

Fuel Reduction Crews Working Hard for the Community



Recognizing that many communities within Trinity County are located in areas of high wildfire risk, the District has been involved in fuel reduction efforts throughout the County for over 20 years. Fuel reduction projects reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, increase roadside visibility, create safer escape routes for residents in the event of fire, and improve forest and watershed health. Thanks to fuel reduction grants from the State Water Resources Control Board and CAL FIRE, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District was able to expand existing programs in 2019, including purchasing a new chipper and hiring a second fuel reduction crew.

With funding from the State Water Resources Control Board, the district plans to construct 25 miles (about 150 Acres) of roadside fuel breaks within the communities of Junction City, Weaverville, Lewiston and Douglas City. Work in Weaverville began in September of 2019 and was finished within one week, completing 2.5 miles of roadside fuel breaks along East Branch Road. Fuel break projects in Douglas City and Lewiston are scheduled for 2020 and 2021.

With funding from CAL FIRE's Trinity County Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant, the district plans to conduct fuel reduction treatments to approximately 246 acres in Junction City, Weaverville and Lewiston. These treatments will be implemented in critical locations and priority areas near residences and critical infrastructure. Fuel reduction treatments include the removal of ladder fuels, selectively thinning subdominant trees and brush,

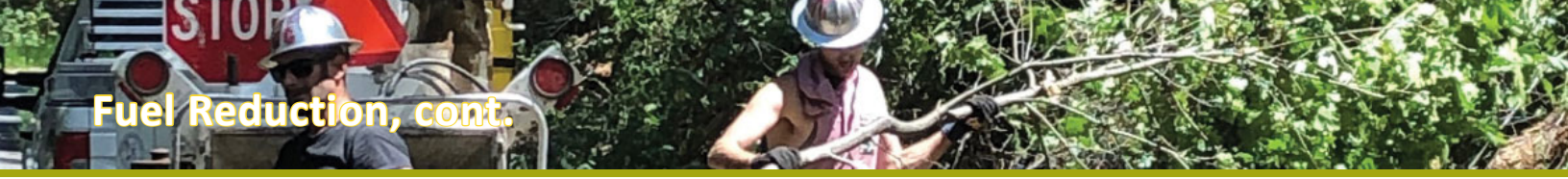
removing dead and dying trees, and chipping cut materials. Vegetation modifications provide safer ingress and egress for residents, more fire resilient landscapes around and within communities, and promote healthy forest conditions. The Weaverville and Lewiston components of this project are scheduled for 2020 and 2021.

Fuel reduction projects in Junction City under both grants began in April, and as of September 2019 the fuel crews completed over 12 miles of roadside fuel breaks and treated 86 acres for hazardous fuels. In 2020 and 2021 these grants will support more hazardous fuel treatments in Junction City, as well as in Weaverville, Lewiston, and Douglas City.



Roadside fuel break in Weaverville before and after Treatment

Fuel Reduction, cont.



Roadside fuel break in Junction City before and after treatment



Able to increase hazardous fuel treatments with the new chipper



District's fuel reduction crew hard at work in Junction City

"I just wanted to let you know that I am extremely pleased with the work the crews are doing out here in Riverbend. They arrived early this morning and are going about their tasks as soldiers on a long march. They are leaving all that they touch in remarkable condition." –email from a local landowner.

In This Issue

Fuel Reduction Crews Working Hard	1-2
Natural Resources Scholarship Fund	3
District Road Projects	4-5
Environmental Education.....	6-7
Trinity River Annual Events.....	8-9
TRRP Junction City Restoration Project	10-11



Putting the District's new chipper to work in Mad River

Accepting Donations for the Natural Resources Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Recipients by Year



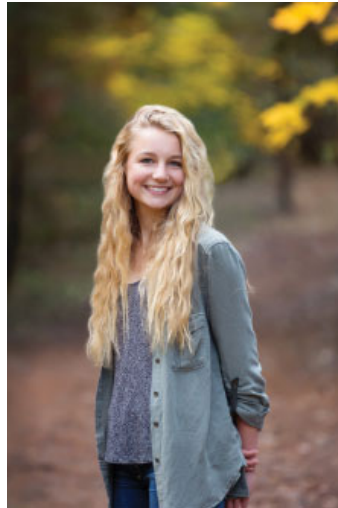
Savanna Kennedy, 2019



Hanali (Dara) Gaeuman, 2018



Taylor Nelson, 2017



Karly Gutermuth, 2017



Colleen O'Sullivan, District Board Member, presents scholarship to Yori Hook in 2015

Each year the Trinity County Resource Conservation District awards a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will pursue a college degree in natural resources or conservation. The current amount available to students for the 2019-2020 school year is \$500. Please consider donating to this community-based scholarship fund.

Donors can create an enduring legacy that perpetuates a commitment to natural resources and conservation education. The District's Natural Resources Scholarship Fund was established by the District's Board of Directors in 2014. Tax deductible donations can help maintain funding from year to year and can increase the offered amount when possible.

Students who are interested in this scholarship are encouraged to apply before Friday April 3, 2020.

To learn more about the scholarship or to obtain an application, visit the District's website at www.tcrcd.net and look under the Projects tab for the Scholarship Fund.

TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Make a tax-deductible donation today! We will mail you a receipt or you are welcome to stop by the office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Please return to:

TCRCDScholarship Fund,
PO Box 1450, Weaverville, CA 96093
530 623-6004



www.TCRCD.net

District Road Projects



The majority of roads in Trinity County are unpaved and traverse steep, mountainous terrain. Unpaved roads usually concentrate rainfall in rills, gullies, swales, and larger channels. Without vegetation to stabilize sediments and uptake water, unpaved roads have a tendency to unravel over time, releasing excess sediment to nearby streams and rivers.

Regular road maintenance is necessary to ensure proper drainage from roadways and to keep culverts functioning properly at road crossings. This article highlights recent road improvement projects in Trinity County aimed at maintaining proper drainage, reducing erosion, and improving road safety and driving conditions.

Hocker Meadow Road Improvements in Junction City

The District completed a large project on Hocker Meadow Road (Forest Road No. 33N41) this summer, which included resurfacing over a mile of road, and installed 13 rocked rolling dips to drain water off of the road surface (Photo 1). On Forest Road 33N41A, concrete cloth was applied to repair the bottom of a rusted culvert since the perennial stream was running underneath the culvert instead of through it.

Although the concrete cloth is a temporary fix, it will prevent the damage from getting worse, without which devastating failure of the road and stream can occur. This culvert will continue to be monitored, and could be a future candidate for removal or replacement if funding were secured for such a large construction project (Photo 2). This project was made possible with funding from the US Forest Service.



Photo 1: Before and after of road rock surfacing on Hocker Meadow Road

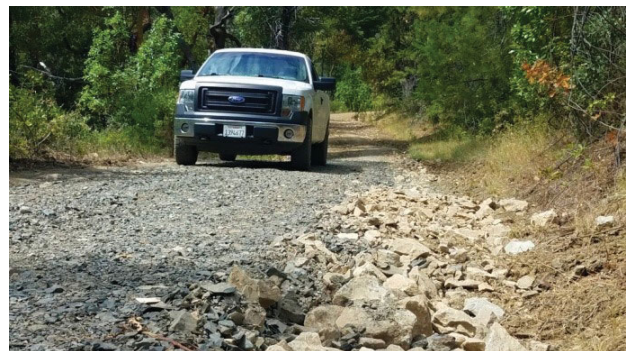


Photo 2: Before and after of culvert repair on 33N41 spur A

Gates Road Improvements in Hyampom

Road improvements continued on Gates Road in Hyampom, which accesses the historic Mule Bridge across the South Fork Trinity River. This road had deep gullies as a result of poor drainage that left the road nearly inaccessible. Multiple

rocked dips were created to divert water away from the road to prevent further damage and rock base was added to treat the eroded road surface. This project was made possible with funding from the Trinity River Restoration Program.



Before and after Gates Road improvement

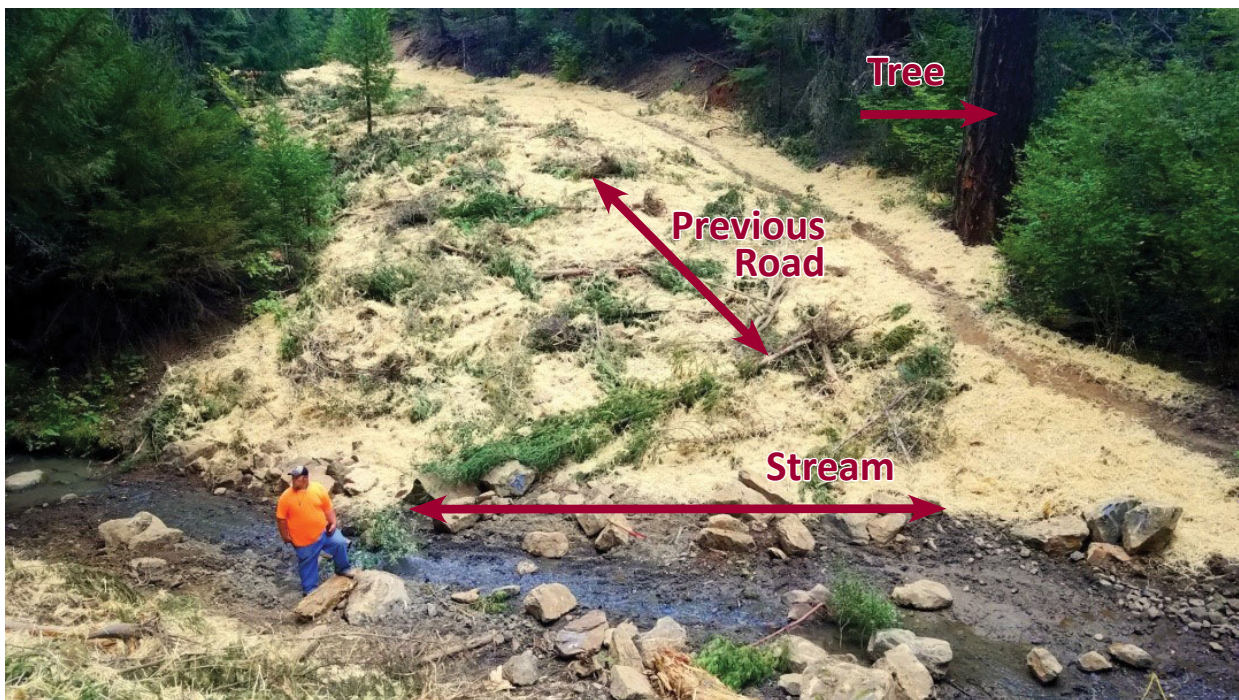
Road Decommissioning near Wildwood

The District completed a road decommissioning project near Wildwood adjacent to Goods Gulch and Highway 36. The project was approved by the United States Forest Service, and

completed in early August 2019. The road decommissioning project included the removal of a 60" culvert from a perennial stream crossing to encourage the stream's natural flow.



Before and after of culvert removal during road decommissioning



6th Grade Environmental Camp

The District offered Environmental Camp for 6th grade students from Weaverville and Hayfork Elementary Schools on September 18 and 19 at Bar 717 Ranch in Hyampom. Approximately 60 students spent 2 days in an outdoor classroom learning about archery, nature journaling, water quality, measuring streamflow, biodiversity, aquatic macroinvertebrates, as well as the salmon life cycle and

annual migrations through salmon dissection, artwork, and games. This opportunity was made possible with support from the Trinity River Restoration Program and Trinity Preparatory School, in partnership with Hayfork Elementary School, AmeriCorps' Watershed Stewardship Project, and individual volunteers.



Student immersed in nature through journaling



Students discovered biodiversity within hula hoop quadrats



Field testing water samples revealed the water quality of Hayfork Creek



It's soil...not dirt!



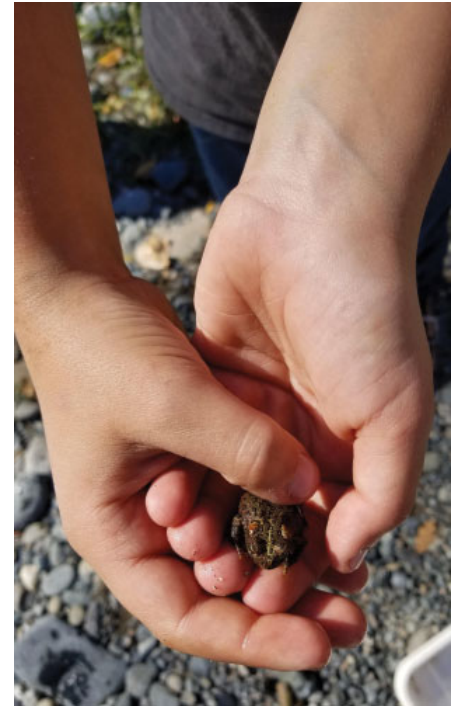
Students learned how river streamflow is measured

River Day in Coffee Creek

Each fall, Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Schools unite for River Day. River Day is focused on learning about the Trinity River watershed while exploring the natural world. Students learned about salmon migration and life cycle through an obstacle course and fish printing crafts. They also learned about micro and macro biodiversity, ecosystems, and habitat. The last part of the day was spent in the creek looking for aquatic macroinvertebrates in Coffee Creek. This amazing opportunity was made possible from the Trinity River Restoration Program.



Looking for aquatic macroinvertebrates in Coffee Creek



Finding friends outside

Hyampom Salmon Gathering

Students from Hayfork and Hyampom spent an entire day outside learning about the importance of Trinity River salmon and their watershed. Students participated in fish dissection, learned about food webs, identified aquatic macroinvertebrates and plants, got inspired about salmon through fish printing, and experienced some of the hurdles

salmon face during their life cycle through a migration obstacle course. This event was hosted by the Watershed Research and Training Center in collaboration with AmeriCorps, and supported by the District and Trinity River Restoration Program.



Celebrating Salmon on a beautiful November day



Fish dissection with Coho Kevin

Trinity River Annual Events

Floating the Trinity River

Each year, members of the community are invited to float the Trinity River to learn about river health and management with staff from the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). These float trips focus on increasing public awareness of TRRP restoration projects, and provide an opportunity to highlight project successes and lessons learned. This year

approximately 50 people attended the Trinity River float trips held on July 12 and 18, 2019 in Junction City and Douglas City. Trinity River Rafting outfitted and guided the float trip. This annual event is free and includes a healthy lunch along the beautiful Trinity River. Space is limited so it is recommended to sign up in the spring when the event is first advertised.



Learning about the Trinity River and having fun



Staff from the TRRP and Trinity River Rafting

Trinity River Clean-Up

The goal of the annual Trinity River Clean-Up is to support healthy environments in Trinity County and protect our local watersheds for generations to come. The 2019 Trinity River Clean-Up was a huge success! Sixty-three volunteers joined together and collected 1,285 pounds of materials from along the banks of the Trinity River, Highway 299, river access points, campgrounds, dispersed campsites, and popular swimming holes. Material collected consisted of: 660 pounds of metal and tires, 50 pounds of recycling, and 575 pounds of trash. This massive clean-up event would not have been

possible without the support and partnership of: community members, Girl Scouts Troop #70373, Shasta College Geo Adventure Club, Trinity River Rafting, CalTrans District 2, the Bureau of Land Management, the Trinity River Restoration Program, and the US Forest Service. The event concludes with a barbecue for volunteers, made possible by the generous meat and bun donations from Holiday Market. A huge thank you to everyone involved in this event. We hope you will join us again next year for the 4th annual Trinity River Clean-Up!



Girl Scouts Troop #70373



Shasta College Geo Adventure Club

Trinity River Salmon Festival

Hundreds of people from the community and beyond gathered together to celebrate the fall salmon run at the annual Trinity River Salmon Festival held on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Members from the Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation opened the festivities with a traditional blessing. Musical guests Collective Reign, Mojito, and Philosopher's Tone set the mood for an energy filled day. Children enjoyed the famous giant salmon tent, activities centered on salmon life cycle and migration, and dancing with Super Salmon – the visiting mascot from Sequoia Park Zoo. The returning live animal show by Turtle Bay Exploration Park was truly memorable. Sincere gratitude to the Trinity River

Restoration Program who sponsored this event, and Sierra Pacific Industries for providing the entertainment. This would not have been possible without the collaboration between Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Trinity County Visitor Center, and Trinity County Arts Council. A special thank you to the California Conservation Corps members for all of their help setting up this event! This year marked the 21st anniversary of the Trinity River Salmon Festival. This event coincides with Super Saturday in Weaverville which fills downtown Weaverville with exciting festivities including Trinity County Artists in Action, and the annual Dutch Oven Cook Off at the Jake Jackson Museum.



John and Super Salmon, the mascot from Sequoia Park Zoo



Thank you California Conservation Corps!



Salmon enthusiasts gathered at the festival



Live music by Philosopher's Tone



Special animal show from Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Trinity River Restoration Program completes major restoration project near Junction City

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) completed one of its largest and most complex river restoration projects this summer near Junction City, about three miles upstream from the bridge at Dutch Creek Road. The 2019 Chapman Ranch Phase A project encompassed 150 acres on private and Bureau of Land Management managed lands with over 122,000 cubic yards of material excavated. Three new main stem river meanders were created in conjunction with floodplain lowering and large wood placement to enhance in-channel and off-channel habitat for salmon and steelhead. The project was designed and constructed to promote natural river processes, such as allowing the river to scour fine sediment from the main channel, and deposit it higher on the floodplain.

Prior to the construction, this river section resembled a vegetated canal, providing limited foraging opportunity for young fish to grow. TRRP restoration projects emphasize creating habitats where young fish can find cover away from the main current during higher river flows.

Objectives of the Chapman Ranch Phase A project included:

1. Shifting the main channel into three new meanders and gravel bar features to increase channel complexity and enhance habitat area in-channel.
2. Lowering areas of floodplain to increase connection to the river at a greater range of flows and increase habitat for young salmon.
3. Construction of side-channels and off-channel habitat where juvenile salmon have better feeding and rearing habitat.
4. Installing large wood structures to increase juvenile fish-rearing areas, provide habitat variability, and enhance vegetation growth outside the banks of the river.
5. Revegetating construction and disturbed upland and riparian areas to create a healthy river ecosystem for fish and other wildlife.



Newly constructed meander bend (top right) and alcove (top left), upstream of a gravel bar and lowered floodplain (right)

Junction City Restoration Project, cont.



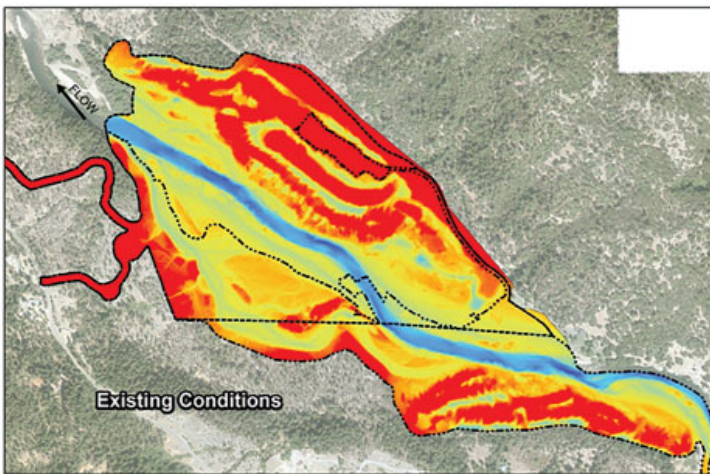
Ultimately, the project was designed to increase channel complexity and promote natural river function to increase quality rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and maintain adult salmon habitat over time. The Yurok Tribe and Hoopa Valley Tribe were responsible for completing the restoration project and have been building tribal capacity to restore the Trinity River salmon runs that are essential to their cultural livelihood. This year was the first TRRP project in which all the equipment operators and laborers were enrolled tribal members.

In-river work was largely completed September 13 with some additional work finishing on September 25, 2019. Revegetation efforts will continue at the site through winter 2020 with seasonal maintenance for several years to come. The Chapman

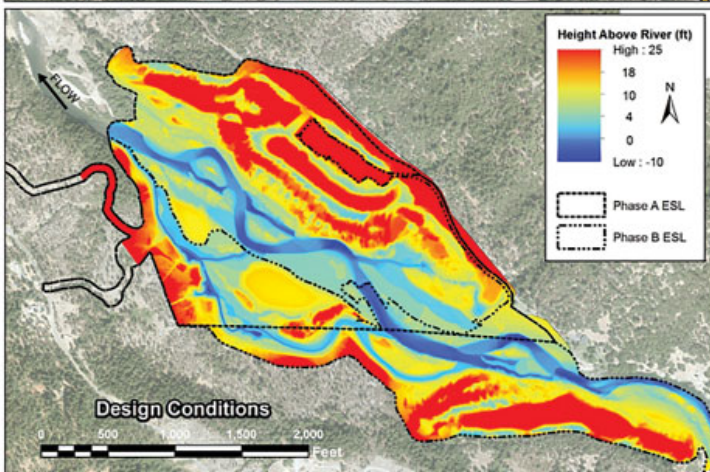
Ranch project was split into two distinct phases to facilitate permitting and implementation: Phase A, to be completed with the revegetation efforts this winter and Phase B, comprised of additional meander sequences, floodplain lowering, and side-channels may be built in future years.

The Trinity River Restoration Program is a multi-agency program focused on restoring the Trinity River fisheries impacted by Trinity Dam's construction. Its eight agency partners are the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, California Natural Resources Agency, Trinity County, Bureau of Reclamation, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.trrp.net/>



Chapman Ranch Existing Conditions 2017



Chapman Ranch 90% Design – Artistic Rendering



Images on the left show existing (top) and design (bottom) ground height above the river within the Chapman Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Project site. The images on the right show an aerial design rendering (bottom) of the proposed features compared to existing conditions at base flow (top). The figures show Chapman Ranch Phase A and design features proposed for Phase B.

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

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, and the US Forest Service.

Printed with soy-based inks on 55% post-consumer content paper



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.