

Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Summer 2007

Vol. XVI No. 3

Input sought for Weaverville Community Forest lands

Sounds of logging fill West Weaver Creek canyon as Phase I of the Weaverville Community Forest Strategic Plan nears completion.

Contractor Stan Leach is running this logging operation, expected to continue through August. More than 70 truckloads of logs had been removed as of August 8, with more than 300,000 board-feet harvested and sold to Trinity River Mill in Weaverville.

A primary goal voiced at public meetings about the community forest is to preserve it as a beautiful backdrop to Weaverville. Reducing fuel loads through a carefully designed thinning process opens up timber stands, improves forest health and lowers wildfire risk.



Phase I encompasses about 200 acres and similar limited operations will occur in other parts of the forest in future years. Funds generated from logging are applied to other projects on the forest, including trail work, interpretative signs, monitoring and stream restoration.

Weaverville Community Forest now covers 984 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A unique partnership between the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the BLM, formed through a contractual stewardship agreement, makes it possible for the community to guide the management and use of this forest.

Over 35 interested persons joined RCD and USFS representatives in Weaverville August 8 to explore expanding the community forest onto Weaver Basin lands administered by USFS, possibly through a similar stewardship agreement. The meeting was to hear ideas about opportunities these forestlands may provide the community. Ideas include making the forest more fire safe and healthier while producing logs for our local mill; restoring burned forestlands; providing for a wide range of recreation from hiking and biking trails to OHV and paintball; and providing outdoor education opportunities.

To send your ideas about the Community Forest or to get more information about the Weaverville Community Forest visit www.tcred.net or call us at 530-623-6004.

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TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM COARSE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

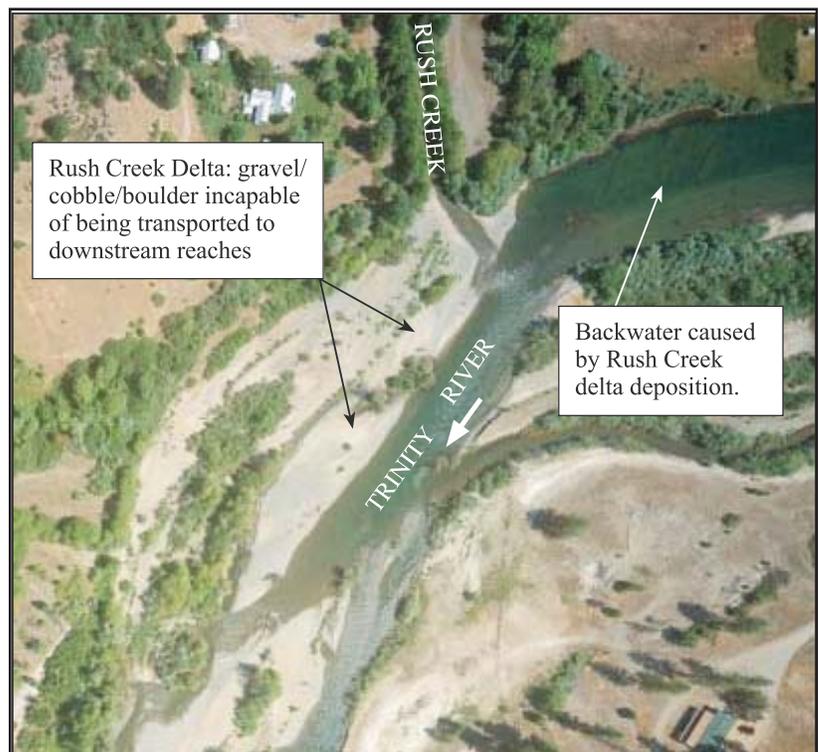
Introduction

Rivers need sediment as much as fish need water. Construction of the 538 foot high Trinity Dam abruptly eliminated the headwaters of the Trinity River from supplying any gravel and cobble to the mainstem Trinity River immediately below Lewiston Dam. Most river channel features that once provided abundant and high quality salmon habitat, such as point bars and side-channels, were lost. The Coarse Sediment Management Plan contributes to recovering these alluvial channel features and habitats by identifying coarse sediment introduction methods, volumes, and locations that will help restore a dynamic balance between coarse sediment replenished below Lewiston Dam and streamflows released from Lewiston Dam as part of the Trinity River Restoration Program Record of Decision.

The disruption in the dynamic flow-sediment balance downstream of Lewiston Dam resulted in:

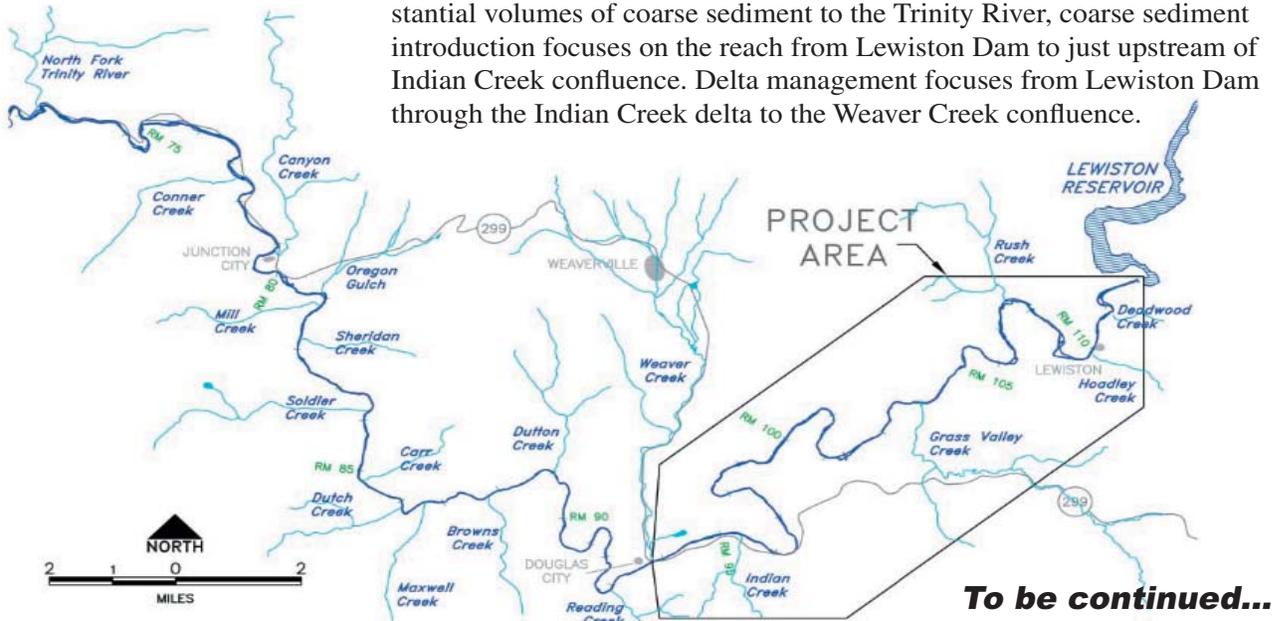
- *Channel incision and/or river bed coarsening (i.e. from cobbles to boulders) below Lewiston Dam;*
- *Reduced coarse sediment storage (bars & riffles) in most reaches;*
- *Local coarse sediment deposition at major tributaries (Rush Creek, Grass Valley Creek, and Indian Creek) creating deltas that the Trinity River could no longer transport downstream;*
- *Riparian vegetation encroachment and riparian berms forming on previously mobile gravel bars, narrowing and simplifying the channel;*
- *Reduced aquatic habitat for yellow-legged frogs, benthic macroinvertebrates, and other aquatic species;*
- *Reduced Chinook salmon spawning habitat;*
- *Reduced Chinook salmon fry rearing habitat (determined to currently limit production on the Trinity River).*

This is one article in a series excerpted from Trinity River Restoration Program's brochure, Coarse Sediment Management Plan, describing how this project benefits salmonids. Look for more in the autumn issue of *Conservation Almanac*.



Location

The Trinity River Coarse Sediment Management Plan (CSMP) focuses on the reach between Lewiston Dam and the confluence with Weaver Creek, where coarse sediment impacts by the Trinity River dams have been most severe. Because Indian Creek, Weaver Creek, Reading Creek, and Browns Creek deliver substantial volumes of coarse sediment to the Trinity River, coarse sediment introduction focuses on the reach from Lewiston Dam to just upstream of Indian Creek confluence. Delta management focuses from Lewiston Dam through the Indian Creek delta to the Weaver Creek confluence.



Winning student gets summer job at NRCS

Katie Tenneson's Ag teacher at Trinity High School, Mike Rourke, encouraged her to compete in the 2006 annual statewide Speak-Off competition sponsored by Trinity County Resource Conservation District. The topic was "Bio-Fuels, the Energy of the Future," and the sophomore began preparing her speech. Weeks of research and writing led to the first level of competition in mid-October at the RCD office in Weaverville. Katie fared well and advanced to sectional level competition in Yreka.

At Yreka, Katie, the daughter of Art and Renie Tenneson of Weaverville, again garnered first place and \$50 in scholarship money. With November came the finals, and it was off to Santa Rosa to compete for the State title. The Speak-Off was held at the annual conference of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD). Katie was the youngest among nine participants from throughout California. All were judged on mastery of information and organizational and delivery skills, and all were virtually flawless. Preparation paid off for Katie as she connected immediately with her audience. Words and gestures flowed effortlessly and she beamed with accomplishment when she finished. When the judges announced winners, Katie had again garnered first place and this time the CARCD Speak-off state champion title. She received a plaque and \$300, and then State Conservationist Ed Burton of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced he was offering each contestant an internship with their local NRCS office — icing on the cake for Katie!

Katie has been at NRCS' Weaverville office this summer, discovering career choices she never knew of. NRCS Soils Conservationist Tiffany Riess mentors Katie on everything from soils and rangeland conservation, to how to make maps using global positioning system (GPS) devices. Together they have met with Trinity County landowners to discuss how NRCS can help. Katie has been learning about writing grazing plans for ranches and developing thinning projects on timberland. She has worked with NRCS specialists in forestry, biology, engineering and conservation and is grateful for the internship. "I have learned so much about conservation and myself because of this opportunity and their willingness to share their knowledge," Katie said. "I have a much better idea of what I want to study when I go off to college." Katie returns to school in August, hopeful of continuing her internship at NRCS next summer and starting college in 2009.



WEAVERVILLE SUMMER DAY CAMP 2007



Flower pot painting brought out artistic talents.



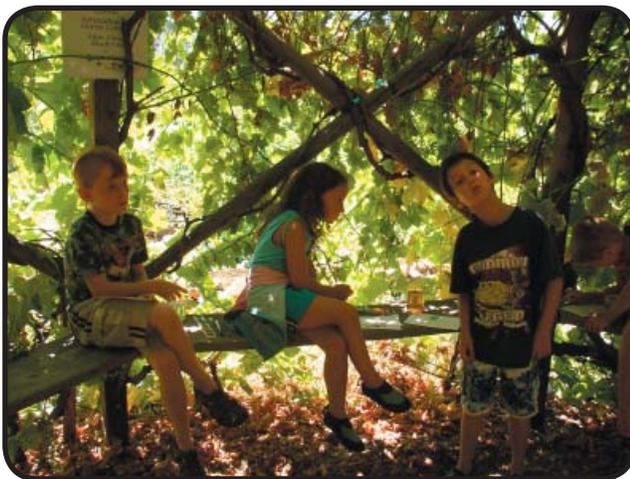
Campers learned about apple varieties and how to dry them for later eating.



Time in the Children's Garden was a favorite activity.



Campers tried their hand at designing and building bird nests.



Grapevine gazebo in the Children's Garden was shady and cool.



Kenneth Baldwin brought many international percussion instruments for kids to play.



Kids hand-made their own tortillas then enjoyed fresh vegetable tostadas.



Rhythmic beats filled Lowden Park as kids enjoyed percussion instruments.



Each group designed and painted a mascot flag.



Jacquie Love instructed on planting in the Children's Garden.



Kids searched out streamside insects; magnifier helped see details.



Campers pose for a group photo.

Watershed Monitoring All About Stream Health

The RCD hosted the first ever Weaver Creek Watershed Celebration earlier this year to give Weaverville residents a chance to learn about the health of streams flowing through their neighborhoods.

Members of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project organized the event, held near the Mill Street Bridge where several streams join with nearby trailheads. Natural resources specialists from RCD and county, state and federal agencies were on hand to lead tours and give demonstrations on easy techniques used to assess water quality. They also described some factors that can harm water quality, including sediment from erosion.

The goal of the event was to generate interest in starting a CreekWatch program that relies on volunteers to sample water in local streams on a regular basis. Across the country, volunteers with an interest in the health of their watershed monitor the condition of streams, lakes, wells and other water bodies.

Volunteers are given instruction and guidance on how to sample water and collect related information. They learn to make visual observations of aquatic insects, fish, and habitat as a way to assess water quality. Information typically gathered for water monitoring includes water temperature, flow, pH (acidity), and the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. The presence of certain macro-invertebrates and the degree of turbidity or clarity also tell us how healthy a stream is.

CreekWatch volunteers help support the stewardship of their local streams and watershed by gradually developing a database of information about year-round water quality and quantity. That information can then be used to determine if there are problems upstream that need to be corrected.

The annual World Water Monitoring Day is October 18 and is the anniversary of the U.S. Clean Water Act, passed by Congress in 1972.

If you are interested in becoming a CreekWatch volunteer to help monitor your watershed, contact Mark Dowdle at the RCD office, 623.6004.



Jason Smith, New TCRCD Employee

Jason Smith has joined the District as its new fiscal manager. He came aboard in April after three and a half years as fiscal officer with the Human Response Network and we are glad to have him. Jason has his degree in accounting from Heald Business College and has racked up more than 11 years of accounting experience since graduating. He brings a strong background in lumber accounting and in non-profit organization accounting, and is capably tracking the many collaborative projects the District is involved with.

Jason, who grew up in Santa Rosa, moved to Trinity County six years ago with his wife Christi, daughters Kaila and Ashley, and son Tanner. The couple has been married 13 years. It was after visiting Christy's mother in Weaverville and discovering the quality of life here that the family decided to relocate. "It's a great place to raise a family," he explained.

The new fiscal manager is applying talents he enjoys using. "I was always great with numbers in school and decided to go into a field where I could use it." He's glad he made the choice years ago to get his degree in accounting. "I had just got married and had a baby and decided to go back to school," Jason explained. "I had to work graveyard shift for a year-and-a half until I graduated, unloading and loading trucks for Wal-Mart. It wasn't easy at times," he said, but definitely worth it. "If you're somebody who wants to understand and learn and really see how a business is doing, you really look at the financials and that will give you the picture of how that business is doing."

Jason likes to spend as much time as possible with his family. He coaches soccer, baseball and basketball for his children, who are also all involved in swimming, and he tries whenever possible to be present for their activities. Other pursuits include hiking and going to the river or Trinity Lake, and occasionally some golf when time permits.

He's glad to be working with the District. "I like what they do for the community and Trinity County, helping conserve the resources we have," he said. "It's such a beautiful place. I think it's great what we're doing with the Weaverville Community Forest. It's helping Trinity County and everyone here. We need to reduce the fuels there and give the other trees a chance to grow. Hopefully, we'll do more of that in the future."



District Manager's Corner Pat Frost

The theme for the Trinity County Fair this year is, "We've Got a Good Thing Growing." I look at that short sentence and this issue of the Conservation Almanac and I see a lot of good things growing, too. What I see and what gives my heart a lift in Trinity County are our children and young adults. I see them growing and making great contributions that support the goals of the RCD.



This was our third year to host Summer Day Camp in Weaverville. By all accounts, it was the best year we've had. The camp's success was linked to six young adults – our four camp counselors and the camp leaders, Russ Spangler and Christy Wagner. Russ and Christy are with the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Program and work at the RCD. They are examples of the highly motivated and professional individuals recruited by the Watershed Stewards Program. Their energy blended well with the enthusiasm of Alin Lancaster, Thomas Geanakos, Hannah Hammett and Ashley Croom, our counselors. We had over 200 campers during the 4 weeks and the photo-essay shows some of camp's highlights. I am sure that Russ, who is leaving us to continue his university studies, grew as a young professional from his year of service in Trinity County.

Katie Tenneson underscores how a local high school student can contribute to local conservation at the same time that she grows academically and professionally. In this issue you can learn more about Katie's summer internship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Weaverville, and how she landed this job. If you are a high school student in Trinity County you can learn more about the California Association of Resource Conservation District's 2007 Speak-off by contacting our office at 623-6004 or by visiting our website, www.tcrd.net

2007 SALMON FEST OCTOBER 13

Save the Date! Saturday, October 13 is the date of the 2007 Salmon Festival.

Visitors can expect a fun-filled celebration featuring an array of activities, vendors, games, and music at this popular Trinity County event. Great food and a demonstration of cider-pressing are just some of the things to savor. The location will again be the meadow on Main Street in Weaverville. Sponsoring organizations include the Trinity Arts Council, the Weaverville Chamber of Commerce and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. Put it on your calendar now and plan to be there!

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
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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 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**

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