



*Creek Mouth Enhancement crew looking for fish at the mouth of the Little North Fork*

# ***Salmon River Restoration Council***

**2012 Annual Report**



## SRRC Board

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## SRRC 2012 Staff

Josh Saxon, Executive Director  
 Karuna Greenberg, Restoration Director  
 Lyra Cressey, Associate Director & Monitoring Coordinator  
 Petey Brucker, Klamath Coordinator & Noxious Weed Coor.  
 Tom Hotaling, Fisheries Coordinator  
 Kathy McBroom, Office Manager  
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 Sarah Hugdahl, Program Assistant  
 Robert Will, Fuels & GPS Technician  
 Mitzi Rants, Watershed Education Co-coordinator  
 Shannon Monroe, Program Staff  
 Bonnie Bennett, Program Staff  
 Michael Kein, Program Staff, Watershed Ed Co-coordinator  
 Caterina Lewis-Perry, Program Staff

## SRRC 2012 Crew Leaders & Crews

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Steve Adams          | Eric Johnson     |
| Steven Addison       | Kelly Jones      |
| Sheri Campbell       | Mike Kerrick     |
| Tanya Chapple        | Scott Kingery    |
| Garry Collins        | Rebecca Lawrence |
| Robert Cousineau Jr. | Tamara Lightle   |
| Robert W. Cousineau  | Wyatt McBroom    |
| Jesse Cullen         | Kenny McDonald   |
| Kyle Cousineau       | Kasey O'Brien    |
| Timothy Darling      | James Peterson   |
| Kevin Dunbar         | Brian Pierce     |
| Samuel Elledge       | Katie Reinhart   |
| Jon Feutz            | Beulah Simas     |
| Dawn George          | Joe Stoltz       |
| Steve Gunther        | Jake Sutter      |
| Jessica Hanscom      | Irie Swift       |
| Sara Hayden          | Emily Tomroos    |
| George Heck          | Bill Varga       |
| Daniel Hendrickson   | Ron Ward         |
| Chris Inskeep        | Bob Webster      |

Dear SRRC Community,

In January I will be celebrating my one year anniversary with the Salmon River Restoration Council. The past year has been quite a learning experience for me and I've really enjoyed meeting many of the people who call the Salmon River home.

The Salmon River Restoration Council has accomplished so much in the past 20 years that we can be proud of, and much of that success can be attributed to the many volunteers and the amazing amount of energy and time those volunteers have put into our collective restoration efforts. I was reminded of how important volunteerism is to our watershed when I saw this quote:

*"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."* -Unknown

*When I spend time along the river or in the woods, much of the beauty I'm enjoying is a result of community members volunteering over the last 20 plus years in activities that preserve and restore our watershed. So...Yôotva! (Thank you!)*

This past year, SRRC has worked on strengthening many of our partnerships, which are crucial to successfully leveraging the resources needed to continue our restoration efforts, and to helping sustain the local economy. Being the largest employer based on the Salmon River has challenged us to continue to find ways to grow and provide sustainable jobs for the future of this community. We are always open to ideas and I would invite you to spend some time with our staff if you have ideas about how SRRC can responsibly provide more opportunities for our local communities.

SRRC's commitment to protect our natural resources through initiating comprehensive assessments, engaging in collaborative planning, implementing vital projects, and monitoring those projects for success continues to be an example for sustainable watershed restoration. Without SRRC playing an active role in river and forest restoration, the diverse species that populate our area would be in jeopardy from many threats - high intensity wildfire, over-harvest, diminishing fish runs, invasive weeds, and chemical herbicide spray amongst them. For all of these reasons and more we are hopeful for the future; hopeful for another 20 years to assess, protect, maintain, and restore the ecosystems of the Salmon River; another 20 years of sustaining an economy based on land stewardship; another 20 years to activate and work with community members in caring for this amazing place we all love.

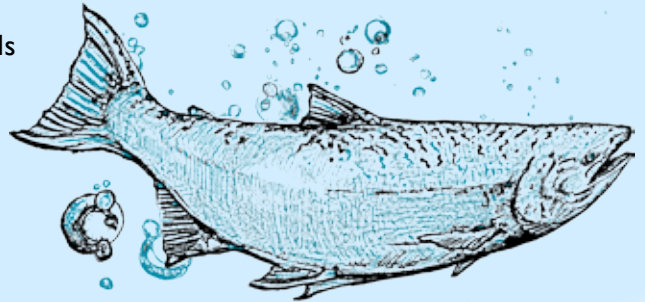
For now though, I'm excited about embarking on the coming year. SRRC plans to move forward with several of the ideas shared by folks who attended the SRRC Community Vision Meeting. We will also begin to implement our 5 year Strategic Plan, which was developed in October by the SRRC Board and Staff. New adventures await us.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year,

Joshua Saxon  
Executive Director

# Major Accomplishments of 2012

- **Completed** over 100 acres of fuels reduction around prioritized Salmon River homes and neighborhoods to help fire-safe our community
- **Improved** habitat, created cover and thermal refugia while improving fish passage on 39 creek mouths and prioritized sections of the river
- **Co-hosted** the Salmon River Spring Chinook Population Dives and coordinated Salmon Spawner Surveys to record live fish, number of redds, and carcass data for scientific research
- **Inventoried** and manually treated, without relying on chemical herbicides, 17 species of prioritized invasive plants on over 550 sites, with an overall reduction of spotted, diffuse, and meadow knapweed; and Italian thistle of more than 95%
- **Continued** to participate in the Klamath Basin Coordination Council, promoting the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement/Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement for the removal of Klamath River dams and restoration of major parts of the ecosystem
- **Brought** nature to the classroom for the two river schools
- **Celebrated** 20 years of Restoration with a Great Party!



## SRRC Program Updates for 2012

**Fisheries:** Our fisheries crews have been particularly busy this year. The Klamath River saw one of the largest runs of fall Chinook in recent history. The Salmon River fall Chinook run didn't disappoint. The river and key tributaries were teeming with fish; many reaches were divided in two during spawning surveys, just to manage the sheer volume. It was a great year for fish viewing along the river. We were very excited to see so many salmon - holding, spawning, and returning their nutrients to the river and land. SRRC fisheries crews were joined by Dept. of Fish & Game, Karuk Tribe, US Forest Service, and community volunteers to complete this record fall spawning count. The Spring Chinook Dives were once again a huge success, thanks to nearly 100 volunteers, staff, agency personnel, and fisheries enthusiasts who pitched in this year. The spring Chinook numbers indicate a consistent, strong run over the last couple of years, which we take as a good sign. The population totals were 1291 spring Chinook and 394 summer steelhead.



*Spring dive 2012 photo by Will Harling*

Our crews spent much of the summer working on improving fish passage, assessing habitat and surveying for juvenile fish in tributaries throughout the Salmon River. They also did a thorough assessment of the habitat conditions and fish usage of all the known thermal refugia. SRRC continued operating the Juvenile Outmigration

Screw Traps at the mouth of the Salmon River and at Big Bar on the Klamath in cooperation with the Karuk Tribe.

Funding for the Salmon River fisheries program has been particularly tight this year. Our spring Chinook spawning surveys and Spring Chinook Dives were both completely unfunded. We still managed to coordinate the survey effort but we were unable to hire paid SRRC crews. Thank you goes out to the Karuk Tribe and the agencies who sent crews to help complete the majority of the spawning surveys.

This year's fisheries work was funded by the Karuk Tribe, Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, US Forest Service (USFS), and much appreciated volunteerism.

**Noxious Weeds:** This year we continued our efforts to control 17 priority noxious weed species on approximately 550 sites throughout the watershed. Our late winter and spring efforts focused on Italian thistle around Forks of Salmon, with great affect. It seems like we are rounding the bend with this wind spread invader; where once there were mats of weeds it is now hard to find any. The crew and volunteers also made huge progress this year in beating back the oblong spurge populations discovered on the Mainstem Salmon last year. This new species (*photo below right*) is particularly difficult as the main population is across the river and it drops seeds in the late spring while the water is still high. Thanks to help from rafting and kayak enthusiasts, crews were able to ferry across the river despite high water



and remove all of the adults plants before they had a chance to seed!

*Photo above left, Petey's photo shows part of the noxious weed crew and the oblong spurge dug from the river bar.*

The crew also made progress in removing populations of Marlahan Mustard, focusing on burned areas, trailheads, campgrounds, tanker fill sites, and river accesses. As always, this effort is made more effective by our "Drivers that Care" campaign. Many thanks to community members who stop to notice, report, and pull/dig these weeds while driving, biking or walking the roads. Once again, the summer was spent combing river bars, decommissioned roads, and private lands for spotted knapweed, an effort that has been so successful over the years that they are getting incredibly difficult to find. SRRC's knapweed monitoring and removal has long kept the USFS from having to spray toxic herbicides to control this "Class A" weed. The 2012 Noxious Weed program was funded by the USFS and CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture. It's not only weeds that are increasingly hard to find these days - despite our huge successes over the years, weeds funding has become progressively scarce. We continue to look for new support opportunities for this important and successful program.

**Fire, Fuels, and Forestry:** SRRC crews completed over 100 acres of fuels reduction this year, creating shaded fuel breaks, fire-safe residences, and safer emergency access routes. We had two crews working for much of the year. For the first time in several years, SRRC hosted a Fire Awareness Week this spring, coordinating volunteer work days in Sawyers, Forks, and Cecilville, as well as hosting the USFS Level I Fire Training. We plan on making this a regular event once again. The Salmon River Fire Safe Council continues to coordinate the Community Fire Liaison Program which works directly with incident management teams during wild fire events. The purpose of the team is to provide accurate local information to fire managers, and to supply the community with up-to-date fire news. According to our local District Fire Management Officer, the Salmon River had the smallest number of fire incidents and lightning strikes in recorded history this year. Other than three small, human caused fires we had an uneventful year. We continue to be engaged in planning and commenting on US Forest Service forestry management projects in the Salmon. The SRRC and Fire Safe Council work with stakeholders to develop an approach toward forestry management that can improve forest health by advancing projects that better prepare private and public lands for wildfires.

The fuels crews are gearing up for the Winter/Spring fuels reduction season. We received a Siskiyou County RAC grant to work in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zone surrounding Sawyers Bar. Having a funded fuels project on USFS lands is a big milestone for us. We hope that this collaboration will lead to more projects in WUI zones. We also received a Grants Clearing House grant to do a Neighborhood Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Bear Country Neighborhood of Godfrey, Harris, and Blue Ridge Ranches, and surrounding landscape. This year's work was funded by the USFS/Grants Clearinghouse and USFWS.



*Photo right, SRRC hosting a community input meeting at the Watershed Center for the USFS proposed Jess Project.*



**Watershed Education:** SRRC's Watershed Education Program integrates natural resource sciences, ecosystem management, and watershed stewardship into the curricula of our two Salmon River schools. Students at Forks of Salmon and Junction Elementary schools learned a lot about their watershed over the course of the year. Highlights of the year were lessons on weather, fish dissections and fish printing, a Junction School snow ecology and fish hatchery field trip, and spawning surveys where the students were able to see firsthand the record number of salmon and help provide important survey data.

Students shared their watershed education knowledge with the community at the annual Watershed Fair in May. This year SRRC also shared coordination of the Klamath-Siskiyou Outdoor School (KSOS) with the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC). KSOS is a summer program that empowers students to become stewards of the natural environment while fostering team building skills, cooperation, and mutual respect.

We are planning on using our limited funding for the upcoming year to coordinate key activities within the schools and bring in local and regional guest presenters to share their expertise. If you are interested in volunteering expertise, time, or funding to the program, or know of someone who would be a great guest presenter, let us know. The watershed education program was funded this year by CDFG and USFWS.

*Photo left by Mitzi Rants of a student taking data during a fall Chinook spawning survey.*



**Water Monitoring:** The SRRC and community volunteers monitored water and air temperatures at approximately 50 sites this past summer. In addition to our long term sites, we had a contract with the US Forest Service to help them collect temperature data throughout the watershed for their Klamath National Forest Monitoring Plan. The SRRC has also continued to participate in the collaborative Klamath Basin Monitoring Program to develop and implement a long term monitoring plan for the Klamath and its tributaries, which includes the Salmon River. This program was funded by the US Forest Service and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

*Photo left, Bonnie pointing out a water monitoring site while George secures the cable.*

**Riparian Restoration:** The SRRC continues to bring stakeholders together to develop a program to implement the Salmon River TMDL. The goal is to reduce water temperatures and improve habitat for adult and juvenile fish in the Salmon River, prioritizing the most beneficial areas and developing targeted restoration activities.

It's been a busy year for advancing our Riparian Restoration program.



Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) finished a draft design this summer for restoration projects at two prioritized sites - Red Bank and Kellys Gulch. The designs focus on both improving riparian vegetation and shading, and also on creating better side channel habitat for fish. We will be looking for implementation funding in the near future. This work has been funded by the Bella Vista Foundation and the NCRWQCB.

As part of ongoing fish passage improvement efforts, the mouths of creeks providing important fish habitat got an overhaul – small barriers removed, step pools created, and the benefit of cold water maximized, so that both juvenile and adult fish can utilize the habitat more effectively. Mike Love and Associates and PWA have finished the final assessments for Hotelling Barrier Removal project, and we are now waiting on the US Forest Service to decide whether this project should move forward. These assessments were funded by USFWS. The Bureau of Reclamation completed NEPA for our Coho Enhancement grant that was funded in 2010. This project is intended to manually enhance winter and summer rearing habitat in existing side channels over this next year.

*Photo left, Michael and Caterina working at assessing a creek mouth.*

**The Salmon River Restoration Council's mission** is to assess, protect, restore and maintain the Salmon River ecosystems with the active participation of the local community, focusing on restoration of the anadromous fisheries resources and the development of a sustainable economy. We provide assistance and education to the general public and cooperating agencies by facilitating communication and cooperation between the local communities, managing agencies, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders.



## News from the Watershed Center

This year marks the SRRC's 20th anniversary. We held a wonderful celebration of that milestone in September, which included a ceremony to honor Petey Brucker, our organization's founder.

In October, our Board and staff participated in a facilitated two day strategic planning workshop. It was a very productive session that encouraged us to look critically at where we want to go in the upcoming years. We should have the final Strategic Plan done later this winter.

We've had some staffing changes this year. Josh Saxon and Karuna Greenberg both joined the staff last winter, as Executive Director and Restoration Director, respectively. They've been a very welcome addition. Michael Kein and Caterina Lewis-Perry decided it was time for a move to the coast this fall. Shannon Monroe and Bonnie Bennett rejoined the staff as Program Assistants.

The Watershed Center has been occupying the old school in Sawyers Bar for over 10 years now; we couldn't ask for a better office and meeting place. Our membership and fund raising drives contribute significantly towards our ability to operate the Watershed Center, and your contributions are much appreciated. If you are passing by be sure to stop and see the beautiful commemorative plaque honoring the life work of Jim Villeponteaux. The plaque was donated by the Siskiyou Co. Fire Safe Council and mounted onto a local stone by Rex Richardson.

## Financial Report

### Ordinary Income/Expense

#### Annual Revenue

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Contributions         | \$17,195.00  |
| Earned Income         | \$5,976.00   |
| Grants and Agreements | \$397,464.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income  | \$5,859.00   |

**Total Revenue \$426,493.00**

#### Annual Expenses

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Administration         | \$24,768.00  |
| Contract Labor         | \$41,605.00  |
| Fund raising Expenses  | \$3,201.00   |
| Miscellaneous          | \$279.00     |
| Operating Expenses     | \$28,545.00  |
| Payroll Expenses       | \$315,332.00 |
| Materials and Supplies | \$17,675.00  |
| Travel Expenses        | \$13,351.00  |

**Total Expense \$444,757.00**

**Net Income -\$17,264.00**

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Volunteer and In-Kind Contribution | \$158,929.00 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|



# Thank You to our 2012 Members, Volunteers, Donors, and Funders!



*Noxious weeder holding up one of the thousands of oblong spurge plants dug from private land on the Klamath River.*



*Morning orientation for the Spring Chinook dive crews heading out to count the salmon and steelhead.*

Thank you to all the people who donated what they could of their time, materials or money. All contributions, whether in memory of loved ones, becoming an SRRC member, sending us a donation, or volunteering your services to the SRRC and the Salmon River, are greatly appreciated.

## Thank You New and Renewed Members for 2012:

Spring Chinook Memberships - Frank Colver, Danny Hagans & Pacific Watershed Associates

Green Sturgeon Memberships - William Ayers Family, Frank Berry

Coho Memberships - Denise & Bob Bearding, Foster Boone, Tom Carlson & Jenn Sowerwine, Cavin Family, Mary Ciavonne & John Ziegler, Peter Coyote, Don & Elaine Dvorak, Mark Garza, Aaron & Cory Gilroy, Kasey & Scott Gilroy, Lynn Halpern, Creek & BettyAnn Hanauer, Ken & Theresa Harris, Earl & Trace Landberg, Glen Lyons & Nancy Gerdt, Cathi Nelson, Myanna Nielsen & Richard Cormier, Andy Pollack, Andrea Record, Richard Roggia, Mary E. Strote, Dee Tolson, Cora Villeponteaux

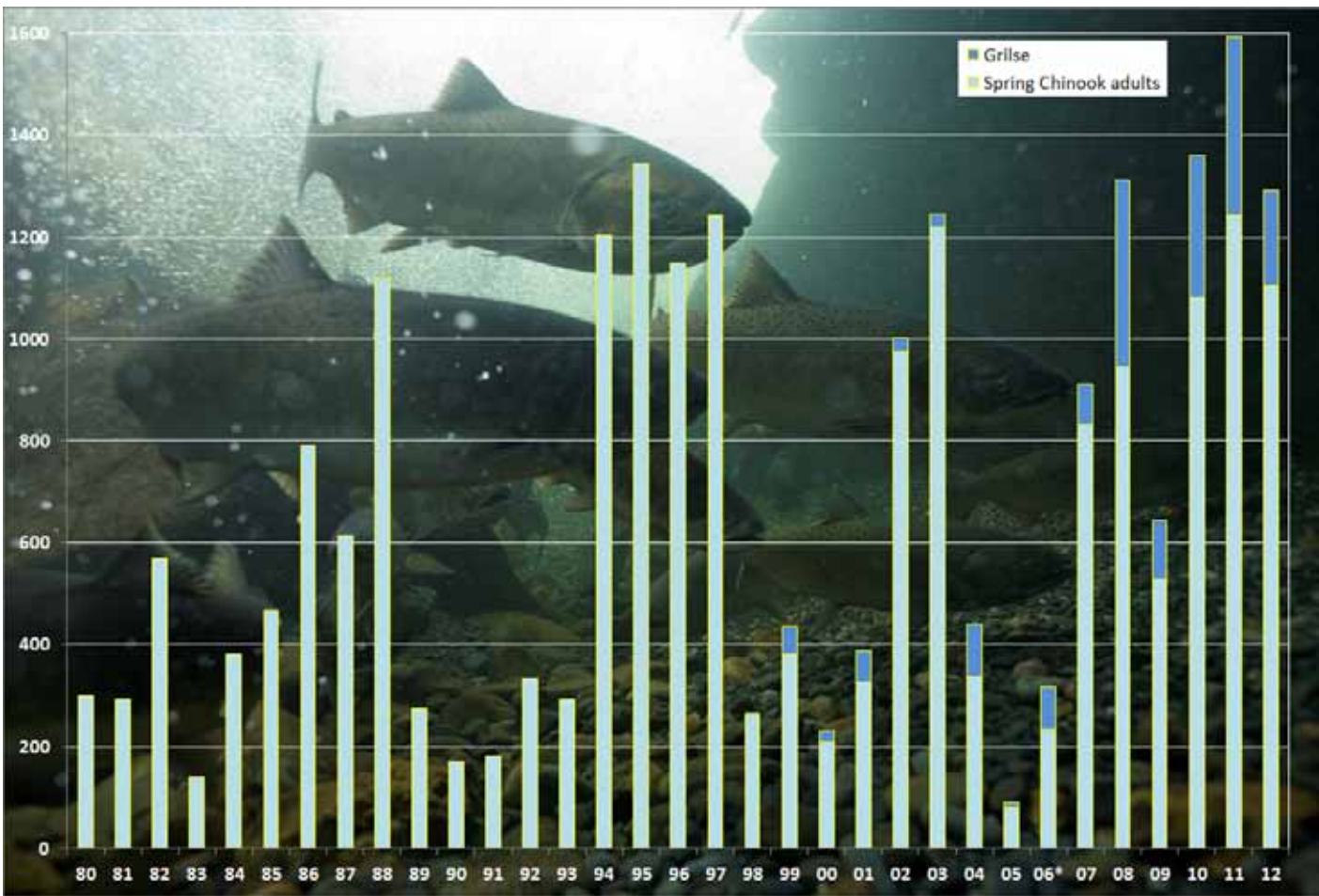
Fall Chinook Memberships - Anita & Alan Boucher, Susanne Cardiff, Kate Censi, Steven Durham, Carl & Marie Flarity, Don Flickenger & Jennifer Silveira, Sharon Goods, Dennis Grady, Daniel Grunbaum, Adele Hines & Dennis Specht, Jim & Suzanne Jennings, Kier Associates, Jan Kieth, Ray Lingel, Judee Mayer & Yvonne Everett, Gene Millburn, John Moriarty, Ahni & Kit Robinson, Steve Robinson, Ross & Hollis, Sandy Bar Ranch, Mary Sobol, Jared & Wilson Strote, Edna Watson

Winter Steelhead Memberships - Backcountry Press, John Brennan, Rance & Greta Broda, Millie Brucker, Jeff Buchin, Max & Nena Creasy, Clara & Alan Crockett Sr., Karen & Dean Davis, Nancy Doman, Fran Forim, Adam & Christine Furlanic, Sarah Jacobs, Peter Leaf Kleinert, Menzies Natives Nursery, Martin Peterson, April (Stevie) Morrison, Deanne Prchal, Luminous Self, Steve & Lee Stefanki, Christopher Ursich, Matt Van Scoyoc, David & Valerie Van Scoyoc

## Thank you to our Funders:

CA Department of Fish & Game, CA Department of Food & Agriculture, CA Department of Conservation, State Water Quality Control Board, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service, Karuk Tribe, CA Fire Safe Council, Firedoll Foundation, Clif Bar Family Foundation, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Fund, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and SRRC Members like You!

**Salmon River Spring Chinook Population Totals 1980 - 2012**  
*Grilse counted separately only since 1999, \*06 Estimation due to inability to survey 35% of the river because of wildfires.*  
 Photo by Michael Bravo



Salmon River Restoration Council  
 PO Box 1089 • 25631 Sawyers Bar RD  
 Sawyers Bar, California 96027  
 530-462-4665 Fax 530-462-4664  
 e-mail: [Info@srrc.org](mailto:Info@srrc.org)  
 website: [www.srrc.org](http://www.srrc.org)

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