



# Conservation Almanac

*Trinity County Resource Conservation District*

Fall 2009

Vol. XVIII No. 3

## Stimulus Funding Benefits Trinity Workers & Homeowners

A program funded by a federal economic stimulus grant has provided 56 Trinity County landowners with firesafe work around their homes this summer while providing valuable training and work experience to 11 local individuals.

The program's goal was to reduce flammable vegetation around homes and structures in the Weaverville, Lewiston and Douglas City areas for elderly, handicapped and low-income persons. It was planned and accomplished as a joint effort by the Weaverville Fire District and Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. Workers' wages were paid with federal funds from an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant administered by the SMART Business Resource Center in Weaverville.

A total of 73 requests for aid were received, according to Mike McMillan, coordinator of the program for Weaverville Fire District, and work was done at 56 sites. Persons who benefited from the hazard reduction work contributed what they could towards program expenses. The typical beneficiary of the program was elderly, usually female, who was not physically and not financially able to reduce significant fire hazards on property they owned and lived on, McMillan explained.

People were pleased with the work, and their comments reflected as much, McMillan said. Homeowners were relieved to have brush, small trees and other flammable vegetation cleared from around their houses. In most instances, crews cleared at least a 30-foot minimum around homes and structures, making the properties more fire resistant by taking out the worst of the brush. Many of these sites will still need more work in the 30-100 foot zone, and that could be done next year, if additional funding is provided through a proposal submitted to Trinity County through Title III program of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act.

The SMART center is a private, non-profit, public benefit corporation that was created to promote and foster employment opportunities. SMART receives funding from the U.S. Department of Labor and the State of California and is governed by the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NORTEC) Workforce Investment Board. It also contracts with local entities to provide workforce services and offers a variety of feebased services.



Photo credit: Mike McCallister

### Also In This Issue:

Trinity Firesafe Council News .....	2
New RC&D Coordinator .....	3
Summer Day Camp .....	4-5
2009 Salmon Festival .....	6-7
Environmental Camp .....	8-9
2009 River Restoration Construction..	9
Road Erosion Inventory Workshop ...	10
Salmon Poster Contest Winners .....	11
District Manager's Report.....	11



# Fire Safe Efforts Continue

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council always has held that community wildfire protection plans are only as good as the implementation that is carried out - and it is best when we are updating our plans and implementing projects at the same time. That is the case this year. Crews from the Watershed Research & Training Center, RCD and Weaverville Volunteer Fire Department have been working throughout the county on hazardous fuels reduction projects and the Fire Safe Council has begun to update the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).



Here in Trinity County we are known for our ability to bring different sources of money together to get good work done, and this year has been no different. The SMART Business Center was instrumental in helping develop field crews this summer, using Stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Financial assistance has also come from the California Fire Safe Council's Grants Clearinghouse, which channels funding from the USFS and BLM to projects to reduce hazardous fuels on private lands and, as always, the in-kind contributions of "sweat equity" from landowners. The federal land management agencies have been doing their part, too. Just drive up Ranier Road south of Trinity Center or near Goose Ranch Road and you will see the results of their labors.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council has just started working on the update of the CWPP, which is 10 years old. A lot has happened since then. Many of the projects that were identified in the original plan have been completed, but we have not been immune to wildfire as hundreds of thousands of acres have burned. A series of community meetings will be hosted by volunteer fire departments this winter and spring to give everyone throughout the county a chance to weigh in on the work that has been done and to share their ideas for the next 5 years. Some communities have already gotten a jump on the planning. Hyampom, under the leadership of their local fire safe council, have completed a draft plan for the Hyampom Valley. Trinity Center and Coffee Creek have been working for the past year on an update, with the help of the

Natural Resources Conservation Service and TCRCDC (with funding from the California Department of Conservation). The Willow Creek Fire Safe Council has been working closely with the Lower Trinity Management Unit of Six Rivers National Forest on plans that expand the Down River Fire Management Plan for Slayer and Hawkins Bar.



The bottom line is that the safety of each and every property in Trinity County depends on everyone working together. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council encourages you to get involved at whatever level you can.

## **Bryon Hadwick, New Project Coordinator for the Northwest California R C & D**

**B**ryon Hadwick is the new project coordinator of the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council, a non-profit that works to bring economic development and conservation of natural resources to communities of Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The Council's office is in Weaverville, next to Trinity County Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an arm of USDA. The Council works closely with them plus other RCDs, tribal offices and other entities throughout its area.

Bryon took the post in August and brings a wealth of experience to the Council. Previously, he was Watershed Coordinator for Central Modoc Resource Conservation District, in northeast California, where he was involved in the administration and supervision of restoration projects and operations for that agency.

Bryon is fifth-generation from Butte Valley, where he gained extensive farming and ranching experience raising livestock, working local ranches and raising, riding and training performance horses. Knowledge he learned applying holistic resource management practices proved to be an asset to Central Modoc RCD and to his new Council post here. He is an alumnus of Chico State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business. Along with his wife Heather, he was also owner and publisher of the Butte Valley Lost River Star, a weekly newspaper serving the people and businesses of Butte Valley. On top of his other talents, Bryan is an award-winning leatherworker who plied his craft at the nationally-known Butte Valley Saddle Company in Dorris and still enjoys tooling rawhide and engraving silver. He also derives pleasure from family time with his two boys or going flyfishing — another great reason for living in Trinity County, he noted.

The mission of the Northwest California RC&D is to conserve natural resources and promote resource based economic development that improves the standards of living for current and future generations in Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties by working collaboratively with Council partners to promote projects for the benefit of all communities. Council projects often focus on biomass-to-energy, forest health and improvement, agricultural promotion, sustainable fisheries, or local food security and nutrition.

Among Trinity County projects are the Children's Gardens in Hayfork and Weaverville, the Trinity Recycling Project, and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Weaverville Community Fuel Reduction Project which provided much of the environmental clearances needed for large scale fuels reduction projects or timber harvest on private land, making such work more economically feasible.

Other Council projects in Trinity demonstrated economic value of using small diameter timber or woody biomass left from fuels reduction activities. Timber pedestrian bridges for Weaver Basin Wetlands and Weaverville Community Forest are examples. Others include the round pole picnic pavilion in Lee Fong Park and a timber gazebo at BLM's Lowden Ranch. Another provided a furnace system at the Hayfork Wood Center/Business Incubator utilizing a company's wood wastestream as fuel to heat the entire premises at zero cost. Another used chipped wood waste ("chunk wood") as a light-duty road surface material for two private dirt roads and a parking area, reducing muddiness and soil erosion.

The Council is working with Del Norte Resource Conservation District to develop a project that will provide a mobile beef processing plant for ranchers. It's a new concept in California, Bryon explained. There is less stress on cattle as they are not transported and ranchers won't lose profits to transportation costs and middlemen. The Council has also teamed with the Yurok Tribe to sponsor agricultural risk management workshops to promote agricultural markets and marketing opportunities.

The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program ([www5counties.org](http://www5counties.org)) transferred to the NWCRC&D in 2009. Its objective is to help Trinity, Siskiyou, Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties aid recovery of salmon and steelhead by improving county plans, policies and practices.

Bryon is enjoying the challenges. "I love it. The RC & D is one of the programs I've always wanted to be involved with. It's a nice change to work with multiple counties on a regional basis. The communities are great, people are friendly. That's the best part of small communities in northern California," he observed.

NWRC&D Council relies on grants from a variety of sources for its projects and operations. Sources include U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S Forest Service. "Funding is always the challenge for RC&D councils," Bryon noted. "There's never a shortage of good projects – just funds."





# 2009 SUMMER DAY CAMP









# Scenes from the 2009 Salmon Festival









# 2009 Environmental Camp



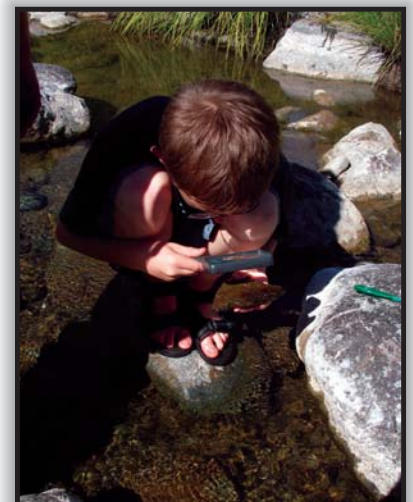
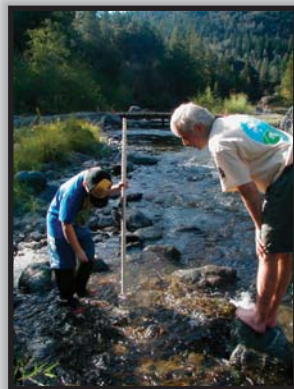
Observing stream life (above) and measuring stream flow (below).



USFS biologist Ernie Garcia explains the presence of certain stream insects indicate good water quality.



Students tested water quality, above, learned about soils, and studied stream inhabitants.







Students examine Trinity watershed maps (left). George Tkach instructed archery.



Professional Forester Kenneth Baldwin shared his knowledge of natural resources stewardship.



## 2009 Construction Activities for the Trinity River Restoration Program

One aspect of the work done by the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) is mechanical channel rehabilitation. This activity involves restoring and maintaining channel morphology characteristics at 47 sites along the Trinity River. Rehabilitation work in 2009 includes restoration activities at the Sawmill site, just downstream from Cemetery Hole. These restoration activities include floodplain lowering/recontouring, side channel development, gravel augmentation, large woody debris placement, riparian establishment, and other geomorphic and aquatic habitat enhancement activities. The work at the Sawmill site will treat approximately ¾ miles of river channel and process 11,000 cubic yards of gravel for placement in the river during construction. Some of this gravel will be stockpiled for injection into the river during high flows next spring. This project will reconnect the river with up to 25 acres of floodplain at different flows in the river and improve about two miles of edge habitat that may be utilized by juvenile salmon and steelhead.

Construction activities on this project began on August 10, 2009 and will be completed by December 2009.

If you need further information please contact Jennifer Faler at 530-623-1800.





# 5C DIRT Road Erosion Inventory Workshop

## Tuesday, January 19th 2010

**WHAT:** The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C) is holding a free workshop on its Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments (DIRT) road erosion inventory program. DIRT was developed in conjunction with Pacific Watershed Associates to do large scale inventories of sediment sources on county roads within the 5C region. The methodology for estimating sources of potential sediment delivery is consistent with many of the more popular sediment inventory techniques. Data is captured into a unique Microsoft Access database and can be mapped via GIS. It is invaluable in assessing identified sites and treatments on various scales (e.g., watershed, road, and type of site). The workshop will provide an overview of the DIRT concepts, methodology, and database and will end with an optional field tour of sites.

**WHO:** Anyone interested in doing or learning about sediment inventory. Owners, managers, and restorers of large road systems will find the DIRT approach especially useful for its ability to manage and track thousands of sediment source sites.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**WHERE:** Humboldt Area Foundation Main Conference Room (HAF):  
373 Indianola Road; Bayside CA 95524  
Bayside is located south of Arcata and north of Eureka. From HWY 101, turn inland at Indianola Cutoff and go 0.4 mi to Indianola Rd; turn **left** and the HAF will be on the left-hand side. Online maps:  
<http://www.hafoundation.org/haf/about-us/maps.html>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP:

Call Sandra Pérez at 530.623.3967 x112 or email at [sperez@5counties.org](mailto:sperez@5counties.org). Please RSVP by January 5<sup>th</sup> as space is limited. For more information on the DIRT program please visit the 5C website (under Projects):  
<http://www.5counties.org/Projects/FinalGeneralProjectPages/DIRT800.htm>  
An agenda will be posted at the 5C website in early December:  
<http://www.5counties.org>

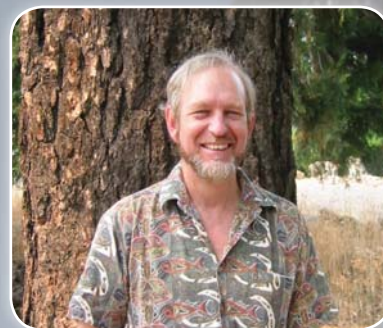
This workshop is made possible by the Dept of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program funding. Event sponsors are: the 5C Program (a division of the Northwest CA RC&D Council) and Natural Resources Conservation Service.





## District Manager's Corner

The flurry of fall activities has died down, but the memories of them lives on. The photo-essays in this issue of the Conservation Almanac underscore a couple things. These articles remind me of the joy that comes with watching a child discover something for the first time or experiencing them create art. I also am reminded of the incredible treasure we have in Trinity County in all of you — our colleagues, friends and neighbors — who volunteer your time to help us make events like Summer Day Camp at the Young Family Ranch and the Salmon Festival such successes. For all of you, I am very thankful and I will think of you as my family gathers to celebrate Thanksgiving.



I want to give special thanks to three people the District has honored this year. We nominated these individuals for recognition by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts at its annual meeting this November. Noreen Doyas was nominated to be the state association's Employee of the Year. Noreen has been our Grants Manager for over 10 years, and she has been with the District since 1993. Everyone who works with her knows that, in many ways, she is the glue that holds us together. She works tirelessly to find funding to support our programs, a reflection of her deep commitment to the District and to all of us, her colleagues. We nominated Jerry Hauke and Kenneth Baldwin for statewide Volunteer of the Year. They are passionate about the work the District does, giving freely of their time whether it is attending meetings or tromping around in the woods. Jerry and Kenneth bring their many years of experience with them and a true sense of community spirit. This year the state association chose to recognize Kenneth as the statewide Volunteer of the Year.

It was my honor to nominate Noreen, Jerry and Kenneth, and in doing so my thoughts went out to every District employee and volunteer on district projects. We applaud each and every one of you for your dedication and your friendship.

*Pat Frost*

## *Salmon Poster Contest Winners*

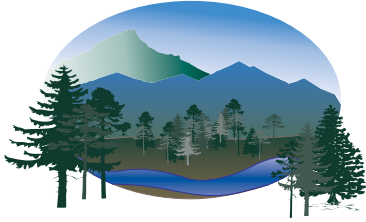
This year's Salmon Festival featured a Salmon Poster booth displaying the fine artwork done by students from Junction City School (JCS) and Weaverville Elementary School (WES). The posters were begun while students attended the annual Environmental Science Education Camp at Bar 717 Ranch in Hyampom in September. Posters were voted on by a panel of judges and by the public. Winning posters will be included in a calendar for 2011 to be sold as a fundraiser for camp next year. First place went to Essie Romero of WES; Kristin Jepsen of JCS took second place, while third went to Greg Maclaren of WES. The People's Choice Award, selected by public balloting, went to Melia Matthews of WES. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to our judges, who included, Emily Cira of AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project, Jennifer Faler of the Trinity River Restoration Program and Julie Feely of Trinity County Arts Council. Special thanks to art teacher Susan Alexander for her work in helping students explore their creativity. [Note: Salmon poster calendars for 2010, containing last year's winners, are available for \$5]



All of the students' posters will be displayed in the lobby of the Weaverville Library early next year. Pictured above are Kaci Heinrici, Hunter Still, Watershed Stewards Project member Bo Kimball and Kristin Jepsen of Junction City School.



## 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](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, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Young Family Ranch Trust, California Fire Safe Council, and the Trinity County Title III Fund.**

