improve fish and wildlife habitat.



Newly placed willow trenches at the 2019 Chapman Ranch channel rehabilitation project near Junction City.

Trinity County RCD
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093



Resource Conservation District

Your Local Conservation District

Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

District Office

30 Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
FAX 623-6006

E-mail: info@tcrd.net

Internet: www.tcrd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (District) 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 District Vision

The District 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 District Mission

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

The District Board of Directors are :

Mike Rourke, Morgan Rourke, Patrick Truman, Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.

The District 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

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