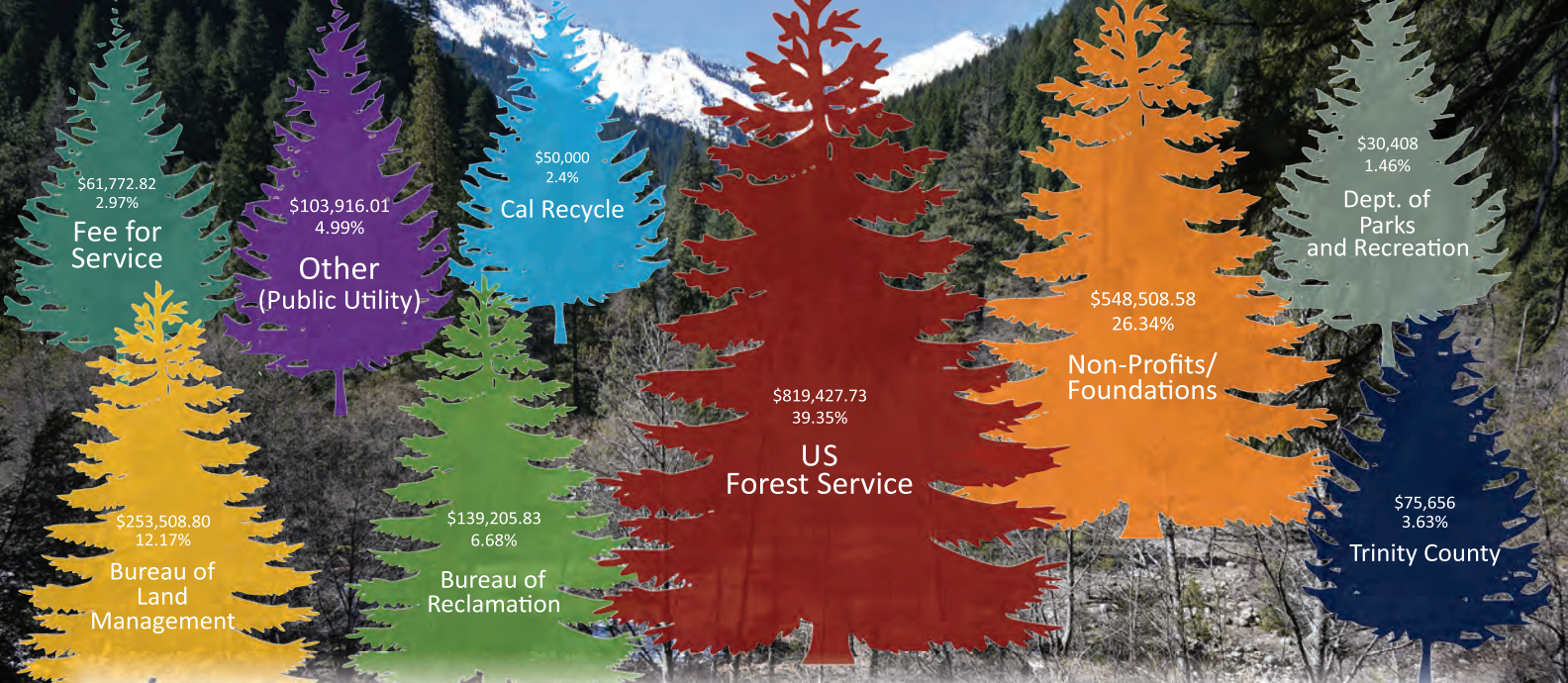


# Conservation Almanac & Annual Report

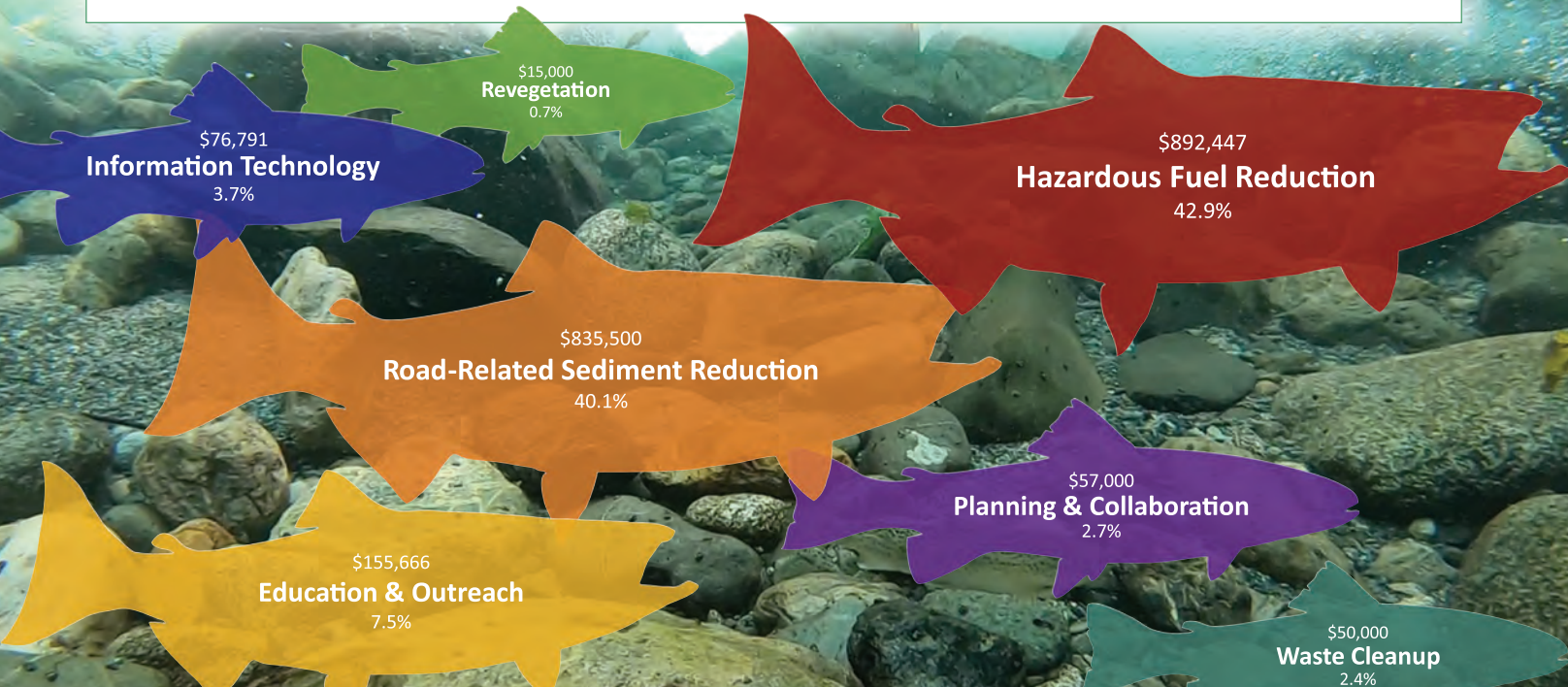
Trinity County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2021 Vol. XXX No. 1

## New Funding in 2020 by Source



The spring edition of the Conservation Almanac, the Trinity County RCD's quarterly newsletter, is the annual report of all project accomplishments in the 2020 calendar year. As a special district of the state and a self-governing local government agency, the Trinity County RCD enters into grants and agreements with many different partnering organizations to achieve a variety of natural resource projects in Trinity County on both private and public lands. The Trinity County RCD relies solely on these grants and agreements for funding its work and receives no tax-base revenues. New projects and funding are secured each year in the form of single and multi-year agreements. The following charts represent new projects by funding and program area received in 2020 specifically.



## New Funding in 2020 by Project Type

# Behind the scenes of the Trinity County RCD

What does the Trinity County RCD do? This is a question we get A LOT. The Trinity County RCD is a diverse team of qualified staff who are eager to learn and serve. Upon quick glance, it may seem that we are departmentalized by specific programs, but this relays an inaccurate image. Program shmogram – while we lean towards different fields depending on our work experience and educational studies, our real strength comes from working as a team. Our “jobs” are connected in more ways than we can count, and it is critical that we work in a close intertwined web to bring all skill sets to the table for a holistic and landscape view on projects. Trinity County RCD is not just a job, it is a lifestyle. Our dedication to conservation, education, and preservation of the natural world is not something we just leave at work. The famous saying of “don’t take work home with you” does not apply to us. Some of our greatest ‘aha’ moments come from pondering our place in the world, and how we can best be of service to the community, natural environment, and collaborative partners.

We spend a lot of time planning, collaborating, and implementing natural resource projects on the ground. In order for a project to be successful, we must have a solid foundation before implementation, achieved through extensive planning and collaboration across programs. However, there are always unforeseen circumstances that require us to adapt like chameleons to our current environment. Just as we start to learn the way a grant or project works, something comes along that rocks the ship.

Sometimes, we must change our way of thinking to find the best solutions or assist with a project outside our traditional programs. It’s a general professional employment clause that states: “including, but not limited to, other tasks as assigned.” Now you see us, now you don’t! You can often catch us working odd and long hours, scouring the forest for rare or invasive plants, remembering our roots while leading youth on nature excursions, in the backwoods repairing a road that you never knew existed, being the ringleader at some community events, dirty and greasy from working in the brush, a bobbing head in a zoom meeting, digging holes for orphaned plants, cleaning up improper waste disposals, or finding zen in the art of water movement... just to name a few.

We are a highly motivated and dedicated group which is committed to providing service to our local communities. We hope you enjoy learning more about what we do in the following pages.



## Grizzly Corps

The Trinity County RCD embarked on a new opportunity in 2020 by taking on a GrizzlyCorps fellow, Kathleen M., to assist with various projects throughout the District. GrizzlyCorps is a new AmeriCorps program designed by UC Berkeley’s

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment. The program sends recent college graduates into rural communities across California to promote regenerative agri-food systems and fire and forest resilience. Since September 2020 when she was

brought on, Kathleen has taken the lead on the Weaverville Community Forest 2021-

2028 Strategic Plan Update, working with community and federal partners alike. We are so grateful to have Kathleen M. as this year’s GrizzlyCorps fellow and are looking forward to having more GrizzlyCorps fellows in the future!

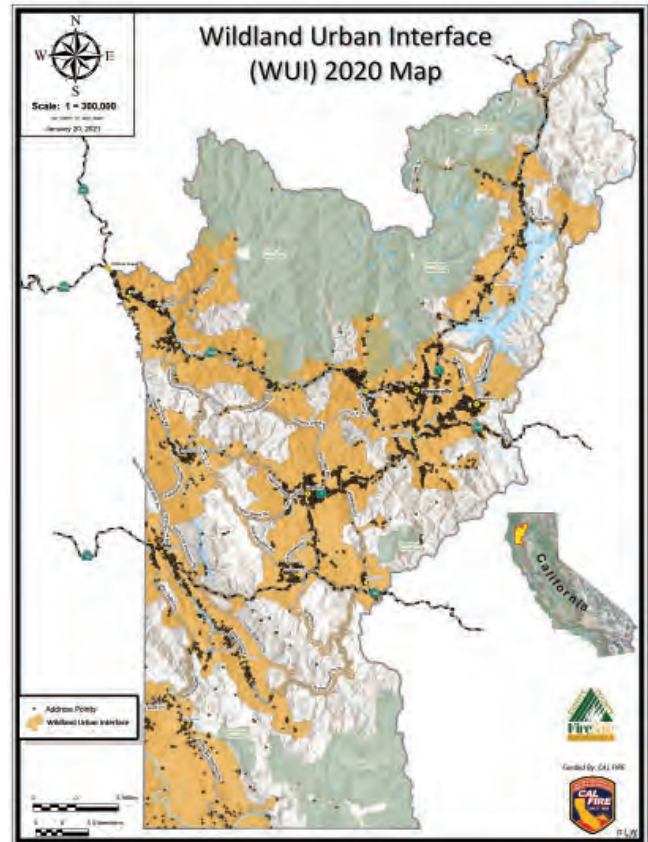


### In This Issue

New 2020 Funding by Source & Project Type .....	1
Behind the scenes of the Trinity County RCD .....	2
Grizzly Corps.....	2
Fire: Planning & Recovery .....	3
Hazardous Fuel Reduction .....	4
Active Transportation Planning & GIS .....	4
Community Forest and Weaver Creek Projects.....	5
Gemmill Thin and Road Improvements .....	6
Plants, plants, and more native plants!.....	7
Education and the Young Family Ranch.....	8
Administration .....	9
TRRP 2020 Summary Report .....	10-11

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was a top priority in 2020, with the finalized plan released in March 2021. This plan updates the County's wildland-urban interface (WUI) boundaries and prioritizes fuel reduction projects. Trinity County RCD staff collaborated with the Trinity County Fire Safe Council and the Trinity County Fire Chief's Association to develop the prioritization strategy for the CWPP. Proposed projects were mapped in GIS and prioritized based on six characteristics; i.) proximity to WUI, ii.) proximity to essential infrastructure, iii.) continuity with past fuel reduction projects, iv.) wildfire hazard potential in the project area, v.) fire history in the project area, and vi.) ingress and egress score based on a local CAL FIRE survey for roadside projects. Community input and feedback was received from surveys and meetings hosted by Trinity County RCD staff. The GIS program assisted with the development of 20 maps, spatial analysis, data management, WUI boundary updates, projects geodatabase design, printed and web-based map books and development of the Trinity County CWPP Projects application. The CWPP 2020 Update and the online GIS application can be found at [tcrd.net/e8b8](http://tcrd.net/e8b8). The CWPP 2020 Update was funded by CAL FIRE.



## August Complex Recovery Efforts

Trinity County RCD staff completed a small road inventory within the August Complex Fire area. Data collected from this inventory included culvert sizes, diversion potential at stream crossings, failed dips and drainage features, and other road related erosion features. This data will be used to apply for funding for road work and watershed restoration in the August Complex burn area.

Staff also completed cartographic layout and GIS data coordination for post August Complex Recovery efforts including damaged structure assessments and the Trinity County Debris Removal Dashboard.

To see how GIS data was used to aid debris removal efforts, view the Trinity County Debris Removal Dashboard on [trinitycounty.org/recovery](http://trinitycounty.org/recovery). This project was funded by Trinity County Department of Environmental Health & Office of Emergency Services.



Burned streambed (left) and stump (right) following the 2020 August Complex Fire

# Hazardous Fuel Reduction

In ongoing efforts to foster wildfire-resilient ecosystems and communities across the county, Trinity County RCD staff continued fuel reduction implementation, despite setbacks and reduced crew sizes due to COVID-19. Building on over 20 years of fuel reduction work, our Forest Health crews cut, pruned, chipped, piled, and burned excess fuels in and around Trinity Center, Salyer, Weaverville, Lewiston, Douglas City, and Ruth. This work benefitted the county by increasing the safety of homes and other structures; making roads safely drivable for evacuating residents and emergency personnel in the case of a wildfire; empowering landowners to treat their own properties; protecting waterways, soils, and wildlife habitat from the negative effects of catastrophic wildfires;

and increasing forested areas' ability to experience wildfire without undergoing severe tree mortality.

Funding partners for hazardous fuel reduction projects included the Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE, California Fire Safe Council, Pacific Gas and Electric, State Water Resources Control Board, Trinity County, and the US Forest Service.

Trinity County RCD staff also assisted local landowners with fuel reduction on private lands through fee-for-service agreements and funds from the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.



Fuel reduction project in Junction City, before (left) and after (right)

## Active Transportation and Geographic Information Systems

### Trinity County Active Transportation Plan

In June of 2020, the Trinity County Active Transportation Plan (ATP) was finalized for the Trinity County Transportation Commission. This plan identified over 200 projects to complete within Trinity County and ranked them based on ease and cost of implementation. This project was funded by Safe Routes to School funding through the County and focused on creating streets safe for pedestrian travel, and safe travel for kids to school. Connectivity is a main component of the project with a focus on "complete" streets. Complete streets are where a whole block is connected by sidewalks or where multiple blocks along a main street are connected by sidewalks and cross walks. A total of 90 maps were created that covered existing and proposed bicycle parking, bicycle and pedestrian

collision locations, bus stops, crosswalk locations, public infrastructure, levels of traffic stress, land use, existing and proposed bikeways, signage, sidewalks, bus routes, and proposals for new improvements.



### Cartography and Data Support

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff supported every Trinity County RCD program based on assorted project needs as you will find throughout this newsletter. Cartographic layout and data management was provided for the Weaver Creek Watershed Flow Enhancement Project, Caltrans Slate Creek Project Phase II, State Water Resources Control Board roadside fuel reduction projects, PG&E Trinity County fuel reduction projects, Trinity River education and stewardship projects, and Caltrans Collins Bar Curve Improvement projects.

# Community Forest and Weaver Creek Projects

## Weaverville Community Forest

Trinity County RCD embarked on a large project for the community forest in 2020, the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) 2021-2028 Strategic Plan Update. Monthly virtual public planning meetings began in November to collaborate on the structure and content of the plan. While spearheaded by the Trinity County RCD, the Strategic Plan is a highly collaborative effort with partners including community members; federal, local, state, and tribal members; and the WCF Steering Committee.

Other work in the WCF included assisting the BLM Redding Office with rapid assessments to understand the area's resource needs including tree mortality and pest-ridden areas; timber harvest assessments; and installation of interpretive signs for the Trinity Children's Forest (TCF). The annual WCF public meeting also occurred in October 2020 to provide updates and offer a forum for group discussion on project work within the forest.

In 2020, the Trinity County RCD completed the first project, establishing a home for the Trinity Children's Forest (TCF) in the WCF. In the fall of 2020, five educational signs were installed along the McKenzie Gulch trail in the Weaver Basin Trail System with content from student field trips held in previous years. Future efforts for the TCF are focused on building more partnerships and seeking funding to continue the goals of the TCF.

## Weaver Creek Stream Flow Enhancement Project

The Weaver Creek Streamflow Enhancement Project is a highly collaborative effort to keep more water in Little

Browns and West Weaver Creeks. In 2020, Trinity County RCD staff worked on treatment plans for noxious weed removal and fuel reduction. Environmental surveying and monitoring was conducted by the Five Counties Salmonid Program to develop a channel rehabilitation project for Little Browns Creek near Roundy Road.

Additionally, The Trinity County RCD staff worked to develop strategies to improve the Weaverville Community Service District's (CSD) diversion along West Weaver Creek in efforts to conserve water. Historically, water from West Weaver Creek supplied water along the Moon Lee Ditch to parts of Weaverville that hold rights to the water. Due to ditch deterioration, the water does not travel the ditch line, but instead, is wasted off of hillsides where it does not flow back into the creek. Trinity County RCD staff have been partnering with the Moon Lee Ditch Association, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Weaverville CSD to mitigate this diversion.

## West Weaver Creek Vegetation Resiliency

For three seasons, native trees were planted, irrigated, and monitored in the West Weaver Creek Vegetation Resiliency Project. The project was completed in 2020 with trees and shrubs showing a final vigor of 88%, which is above average. Vigor is determined by a trained professional assessing multiple observed factors such as damage from herbivory, absence or presence of drought stress, disease presence, coloration, and size. In September, all temporary irrigation infrastructure and protective cages were removed, revealing a beautiful park-like landscape of trees 4 to 7 feet tall.



Habitat restoration on West Weaver Creek

# Gemmill Thin and Road Improvements



Before, during, and after shots of road decommissioning



Before and after road improvements

## Gemmill Thin Project

A total of 29 miles of road improvements were completed on nine roads within the Gemmill Thin Project area near Wildwood. Work on these roads included stream crossing improvements, cleaning culvert inlets, brushing, road drainage, surface improvement, constructing critical dips, rebuilding dips and installing or repairing damaged signs.

As part of an agreement for the Gemmill Thin Project, Trinity County RCD staff also conducted rare plant and noxious weed surveys on and adjacent to roads within the project area. Among the detected species was one small patch of dyer's woad, which was hand-pulled immediately due to its moderate invasiveness ranking in California. No rare plants were spotted.

This work was funded by the California Parks and Recreation Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Road improvements in this same area are scheduled for implementation in summer 2021. In addition, two roads totaling 1.28 miles, were decommissioned and revegetated with approximately 3,000 native seedling trees and shrubs in the fall of 2020. This road decommissioning project was funded with a restoration grant from OHMVR.

## Road Improvements across Trinity County

In the Grass Valley Creek area on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, crews planted 3500 conifer seedlings in a high severity burn area. This area was burned during the 2018 Carr Fire and has shown little to no vegetation recovery. Road improvements and watershed restoration in the Grass Valley Creek area will continue in 2021. This project is funded by the BLM for CARR Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation.

Road improvements also occurred in the Junction City and Canyon Creek area on 4 roads totaling 10.56 miles. Work on these roads included cleaning culvert inlets, brushing, cleaning dip outlets and installing or repairing damaged signs. Road improvements were funded by an operations and maintenance grant from the California OHMVR.

# Plants, plants, and more native plants!

## Native Plant Nursery

Staff at Trinity County RCD's native plant nursery continued to propagate more locally collected trees, shrubs, and herbaceous native plant seeds. By the end of 2020, the nursery contained over 62 species of native plants. As always, staff and volunteers are trained to follow Best Management Practices to avoid spreading the exotic pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death). Healthy specimens are observed throughout the growing season. Seed is then harvested, grown out, and seedlings are nurtured for up to 3 years until they are planted at restoration project sites.

## Hayfork Riparian Restoration

Through an agreement with the Watershed Research and Training center, Trinity County RCD staff coordinated riparian restoration projects located on South Fork Trinity River watershed, and its tributary, Hayfork Creek. In February, 292 trees and shrubs were planted by a volunteer group consisting of Hayfork community members and Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) members. In November, the WSP members broadcasted a customized native flower and grass seed mix specifically selected for this site. Restoring vegetation to these banks and floodplains will create habitat for wildlife, and eventually offer shade to cool critical spawning habitat areas for fish.

## Caltrans

Implementation continued for existing projects in partnership with Caltrans which include the Big French Creek Slide, Collins Bar Curve Improvement, and Slate Creek Slip Out Emergency Repair. Seasonal watering via temporary irrigation systems occurred during the dry season. Noxious weeds were removed at multiple sites. All three projects saw additional plantings in order to increase density or replace species that did not survive the 2020 growing season. The team conducted new plantings in order to increase vegetation density at Collins Bar, bringing the total number of trees and shrubs to 434. This increase in deciduous species is important in creating habitat for the threatened Trinity bristle snail, whose range falls within the project's location.

### Overall plant vigor and survival rate:

Project	Overall Vigor	Survival Rate:	# Trees	# Species	Date Planted
Big French Creek Slide	79.0%	83.6%	398	17	2018
Collins Bar Curve Improvement	95.1%	94.9%	397	17	2017
Slate Creek Slip Out	92.7%	92.3%	507	17	2016
Hayfork Riparian Restoration	baseline	76%	292	16	2020
West Weaver Creek	88%	86%	117	11	2018



Silver lupine seedlings



Native trees planted on Hayfork Creek



Native trees planted at the Collins Bar site

# Education and the Young Family Ranch

## Education and Outreach

The goal of environmental education is to foster greater appreciation for the outdoors and local natural resources. Staff adapted in stride to a year without most of the in-person events, camps, and activities for youth that are at the core of this program. Change and flexibility seemed to be the widespread theme in 2020, and this year provided an opportunity to form closer partnerships with other local organizations serving youth, build the program's online presence, and innovate new ways to reach a broader audience. The education and outreach team also provides support for various projects throughout the district including this quarterly newsletter. Some new education endeavors in 2020 were:

### Trinity Tracks Guidebook

A fun-filled book of activities for kids that inspire stewardship and learning about the local environment. This publication was distributed at no charge to all schools in Trinity County and to the general public. Collaborative partners included the Watershed Research and Training Center, Trinity Together: Cradle to Career Partnership, and other community organizations.

### Trinity River Cleanup

A socially distanced event to clean up trash along and within the Trinity River was held in the fall. Over 30 volunteers teamed up to collect more than 1,000 pounds of trash from the river corridor from Lewiston to Del Loma. This was made possible by the generous volunteers, Trinity River Restoration Program, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office.

### Salmon Season

A month-long virtual event in celebration of salmon! The event consisted of educational videos, a scavenger hunt, nature art contest, and other online activities with prizes offered to participants and contest winners! This event was in place of the Trinity River Salmon Festival held by Trinity County RCD and Trinity River Restoration Program, and Hyampom Salmon Gathering hosted by the Watershed Research and Training Center.

### Educational Videos

Six educational videos were released on Facebook and YouTube, covering the Trinity River Watershed's natural flora and fauna, pollinators, restoration projects, and salmon!

These videos included:

- Wildlife, Wildflowers, and Watersheds
- Trinity County Pollinators
- Salmon Life Cycle
- Indian Creek Restoration Project
- Forests Need Fish: The Ecological Importance of Salmon
- Salmon dissection

You can view the videos online at: <https://tcrccd.net/b11e>

### Trinity River Stewardship

- The monthly "Trinity River Spotlight" in the Trinity Journal sheds light on different educational topics relating to the River and the watershed.
- The Trinity River Photo Contest invited people of all ages to send in their photos of anything relating to the Trinity River Watershed to inspire stewardship and watershed awareness!
- The annual Trinity River Survey gauges community knowledge of the watershed and guides future educational efforts
- Management of the Trinity River, CA website, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram focuses on river related history, facts, and important news for the public.

These projects were made possible by agreements with the Trinity River Restoration Program, Shasta College Foundation, and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

### Young Family Ranch

Through a cooperative agreement with the Young Family Ranch (YFR) Board of Trustees, Trinity County RCD staff continued management and maintenance of the Young Family Ranch. Unfortunately no events were held at the YFR in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Trinity County RCD staff were able to assess and prioritize repairs and upgrades to the ranch grounds. Additionally, staff assisted a private family with the development of a commemorative kid zone at the YFR. More information about this project to come!

If you would like to learn more about the Young Family Ranch; volunteer; or host private or public events, workshops, or demonstrations; visit the website at <https://tcrccd.net/yfr/index.htm> or call the Trinity County RCD office at (530) 623-6004.



# Administration

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (District) is a non-regulatory special district self-governed by five volunteer directors appointed by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. The District serves all of Trinity County and receives grant funding from local, regional, state and federal partners. These entities recognize that locally-led projects yield the greatest benefits. Project involvement by the District enhances public trust and provides greater cost-effectiveness. This approach generates local jobs and enhances the local economy.

## Meet our Board of Directors:

**Gregory Lowden** has been a resident of Weaverville since 1967. After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, he attended Shasta College in Redding, graduating with an AA degree in history in 1974. He has been employed as a surveyor with Hunt Land Surveying, Inc. since 1978. He served as a member of the board of directors of the Weaverville-Douglas City Parks and Recreation District from 1989 to 1995 and has served continuously on the Trinity County RCD board of directors since 1992. Active in community affairs, he is a member of the Weaverville Lion's Club and the Weaverville Basin Trails Committee. Lowden is currently Secretary of the Board and finds his role as an RCD director to be both challenging and rewarding.

**Mike Rourke** has taught agriculture for 39 years at the high school and Community College level with instruction in animal science, plant science, forestry, natural resource management, agriculture business management, and agriculture mechanics. His forestry students continue to excel in regional and statewide competitions. Mike currently farms the 900-acre Rourke Ranch in Hayfork with his wife, son, and parents. The ranch includes cattle operations, irrigated pasture, timberland, rangeland, fee-based hunting, wildlife habitat, and a USFS grazing allotment. Mike has served as president of the Trinity County Cattleman's Association and is advisor for Future Farmers of America. Rourke is currently Chairman of the Board.

**Kent Collard** lives with his family on the Bar 717 Ranch in Hyampom. Since 1998 he has been the Director of Camp Trinity on the Bar 717 Ranch. Established in 1930, Camp Trinity is a summer camp for children ages 8-16, giving kids a chance to experience life on a mountain ranch. In addition to partnering with camp parents to raise community minded citizens, the ranch also produces cattle and timber. Kent has a BA in Architecture from UC Berkeley, and an MA in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He spends his free time turning salvaged trees into lumber with a Woodmizer sawmill.

**Josh Brown** is a certified ISA Arborist, small business owner and long-time forest advocate. Josh has 25 years of experience in hazardous fuels reduction work, forestry management issues, habitat restoration work and public outreach. Josh also served as a Board Member from 2011-2015 with the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) based in Humboldt Bay. Josh is a dedicated recreationist who thoroughly utilizes the excellent trail system throughout the Weaver Basin and the greater Trinity Alps. He believes It's vital for the public to have good access to well-designed trails to further their connection to nature and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**Heidi Carpenter-Harris** is an enthusiastic lover of life and people. She has a strong connection to the land and the people who live and work on agricultural lands. Her education, work experience and personal land-based lifestyle allow her to connect with agriculture and wildland landowners with authenticity and relevancy. Heidi has worked in conservation and agricultural for over 20 years. She has spent countless hours on the range and timberlands of Northern California. Heidi has a passion and heart for legacy lands and the people who live and work on them. Through her Life, Land and Legacy Stewardship planning, she helps the PEOPLE who love the land. Heidi and her family live on their legacy land in Salyer. They raise beef and have an apple orchard.



GREGORY LOWDEN



MIKE ROURKE



KENT COLLARD



JOSH BROWN



HEIDI CARPENTER-HARRIS

## Trinity River Restoration Program 2020 Summary Report

The long-term goals of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) are:

- To restore the form and function of the Trinity River
- To restore and sustain natural production of anadromous fish populations in the Trinity River to pre-dam levels
- To facilitate full participation by dependent tribal, commercial, and sport fisheries through enhanced harvest opportunities

Salmon recovery efforts may provide immediate increases in habitat, but some projects, such as restoring riparian habitat, can take decades before benefits to fish are fully realized. Salmon habitat restoration on the Trinity River can help supplement the high year returns and buffer the low year returns. Restoring in-river habitat is a critical step towards ensuring that naturally spawning salmonids return to the river in robust numbers.

In 2020, the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) continued to pursue the long-term goals of the program through a series of interrelated efforts in the basin. Most of TRRP's funding supports efforts in the program's focal reach – the reach of the mainstem between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork confluence – although watershed and science projects can, and often do, have broader basin-wide objectives. The TRRP collaborates with the Trinity County RCD through a cooperative funding agreement to help broaden watershed stewardship and expand opportunities for local engagement and participation.

Highlights of TRRP's efforts in 2020 include:

- A finalized series of comprehensive reports on various monitoring efforts undertaken by TRRP's interdisciplinary work groups – reports are available here: <https://www.trrp.net/restoration/adaptive-management/synthesis-reports/>
- Construction of the Dutch Creek channel rehabilitation project on the mainstem Trinity River between Douglas City and Junction City to enhance in-channel and off-channel salmonid habitat.
- Coordination and scheduling of the Critically Dry year release of 369,000 acre feet of water from Lewiston Dam, with a peak release of approximately 3,900 on April 24, 2020.
- Evaluation of opportunities to adaptively manage flow releases to better mimic the natural hydrology of the Trinity River. This multi-year evaluation has led to our ongoing efforts now in 2021 to assess the environmental impacts of coordinating winter (Dec 15 – April 15) releases from Lewiston Dam.
- Awarding \$537,000 to five grant recipients in TRRP funding for watershed improvement projects in the Trinity River basin. Grant recipients were able to leverage TRRP funds to bring another \$227,628 of outside funding to the Trinity watershed for a total investment of \$764,628. Projects include:



Figure 1. *Photo left* - Perspective looking downstream at the Dutch Creek project site in 2016. The barren land terraced above the river on the right side of the photo contained predominantly non-native grasses and is largely disconnected from the river. *Photo right* – 2020 rehabilitation included lowering the floodplain elevation to reconnect it to the river and a new meander bend.

# Trinity River Restoration Program, cont.



- o Lower Supply Creek Floodplain and Fish Habitat Enhancement – Hoopa Valley Tribe
- o Tule Creek Fish Passage Improvement – The Watershed Research and Training Center
- o Deadwood Creek-Carr Fire Sediment Reduction Project – 5C’s
- o Mainstem and South Fork Trinity Road Decommissioning – Trinity County RCD
- o Weaver Creek Restoration Planning – Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation
- Continued design, review, and environmental permitting to advance restoration work at the remaining sites within the TRRP focal reach

## Water Year 2020 Restoration Flows

2020 was considered a Critically Dry year, the driest of the five water year types used to make water management decisions. Critically Dry year releases from Lewiston Dam to the Trinity River were capped at 369,000 acre feet. Water availability is important to a variety of stakeholders in the basin, including salmon, and prolonged drought conditions stress both human and natural environments. Unfortunately, 2021 is also Critically Dry – the first time on record that Critically Dry has occurred on the Trinity in two consecutive calendar years – and the impacts are beginning to be felt.

**Table 1. Fiscal Year 2020 Funding**

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	
Water and Related Resources Account	\$9,991,00
Central Valley Project Improvement Act Restoration Fund	\$1,500,000
FY 2019 Funds provided to TRRP for use in FY 2020	\$687,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,178,000</b>

**Table 2. FY 2020 Budget Allocations**

Trinity River Restoration Program Budget Allocations	
TRRP Administration	\$2,931,025
Restoration Rehabilitation Implementation	\$5,690,624
Science Program	\$3,473,661

The approved daily average flow schedule for the Critically Dry water year in 2020 was a modification of the hydrograph prescribed for this water year type in the Bureau of Reclamation’s Record of Decision. Changes from the Record of Decision hydrograph were designed to 1) elevate flows at the beginning of the hydrograph to disperse steelhead smolt released from Trinity Hatchery in this period; 2) provide variable flows that increase habitat diversity and benefit fish and other organisms; 3) maximize the variability in shear stress to increase sediment transport and river bed scour; 4) variably inundate floodplain areas to recruit nutrients to the channel; and 5) slightly elevate flows in early June to disburse chinook salmon juveniles that volitionally migrate from Trinity Hatchery in this period.

## Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Project

The Dutch Creek project was constructed in the summer and fall of 2020 to promote lateral erosion, deposition, and seasonal floodplain inundation; increase channel complexity; and enhance salmonid habitat and the riparian corridor. Noteworthy components of the Dutch Creek project included extensive floodplain lowering and a large structured logjam that was constructed using entire trees harvested from the site and structurally positioned to force the river into a new meander bend.

## Funding and Expenditures

Funding levels have varied between \$10 million and \$16.66

million per year since the Program’s inception.

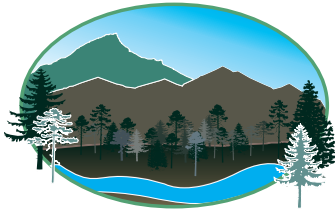
In fiscal year (FY) 2020, the Program received \$12,178,000 million, as shown in Table 1.

The FY 2020 budget allocations went to three primary areas as shown in Table 2.

Funding supported physical modifications to the river and the associated modeling, designing, permitting, and monitoring of physical and biological responses. Other partner agencies were funded and/or contributed in-kind services to support TRRP activities. The 2020 Science budget prioritized a series of modeling and monitoring projects that targeted specific hypotheses related to flow management.

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

## Trinity County



## Resource Conservation District

*Your Local Conservation District*  
*Established 1956*

### **Trinity County RCD Board Meetings**

Third Wednesday  
5:30 PM  
Open to the Public

### **Trinity County RCD Office**

30 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 Trinity County RCD Vision**

The Trinity County RCD 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.

### **Mission Statement**

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



The Trinity County RCD of Directors are :

Greg Lowden, Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Josh Brown, Kent Collard, and Mike Rourke.

*The Trinity County RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work.*

*The TCRCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The TCRCD 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 CALFIRE, California Fire Safe Council, Trinity River Restoration Program, State Water Resources Control Board, US Forest Service, and the Young Family Ranch Trust.

*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, gender, age, or disability.*