

Fall 2005

Let's Keep Trinity County Beautiful!

Vol. XIV No. 4

Illegal dumping of garbage, old appliances, and abandoned vehicles is a serious problem throughout Trinity County. It seems like the problem has gotten worse – so much so that an ad hoc committee of concerned citizens and land managers has been formed to look at causes of the problem, ways to better educate the public, support enforcement, offer creative solutions, and find additional funds to clean up the worst sites.

A public education campaign was unveiled at a recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The **“Let’s Keep Trinity County Beautiful!”** campaign, was kicked off with Peter Hedke of the Trinity County Environmental Health Division, setting up a toll free number for reporting illegal dumping sites and activities: **1-888-NODUMPN or 1-888-663-8676**



Do we want our backyards to look like this??

The first step in this new campaign is to get the toll free number out in front of the public so everyone knows where to call, if they see illegal dumping or if they know of an existing dumpsite. The next step is to show people the problem. Peter wants to share a slide show with interested groups. This short and informative presentation depicts the magnitude of our county’s illegal dump problem, and provides some possible solutions.

Enforcement is expected to be an effective part of the **Let’s Keep Trinity County Beautiful!** campaign. Eric Heryford of the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office—Environmental Prosecution, has prepared a streamlined method for Sheriff’s Office and other enforcing agencies to cite and, thus, prosecute those, who have been found to have illegally disposed of household or construction waste, as well as abandoned vehicles. Prosecution can take place with as little evidence as a name and an address found at the site.

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Everyone in Trinity County will benefit from the work of this ad hoc committee, and because of the support from the following organizations, we will *Keep Trinity County Beautiful*:

- **Trinity County Board of Supervisors**
- **Trinity County Departments**
 - Solid Waste
 - Building Services
 - Airports
 - Health and Human Services
 - Vehicle Abatement
- **US Forest Service**
 - South Fork Management Unit
 - Trinity River Management Unit
 - Trinity National Recreation Area
 - Mad River Ranger District
 - Lower Trinity Ranger District
 - Shasta Trinity National Forest Law Enforcement
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **Shasta County District Attorney**
 - Environmental Prosecution Office
- **Trinity County Resource Conservation District**
- **Watershed Research and Training Center**
- **Sierra Pacific Industries**
- **Trinity Business Incubator**

Pass on the message:

Help keep Trinity County beautiful & a healthy place to live.

**Report Illegal Dumping-
Call toll-free:**

1 - 888 - NODUMPN

-or-

1 - 888 - 663 - 8676

Residents for Ecological Landscaping

California's native grasslands are among the most-threatened natural communities in the United States. Remnant populations of native prairie species still exist in scattered locations. However these small populations are vulnerable to extinction by urbanization, agriculture and competition from invasive weeds. As natural areas and native plant populations continue to decline there is a growing need to incorporate residential landscapes for native species re-establishment.



Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) now occupies 12 million acres putting ever more pressure on California's native grassland flora. In addition to grasslands, yellow starthistle (YST) has affected rangelands, pastures, roadsides, as well as, orchards and vineyards. Yellow starthistle infestations not only displace native plants, but also, reduce wildlife habitat and forage, decrease animal diversity, and threaten natural ecosystems by fragmenting sensitive plant and animal habitats. It has reduced land values and access to recreational areas. Studies indicate that YST significantly depletes soil moisture reserves in annual and perennial grasslands. Because of its high water utilization YST also threatens human economic interests. It is estimated (Dudley 2000) that the Sacramento River watershed incurred an economic loss of \$16 to \$56 million in water conservation annually due to yellow starthistle.

Presently one local resident wanted to provide an *in vivo* refuge for native plants by direct seeding the following: Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), California brome (*Bromus californica*), Pine bluegrass (*Poa secunda ssp. secunda*), purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), nodding needlegrass (*Nassella cernua*), slender hairgrass (*Deschampsia elongata*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), creeping wild rye (*Leymus triticoides*), California melic, (*Melica imperfecta*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), hayfield tarweed (*Hemizonia congesta ssp. leucocephala*), Spanish clover (*Lotus purshianus*).

Trinity County residents have an opportunity to contribute information towards a greater understanding of which native grasses and forbs are able to compete with yellow starthistle and other noxious weeds. Reintroduction of native plants into suburban and urban neighborhoods can play an important role in conservation. Some of the grasses we advocate are food for the larval stage of native butterflies. If you would like to improve the ecological function and diversity surrounding your home sign up to purchase plugs of native grasses, perennial forbs, and annual native flowers through the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. Trays holding ninety-eight 10-inch containers of native plant plugs may be ordered for approximately \$54 a tray through the TCRCDC at 623-6004.

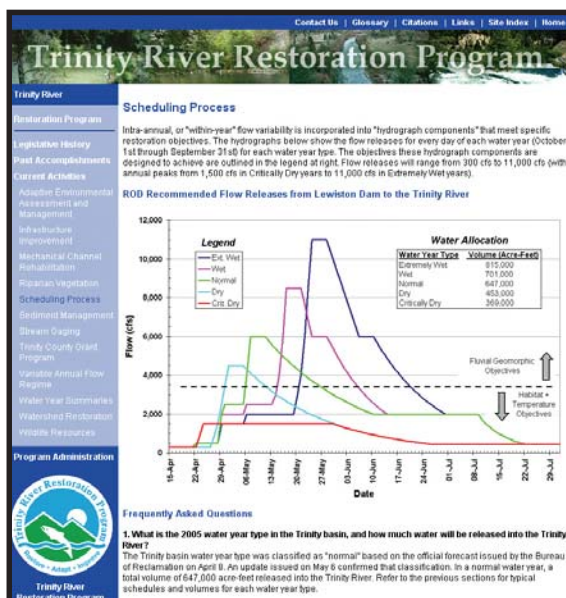
Trinity River Restoration Program Launches New Website

By: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director, Trinity River Restoration Program

If you haven't already done so, check out the new website for the Trinity River Restoration Program: [http:// www.trrp.net](http://www.trrp.net). This site, which has been in the planning stages for quite some time, went online August 2, 2005. We are currently updating the site on a monthly basis, with the revised content posted on the first Monday of each month. Our objective is to provide useful information for everyone interested in the program, including contacts for the staff, **Trinity Management Council**, and **Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group**; status reports of current projects; upcoming meetings; and links to our partners and other useful websites. As pleased as we are with the new site, we always want to improve. Please share your suggestions for additional or improved content with our website coordinator Deanna Jackson at dljackson@mp.usbr.gov, or **530-623-1800**. The following webshots illustrate just a few of the pages available at this site.

The current homepage shows photos of the recently completed Hocker Flat channel rehabilitation site. It also provides "quick links" to other current projects, calendar events, and staff contacts. Meeting notices and contact information are provided as far in advance as possible. Hydrographs or release schedules for each water year type are described, and data for the past five water years are summarized here.

Links to all Trinity Management Council member agencies and tribes are included, along with quarterly meeting agendas, minutes, and Director's Reports. Telephone, email, and physical addresses are provided for all staff members, as well as for members of the **Trinity Management Council** and **Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group**.

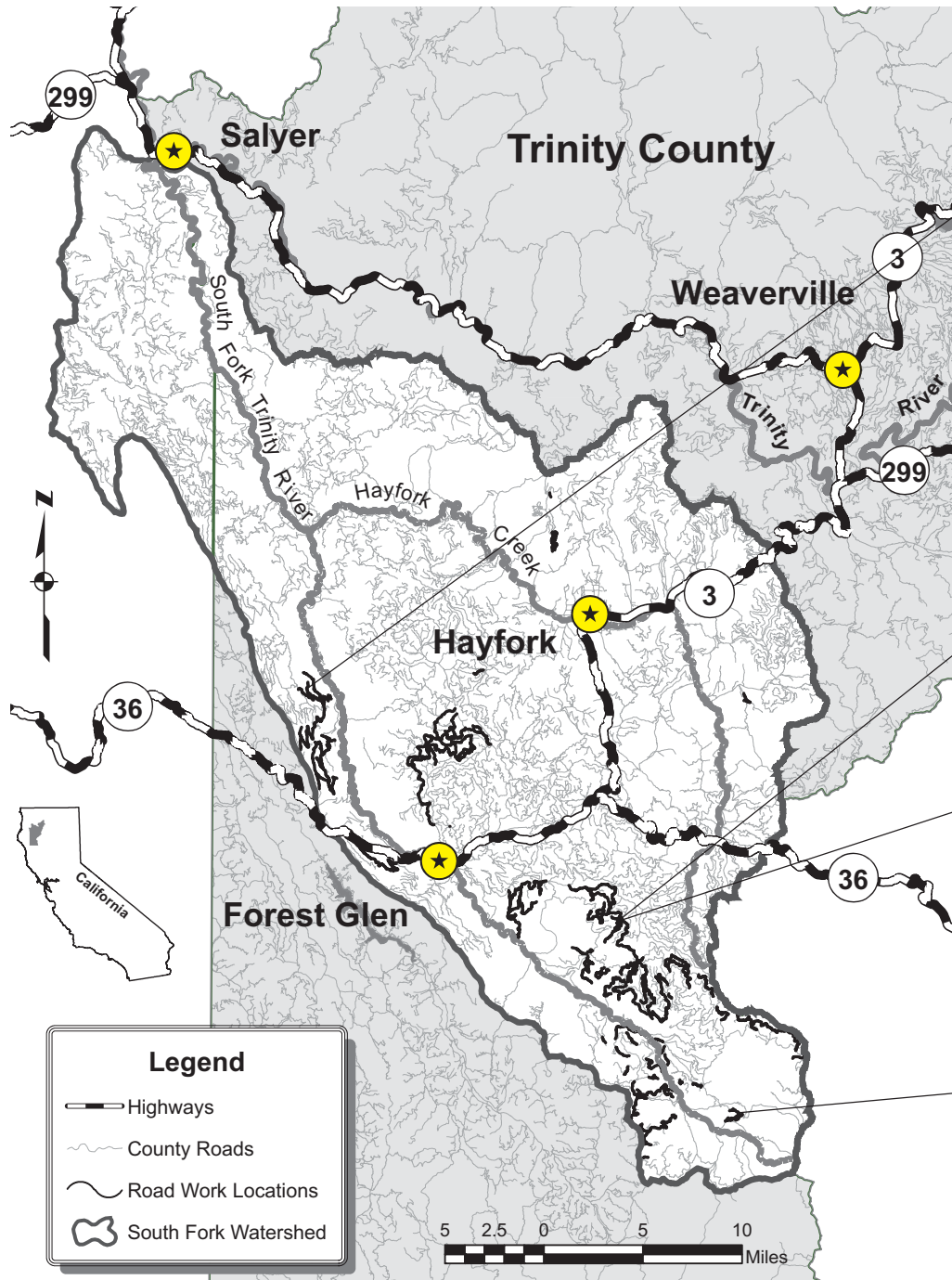


Date	Meeting / Event	Contact
November 1, 2005	TMC budget process work group, Arcata	Irina Lagomarsino (707) 822-7201
November 2, 2005	Director's meeting with Program Evaluation Subgroup, Arcata	Doug Schleusner
November 4, 2005	TAMVO meeting (orientation and operations), Weaverville	Arnold Whitebridge
December 7, 2005	TAMVO meeting, Weaverville	Arnold Whitebridge
November 7-9	TRRP Office closed due to construction. Call Secretary/Receptionist for messages and referral (530) 623-1800	Doug Schleusner
December 13-14, 2005	TMC meeting, Weaverville	Doug Schleusner
July 13-14, 2005	TMC Principals' Conference, Weaverville	Doug Schleusner
July 19, 2005	Indian Creek project design team float trip	Joe Riess
August 9, 2005	Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team (KFHAT) meeting, Arcata	Katharine Carter (707) 576-2290
August 26-28, 2005	TRRP exhibit at Trinity County Fair, Hayfork	Carrie Wilby
September 12-13, 2005	TAMVO meeting (tentative)	Arnold Whitebridge (530) 623-6668
September 14-16, 2005	Sediment management symposium, Weaverville	Andrew Krauss



South Fork Trinity River Watershed Restoration

The Trinity County RCD has been involved with the restoration of the South Fork of the Trinity River since 1996 in cooperation with USFS Hayfork Ranger District. To date, the RCD has inventoried 1100 miles of road on private and public lands, upgraded 800 miles of road on private and public lands and decommissioned 54 miles of road on public lands, all within in the South Fork of the Trinity River watershed. Funding partners have included California Department of Fish and Game, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Trinity County.

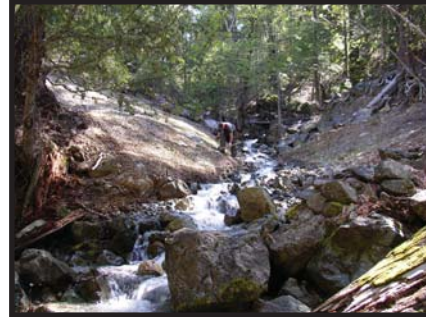




Hidden Valley Basin, 1N24A Milemarker 0.14, 2000 cubic yards excavated from stream crossing



Smoky Basin, 29N11A Milemarker 0.32, 500 cubic yards excavated from stream crossing



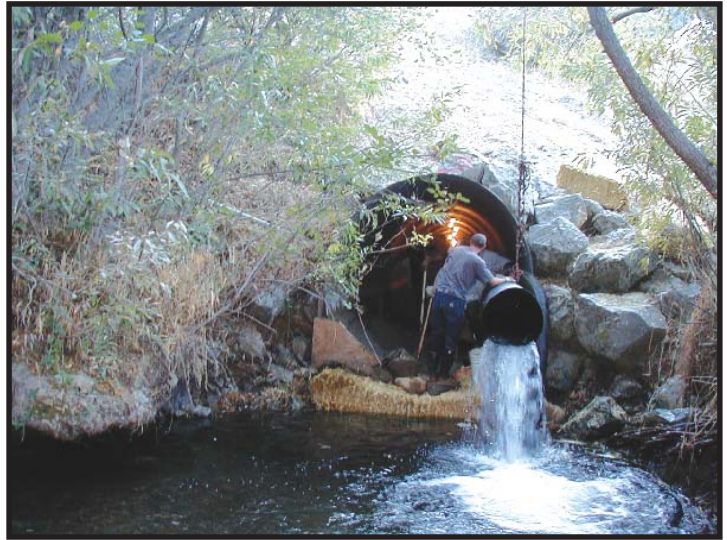
Smoky Basin, 29N11B Milemarker 0.20, 250 cubic yards excavated from stream crossing



Upper South Fork Basin, 28N40 Milemarker 2.74, 1200 cubic yards excavated from stream crossing

Deadwood Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Project

The RCD has just completed a fish passage improvement project on Deadwood Creek in Lewiston. The goal of the project is to improve access to 3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for native salmon. Funding for the work was provided through the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program. The 9-foot high by 120-foot long culvert, located at Trinity Dam Boulevard and Deadwood Road, near the fish hatchery, was identified by the Program as being a partial barrier to fish migration. Fish have had difficulty trying to swim up the 120-foot length during the high flows the creek sees in the late fall and winter period when the adult fish attempt to migrate upstream to their spawning habitat. The culvert was retrofitted with baffles that help break up the flow of water the same way that large boulders would in a natural creek bottom, providing the Coho, Chinook and Steelhead with greatly needed resting areas.



Improving access for salmon in Deadwood Creek.

The project consisted of constructing a diversion dam 80 feet upstream of the culvert diverting the water into a 200-foot long, 15-inch diameter PVC pipe that was temporarily mounted to the inside of the culvert. Once the diversion pipe was in place, biologists from the California Department of Fish and Game electrofished and removed any juvenile salmon in the creek between the diversion dam and the culvert entrance. Six metal plates, or baffles, were welded to the bottom of the culvert about 20 feet apart. Metal reinforcing bars (rebar) were used to create a grid that serves to tie the baffles together and provide support and strength for the concrete that was placed in the culvert bottom and sides. The function of the concrete is to help keep the baffles in place, protect them from boulders

washing downstream and protect the culvert bottom, which is rusting through in places, adding many additional years to the life expectancy of the culvert.

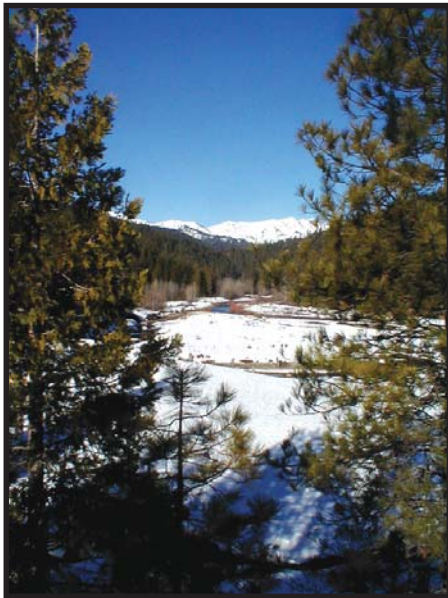
The RCD would like to acknowledge the assistance for work on this project provided by the CA. Dept. of Fish and Game, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Trinity County Road Department, and the local businesses, Concrete Aggregate Products and Cougar Concrete Pumping. The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation is Managed by Mark Lancaster and his staff in the Trinity County Planning Department.



Diversion pipe, rebar, and baffles inside culvert.

Upper Trinity River Watershed Update

The District recently assisted the Forest Service in completing approximately forty miles of road inventory in the watersheds that drain from Pettijohn Mountain down into Trinity and Lewiston Lakes. The work consisted of two crew members driving on Forest Service roads from Tannery Gulch on the southwest side of Trinity Lake on down the western side of Mary Smith Campground near Lewiston Dam while collecting data pertaining to road conditions and erosion problems, as well as the diameter, conditions and location of all culverts crossing the road. The data, which was also recorded on a GPS datalogger, will assist the Forest Service in preparing maps as well as planning and management documents for this area.



District Manager's Corner Pat Frost



This issue of the *Conservation Almanac*, like previous issues that you have read, focuses on some of the District's many outstanding projects. Often times we highlight our recent accomplishments, the great fun we have working with your children, or some of our partners. In my little corner of the newsletter, I like to put a spotlight on some of the newer projects or ones that seem special in one way or another.

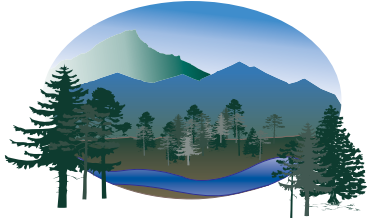
The latter is the case with the **Lower South Fork Road Fuels Reduction Project** just outside of Salyer. This is a project idea that came to us from the landowners a couple of years ago. Members of the Tsnungwe Tribe, who live along the Lower South Fork of the Trinity River, submitted a fuels reduction proposal to the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC focuses on projects on Forest Service land, but this proposal was for work on private lands. The RCD promised to try to help find funding for the project. This summer we were awarded a grant from the California Fire Safe Council to implement a shaded fuels break along the road. It is exciting to have an opportunity to work with this particular community, which has been left out of funding in the past. There is a lot more potential conservation work that could be done – work that will connect to other projects that are a part of the community wildfire protection plan for Salyer and Hawkins Bar. A small grant from the California Association of RCD's is providing us the opportunity to deliver technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and inform the community members about NRCS cost share programs that help private landowners manage the resources on their property.

We have a community meeting scheduled for December 10th to kick-off this new project – a project that will just be the beginning of what I hope will be a long and productive relationship for the landowners in the Lower South Fork Trinity River watershed.

An Upper Trinity River Watershed community meeting was held on the evening of November 16th at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center. The District provided an overview on the status of the Upper Trinity River Watershed Management and Action Plan and a presentation of the results of the landowner survey that was conducted last January. Graham Matthews, principal hydrologist for Graham Matthews and Associates, gave a presentation on the research he has been conducting pertaining to stream flows and sediment delivery as well as landslides within the watershed.

The results of the landowner survey are posted and can be reviewed on the District's website at www.tcrd.net. Anyone interested in being notified of future meetings should contact Pat or Noreen at 623-6004.

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

Number One
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 (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a non-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, State Water Resources Control Board, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, California Department of Fish and Game and the US Forest Service, California Intergrated Waste Management Board

