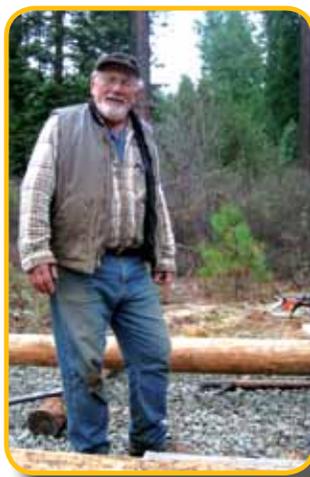




## Statewide Association of RCDs Honors Jerry Hauke as ‘Volunteer of the Year’



**H**e's persistent. He looks for any opportunity to move good projects forward. And he's big on building partnerships wherever there are shared goals. This R.O.P. approach of *persistence, opportunity and partnerships* sums up the success-strategy of Trinity outdoorsman Jerry Hauke, who has been named Volunteer of the Year by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Jerry volunteers his time in a variety of capacities with several organizations and he's never shy about putting in the good word for something that would benefit outdoor recreation. He's an articulate proponent for increasing opportunities to enjoy nature's beauty.

Jerry was one of several who early on recognized possible benefits of forming a community-based forest on the public lands surrounding Weaverville. He worked thoughtfully to build coalitions necessary to move the idea forward with Bureau of Land Management. Residents liked the notion of protecting their viewshed and enhancing recreational opportunities close to town. In 2005, that R.O.P. approach paid off with the founding of Weaverville Community Forest on nearly 1,000 acres of BLM land through a stewardship agreement. More of Hauke's

R.O.P led to the expansion of the community forest onto 12,000 acres of USFS land.

Hauke is an advocate of community-led conservation. He serves on the Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee that guides stewardship of WCF, and is a member of the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee that considers and recommends projects to USFS. Jerry volunteers with the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Council promotes an array of projects to help develop economic, natural, and social resources in Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte counties in ways that improve our quality of life.

Hauke volunteered countless days during the past 13 years to recreational trail development and maintenance. He promotes the Weaverville Basin Trail System and all trails in Trinity as a regional resource attracting tourism. For more than a decade Hauke has organized monthly trail hikes in various Trinity locales, sometimes with the goal of highlighting a conservation project or other times just for the sheer beauty of the destination. He always plans leisurely, dog-friendly treks that introduce hikers to new places and friendly faces, and invariably reward one's effort to get outdoors.

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## National Award Bestowed on Cynthia Tarwater for Watershed Restoration Work

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**T**CRCD Project Coordinator Cynthia Tarwater has been named the 2012 recipient of a national award given by two federal agencies for her repeated successful efforts to obtain funds for watershed restoration in the Trinity River Basin, and for her diligent planning and oversight in getting the resulting work done well.

The award, bestowed jointly by representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service, is the Two Chiefs' Partnership Award. It recognizes exemplary individuals who work collaboratively and creatively to support conservation and forest stewardship.

Tarwater's projects have improved road drainage on over 300 miles of forest roads, efforts that reduce long-term maintenance costs, improve access for forest users and reduce sediment delivery to streams. Her projects have removed over 250,000 cubic yards of sediment from stream channels – an achievement that helps restore and protect fish habitat.

Cynthia has been with the District since March 1993 and she is highly regarded for her expertise and her ability to collaborate closely with private landowners and state and federal agencies. The shared goal is to remediate conditions that contribute sediment to tributary streams of the South Fork Trinity River and to mainstem Trinity River. These watersheds contain some of the most unstable soils and erosion-prone landscapes in Northern California. Accumulation of sediment in fish-bearing streams smothers the eggs of salmon and steelhead.

As the watershed restoration project coordinator, Cynthia works closely with the Forest Service to assess and prioritize restoration projects. Most involve roadwork to reduce erosion. Some projects are meant to give improved access for off-highway vehicles and most projects repair poor road drainage conditions that lead to serious erosion and cause streams to muddy with sediment. Other projects entail decommissioning old forest roads at the behest of USFS, then reshaping and reseeding the restored slopes to heal the landscape. Along the way, her projects have decommissioned over 300 stream crossings to improve fish passage and reduce sediment delivery.

In addition to planning and supervising projects, Cynthia's responsibilities include actively seeking funds through grants and agreements with federal and state agencies. Over the years, her dedication has helped secure over \$5 million in funding from state sources to match \$25 million in federal funds for work on forest roads. In addition to NRCS and USFS, Tarwater collaborates with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the State Parks & Recreation's OHV Division and the State Water Resources Control Board. Other entities include Bureau of Land Management, Five Counties Salmonid Program, Trinity River Restoration Program and Bureau of Reclamation.

As acknowledged by the Two Chief's Partnership Award announcement, the success of these road-related watershed restoration efforts is due in great part to Cynthia Tarwater's expertise, attention to detail and personal dedication.



## Alex Cousins Promoted to District Manager

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District board of directors voted unanimously in May to promote Alex Cousins to the post of district manager following the planned retirement of Pat Frost in June after 13 years at the helm.



Cousins joined the District in 2007 as a project coordinator and was named assistant district manager in 2010. In the five years he has been with the District he has been tasked with increasing responsibilities. Those include ensuring environmental compliance on District projects, administering multiple contracts simultaneously, serving as the MidTrinity and Upper Trinity River Watershed Council Coordinator, and as a member of the Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee. Cousins coordinated the recent update of Trinity County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and throughout his tenure he has served as District liaison to the many state, federal, local and regional entities TCRCDD works with.

Alex is pure Trinity County, raised in Hyampom and graduated from Trinity High School. He went to Cal State Chico and earned a bachelors degree in Anthropology, then earned a Masters degree in Latin American economics and politics at San Diego State University. He enjoys a close attachment to the people and communities of Trinity County.

Prior to coming to the District he has worked as an archeologist and environmental consultant, and was a program manager for the Watershed Research and Training Center. He also did a brief stint as an assistant planner with Trinity County Planning Department.

Alex is an avid outdoorsman with a passion for kayaking, skiing, running and hiking. He serves on the board of Ascend Wilderness Experience, (AWE), a local non-profit organization that works to get youngsters into the outdoors. The group gives kids an introduction to backpacking to get them started on exploring the wonders of nature found here in Trinity.



# TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM'S PHASE I CHANNEL REHABILITATION PROJECT REVIEW

## Program Overview

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) is working to restore natural salmon and steelhead populations downstream of Lewiston Dam to the numbers that thrived before the dams were built. TRRP's strategy involves restoring natural riverine processes that maintain healthy aquatic habitats. This means reconstructing many of the physical features of the river channel that deteriorated since the dams were built and flows were artificially constrained.

To accomplish this restoration requires mechanically reshaping the channel and floodplain, addition of gravel in some places, and planned releases of water from the dam. Such releases of water are timed to benefit fish and river vegetation, with some higher flows intended to boost the beneficial physical changes begun through mechanical reshaping.

These actions combined are expected to improve and increase habitat for natural salmon and steelhead. More and better habitat should lead to better reproduction and survival rates, thereby increasing salmonid population levels. So far, about half of TRRP's 44 planned projects have been completed since the program was begun in 2000. Those completed projects comprise what is known as Phase I.

## Phase I Review Overview

It is helpful to note that TRRP's strategy and actions are carried out under what is called an adaptive management framework. This sciencebased approach emphasizes learning from the performance of completed projects in order to improve future management decisions. This adaptive management approach entails considerable oversight and evaluation, most through peer review. Independent peer review of TRRP's analyses, project designs, and monitoring is essential to establish and maintain scientific and public credibility.

Currently, TRRP's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is charged with overseeing a comprehensive evaluation of the Phase I projects. The board is comprised of five independent scientists, recognized as experts in the disciplines of fisheries biology, fluvial geomorphology, hydraulic engineering, hydrology, riparian ecology, wildlife biology, or aquatic ecology.

## Main Steps of the Phase I Review:

1. SAB, working with a team of independent scientists, compiles information collected on each of the Phase I projects.
2. An initial evaluation is then done on the effectiveness of Phase I at three scales: the design of individual features (e.g., side channels), projects on an individual and combined basis, and system-wide.
3. An independent panel of technical experts then reviews the SAB's initial evaluation.
4. SAB, with the support of an independent team of scientists, updates their findings based on the expert panel input.

## Phase I Review Milestones:

- August 1, 2012 - SAB provides its draft report to the technical panel
- October 1, 2012 - Independent panel provides its comments on draft report back to SAB
- November 1, 2012 - SAB finalizes report
- November-December 2012 - SAB presents findings in a public meeting
- Beginning December 2012 - TRRP works with partners and stakeholders to implement the conclusions and recommendations of the Phase I Review.

### A Word on Peer Review

Peer review is essential to objective, science-based adaptive management. It improves the quality of scientific research by incorporating the knowledge of other, independent, expert scientists. Peer review ensures studies and analyses can withstand the rigorous scrutiny of the scientific community. TRRP has made peer review of all scientific products a routine practice. The Phase I review currently underway incorporates two levels of independent review: the analyses and report by the SAB and the evaluation by the independent technical panel. Such peer review ultimately improves the quality of the science and ensures objectivity in the decision-making that will guide future TRRP river restoration work.



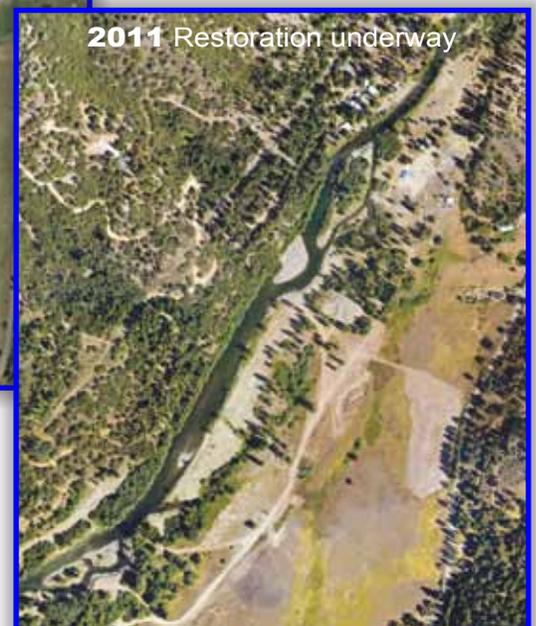
**1944** Pre-dam natural channel

1944 - High and low natural flows created rich habitat complexity.



**1980** Dam-constrained flows

1980 - Controlled flow led to channelization and reduced habitat complexity.



**2011** Restoration underway

2011 - Restoration has re-introduced complexity to the river channel and habitat.

### Lowden Ranch Site, Trinity River, Through The Years

# 2012 Summer Day Camp





2012 Summer Day Camp was assisted or funded by Bureau of Land Management, Redding Office; USDA Forest Service; Trinity Trust; Young Family Ranch Trust; Trinity County Child Abuse Prevention Council; Trinity River Restoration Program; Trinity Alps Chamber Festival; and by amazing volunteers and donors.



# Hyampom Fuels Reduction

Recent Hyampom fuels reduction efforts focused on creating a fuel break along the roads into the community. Highly flammable brush and small trees were removed to a distance of 60 to 100 feet from the center of the road. The effort was all volunteer, led by the Hyampom Volunteer Fire Department and was accomplished by some very dedicated community volunteers. Work was done on Hyampom Road, Lower South Fork Road Pelletreau Ridge Road and Corral Bottom Road for a total of 30 acres treated. This effort was funded by a California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) grant, a first for Hyampom. The CFSC grant manager and Trinity County Resource Conservation District provided guidance in planning the project. The grant will help Hyampom Volunteer Fire Department obtain future needed fire fighting equipment.

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Travelers on Hyampom Road welcomed the transformation.



Stacking cut Manzanita into safe burn piles

Hyampom, like all of Trinity County, relies on its volunteers to do get the important stuff done. All the work that went into getting this fuels reduction project done is further evidence of Hyampom's strong and enduring community spirit.



Cutting and dragging flammable brush.



Tending to a burn pile.



Cutting out dead branches reduces risk of fire spreading.

# Orienteering and Geocaching Workshop



Participant studies a hybrid map of the Young Family Ranch that combines an aerial photo overlain with topographical elevation lines.



Using mapping symbols to denote the topographical peaks, canyons and saddles found on participants' hands.



A GPS device helped lead this group to a cache of prizes.

To learn more about orienteering visit:  
[www.us.orienteering.org](http://www.us.orienteering.org)  
[www.baoc.org](http://www.baoc.org)  
[www.goldcountryorienteers.org](http://www.goldcountryorienteers.org)

This fun workshop on orienteering and geocaching was just one of several community activities hosted at the Young Family Ranch this past season. This learning event provided detailed guidance on map-reading and use of a compass to navigate, then gave participants an opportunity to apply their new skills. A second part of the workshop provided a geocaching activity where teams of participants used GPS (global positioning system) devices to guide them to specific coordinates where "treasure" awaited discovery. Workshops offered this past season were sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management's Hands on the Land Program, the Trinity County Community-based Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Young Family Ranch, University of California Cooperative Extension and Trinity County Resource Conservation District.



Workshop instructor Jessica Prindiville queries a group of participants about landscape features depicted on the map.



Participants use a compass to correctly orient their map to the landscape.

## District Manager's Corner

### A Message from outgoing District Manager, Pat Frost (Retired)

I wrote my first message in the Conservation Almanac in January 1999 as a way of introducing myself to Trinity County. I had no idea then I would spend the next 13 years as the District Manager. I had no idea the hundreds of people I would meet and with whom I'd work would bring me so much pleasure or that they would teach me so much. I had no idea it would be 13 years before I would write my farewell.

There are too many of you for me to be able to thank each of you for your contributions to conservation and the stewardship of Trinity County's precious natural resources. But I would like to take a moment to tip my hat to a few.

The District's two greatest strengths are its staff and its Board of Directors and I feel honored to have been able to work with all of them. Colleen O'Sullivan, Rose Owens, Mike Rourke, Greg Lowden and Patrick Truman have guided this District into the 21st century. They have provided the vision that has led to the Weaverville Community Forest, the Young Family Ranch as a conservation teaching facility and the strong partnerships we have with so many other local, state and federal agencies. And for me, they have been my mentors, colleagues and friends.

Each employee of the District brings skills and energy that make every project a success. John Condon, Cynthia Tarwater, Noreen Doyas, Kelly Sheen and Jack McGlynn were here to greet me in 1999 and have given their all to the District, year in and year out. I can't thank them enough for their dedication, their thoughtfulness and loyalty to the District. We have stayed fresh and energetic, because new ideas come to us with newer employees. When Zack Blanchard, Erik Flickwir, Mark Dowdle, Meghan Rhodes, Donna Rupp and Christy Wagner joined the District they gave me new inspiration and injected the District with their own brands of enthusiasm and skills. Add all of this to field crews that are out there every day – Mike Dunlap, Doug Crislip, Mike Gadbury, Joe Hames, Duke Klang, Jeff McGrew, Jamal Moore, Jon Mortenson, Aaron Smith, Darrel Tate and Will Welsch, and you have the organization I am proud to say I have been a part of all of these years.

I am only able to write this final article, because of one other employee – Alex Cousins. Alex joined the District in 2007 with a solid footing in the world of conservation and natural resources management, with his roots in Trinity County. He was raised in Hyampom and Weaverville. Alex brings a sense of place and history blended, but embraces the future. I am honored that the Board of Directors selected Alex to be the District Manager and I look forward to working with him to realize his vision for the Trinity County Resource Conservation District far into the 21st Century.

*Pat Frost*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Trinity Salmon Festival, Saturday Oct. 13, 10:00 - 4:30**

**Highland Meadow, Weaverville**

**Join the fun and volunteer a few hours improving your public lands:**

- **Saturday, Oct. 20, 9:00 am-Noon: Plant native trees and shrubs lost to the Oregon fire.**

**Location maps posted on [www.tcrd.net](http://www.tcrd.net) or call Donna at 623-6004**

**All ages welcome!**

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit Number 1  
Palo Cedro, CA 96073

## POSTAL PATRON

*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, Trinity County Title III Fund, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the Trinity County Resource Advisory Council.**

