

# Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Summer 2016

Vol. XXV No. 3

## District Managers's Corner

The Trinity County Collaborative Group is beginning to see their hard work turn into successes for Trinity County. Working on the Roads and Plantations Pilot Project, the USFS and Collaborative members and the USFS have taken a “hands on” approach to working out issues and developing understandings by a getting out into the field. One of these working field trips was held in July. Members of the Collaborative, USFS, USFWS and NOAA ventured out into the South Fork Ranger District to discuss the possible treatment prescriptions for the “Pilot Project”. The purpose of the Pilot Project is two-fold. The first set of goals is to create safer ingress/egress for the local communities, improve forest health/habitat quality, reduce fuels, improve human safety, protect plantations from wildfire, and create local economic opportunities. The second set of goals is focused on developing and implementing a pilot project that tests the three priorities of the Trinity County Collaborative: “Social Acceptance, Ecological Function, and Economic Sustainability.”

In 2012 the Trinity County Board of Supervisors created a collaborative group to work on natural resource

management issues in the county. The Collaborative was to be a model of what can be accomplished by a partnership of Individuals representing a variety of core needs from our National Forest. Core needs include Economic growth, Forest Health, and Public Safety. Individual Collaborative member’s philosophy’s may differ but all have found common ground to come together and serve the community.

In the coming months ahead the Collaborative will be strengthening relationships with the USFS to collaboratively build future projects.



USFS South Fork District Ranger Tom Hall explains to the group the desired condition of this individual tree stand.

## Friends Of The Trinity County Resource Conservation District

The Friends of the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (Friends) was established to support the mission and ongoing work of the RCD. The Friends helps the District further its mission by securing funds not otherwise available to the RCD, through foundations, tax-deductible donations and gifts. Donors can create an enduring legacy that perpetuates a commitment to conservation by supporting the Friends, a non-profit organization, through a gift in one's will. Check us out at [www.fotcrd.org](http://www.fotcrd.org)



# Chico Area Boy Scouts Help Community Forest

The dust was flying as a group of 20 Chico-area boy scouts and their leaders worked at clearing a trail in the Weaverville Community Forest in mid-June. The group of scouts spent a week in the area camping, recreating and working on service projects every day. The program, sponsored by the Chico area Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, teaches the boys responsibility and the importance of community service.



The boys were impressed with the wildlife in Trinity County and saw 'lots of deer, bats at the campground, and a bald eagle' near the Trinity River when they were rafting.



The Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) is a partnership between the BLM, the US Forest Service and the Trinity County RCD to manage 13,000 acres of federal land as a community forest. This forest is located within the Weaverville basin and supports a variety of activities, including trails, firewood sales, fuels reduction projects and education. The WCF hopes to keep expanding its opportunities by providing community involvement on a number of levels, and by continuing to strengthen the connections between the land and its people.

## In This Issue

Chico Area Boy Scouts Help Community Forest.....	2
2016 BBQ & Brews Fundraiser .....	3
2016 Weaverville Summer Day Camp .....	4-5
Covington Mill Area Fuels Reduction Project.....	6
Wood-Strewn Rivers Benefit Fish.....	7



Trinity County Resource Conservation District is a proud participant at the Trinity County Fair. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to chat.

2016 1st Annual

Young Family Ranch

# Brews and BBQ Fund Raiser

Saturday September 24, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

260 Oregon Street, Weaverville ✂ Just past the Nazarene Church  
A family friendly event with live music, lawn games, and silent auction items

Adults \$15 each in advance, \$20 at the door  
Includes Pint Keepsake Glass for 21+ y/o  
Meals: 11-20 y/o: \$10 ea.; 6-10 \$5 ea.; 5 & Under Free

Admission includes one BBQ meal (*vegetarian option available*) prepared by E Clampus Vitus, Chapter 62, and one Sierra Nevada Brewing Company beer taster or 1 non-alcoholic drink. Additional beer tastings, wine and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase.

Menu: Hamburger, hotdog, or veggie burger, corn-on-the-cob, locally grown green salad and veggies, potato salad (from spuds grown at the Ranch), watermelon, and cupcakes! Yum!

Music by Local Favorite  
**Arianna Reiter & Band**

Tickets available at the  
Trinity County Resource Conservation District,  
30 Horseshoe Lane Weaverville

623-6004

## Why support the Young Family Ranch?

It is a non-profit community agricultural trust property, with a directive for the property's public uses to model sustainable gardening and agricultural practices, and provide learning opportunities about agriculture, conservation and the effects of human interaction with nature, table gardens and pasture. For full details visit [www.tcrd.net](http://www.tcrd.net).

BRING HOME-  
MADE  
CUPCAKES TO  
SHARE!



Sponsored by:



## Volunteer to Help!

We welcome community support through time commitments, donated cupcakes for dessert, and silent auction items.

# 2016 Weaverville Summer Day Camp: Fun in the Sun!

## From Tall Western Tales to Tree Rings

The 2016 Weaverville Summer Day Camp was a great success with help from the many community volunteers, the Young Family Ranch, US Forest Service, Lowden Park Aquatic Center, Trinity County Health and Human Services, Trinity River Restoration Program, TCRCD staff, four awesome counselors (Dave Johnson aka "Oak Tree", Natasha Floerke aka "Rainbow", Jazmine Amon aka "Roo" and last but not least, Jack Van Dine aka "Walrus"), supportive parents and the campers themselves. Thanks to everyone for another great year!



The Western Ho-Down



Campers learning about tree rings and fire scars.



Above - Campers built their own fire resistant forest.

Water Fun!

Below - Campers hiking in the forest.



# Covington Mill Area Fuels Reduction Project



Work began in July on a fuels reduction project that was originally outlined in the 2010 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The “Greenhorn” project will benefit the community of Covington Mill (i.e., Lake Forest and Long Canyon subdivisions) by providing safer access and egress for firefighters and the public during a wildfire. It is located approximately six miles south of Trinity Center and west of Highway 3. Covington Mill is registered as a Community at Risk – defined as a urban wildland interface community within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire.

The project will also provide a wider, safer, and more effective control line for a fire coming from the south moving toward Long Canyon. When possible, material that is suitable for firewood will be placed in a location that is accessible for the general public for collection.

Once completed, the project will cover approximately 30 acres and protect between 50 and 60 homes. Fuels treatment specifications for this project are available from the TCRCD upon request.

This project is funded through the Shasta Trinity National Forest’s Resource Advisory Committee.



Before

After



# Wood-Strewn Rivers Benefit Fish

Every weekend people exhibit their tendency to want to “clean up” nature by weed whacking, lawn mowing and sweeping driveways. Nature is messy.

Before settlement by Europeans and the advent of the industrial revolution, North American rivers were loaded with fallen trees, strewn with forest debris from past floods, and had reaches that alternated between rocky river bars and lush vegetation of all heights. In a word – messy. Over the millennia, fish and other aquatic species adapted to this unruly environment. They thrived in the complex structures provided by downed trees and benefited from the nutrients added to the river from plants.

Anadromous fish of the Trinity River – Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and lamprey – all adapted strategies to live within a river system containing trees, root wads, log jams, branches, and other woody debris. Wood provides good habitat and contributes to the health of the river system for several reasons.

Wood and plant materials provide nutrients for aquatic macroinvertebrates: bugs such as stoneflies, caddisflies, mayflies, beetles, worms and crayfish that live in the river. Macroinvertebrates are important food sources for fish, amphibians, reptiles and water birds. They support biodiversity throughout the entire watershed. People who

fish the river are familiar with caddisfly larvae – the case makers hiding in plain sight on rocks and branches.

Logjams also play a key role in river dynamics. In one place they may slow the river, help stabilize riverbanks and limit erosion, and improve water quality by keeping sediment in place. In other places, downed trees may encourage scouring of pools, diversion of water into side channels, and formation of islands.

Before Trinity and Lewiston Dams were built, high flows in the Trinity River moved and deposited logs and fallen trees along the river’s banks and bars. The dams lowered the speed and force of flows to the point that the system is no longer capable of transporting much large wood; and the forests above the dams can no longer supply trees to the river.

In an effort to recreate the kind of habitats and channel diversity that existed before the dams, the Trinity River Restoration Program has been placing large wood along the river since 2006 and constructing log features in the channel since 2009.

As the river moves and changes, the constructed wood structures may shift as well. But this is all part of the effort to help the Trinity River become a better, more natural (and messy) place for fish and wildlife.



Wheel Gulch rehabilitation site after construction in 2011.



Caddisfly larvae case

# Trinity County



## Resource Conservation District

*Established 1956*

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



### **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](mailto:info@tcrd.net)**

**Internet: [www.tcrd.net](http://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 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, Young Family Ranch Trust, California Fire Safe Council, US Forest Service and the Trinity County Resource Advisory Council.

*Printed on Recycled Paper with Vegetable Inks*



*This institution is an equal opportunity provider in accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.*