



Spring Chinook & Summer Steelhead in the Salmon River, photo by SRRC

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT: Past, Present and Future

It's truly amazing to be one of the sub-basins in the Klamath River Basin! Community-based restoration has responded to the call from resource managers aiming to restore our local watersheds. Since 1992 the Salmon River Restoration Council has helped to lead the charge in this cooperative paradigm by fostering involvement at multiple levels. We are developing and implementing adaptive restoration Programs to address key limiting factors for the anadromous fisheries here.

We are advancing through transitional times for restoration. Dam Removal in the Klamath seems to be on the hori-

zon, which would have enormous positive implications for fish in the entire Basin. Another shift of great impact is the ending of the Klamath Fisheries Task Force. This dedicated group served for over 15 years as a unifying forum to coordinate activities on the local, regional, and basin-wide scales. Increasing shortfalls in government budgets are causing shifting priorities. Expanding impacts from urban sprawl, global economics, and climate change affect us all. We will continue to work towards our restoration goals collectively. We look to our partners for support to help us accomplish our mission to protect our vital watershed. The Salmon River is one the most biologically intact parts of the Basin. It is home to a multitude of uniquely sensitive natural and cultural resources. We count on your support to empower people for the long haul on the road to recovery. We promote effective solutions for the aquatic, riparian, and upslope ecosystems interconnected with our communities in the Salmon River and Beyond!

Our work is directed by the Salmon River Subbasin Restoration Strategy (USFS/SRRC 2002) and prioritized scheduled actions. We've realized that in order to recover the fish of the Salmon River, we also need to restore Klamath meta-populations throughout their historic ranges. This is highlighted by our Spring-run Chinook salmon work. In addition to serving as a recovery blue-print for anadromous fish in the Salmon River, the Strategy was also adopted by the regional water board to serve as the Implementation Plan for the TMDL. The Salmon River is one of the 5 major Subbasins in the Klamath River Basin where a coordinated water and fish restoration strategy is underway.

*below, Thirty fish counters gear up for another day of Fall Chinook Surveys 2007 on the Salmon River.
photo by Nat Pennington, SRRC Fisheries Program Coordinator*

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on the Salmon River

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 Katy Reinhart - *Weed Crew/ Fisheries*
 Irie Swift - *Weed Crew/ Fisheries*
 John Szatkowski - *Fuels Crew*

Current Funders

Bella Vista Foundation
 CA Department of Fish & Game
 CA Fire Safe Council
 Dancing Tides Foundation
 Fish America Foundation
 Forks LLC
 Karuk Tribe
 Mountaineers Foundation
 NOAA
 NOAA Restoration Center
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation
 Outback Power
 Siskiyou County Dept of Agriculture
 Siskiyou County RAC-USFS
 US Dept of Agriculture
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 US Forest Service
 USDI Bureau of Reclamation

Past Funders

Bank of America
 Bureau of Land Management
 CA Dept of Fish & Game SB271
 CTSP
 ESRI
 Frank Culver and other private donors
 For the Sake of the Salmon
 Hewlett Packard
 Humboldt Area Foundation
 Klamath Fisheries Task Force
 McConnell Foundation
 NCRWQCB
 CA Fish and Game Commission
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 Sacramento Regional Foundation
 Trimble

People too numerous to list have contributed **over 10,400 volunteer days (82,741 hours!)** associated with more than 1,038 SRRC sponsored activities and/or projects since 1992.

Board

Petey Brucker - *President*
 Toz Soto - *Vice President*
 Kathy McBroom - *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Will Harling
 Ron Reed
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 Sharon Hoppas
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Here at the SRRRC Watershed Center, we want to acknowledge and thank essential contributions to the River. Invaluable support is provided by community members, landowners, schools, tribes, local organizations and all of our partners in restoration. Through the SRRRC's Community Restoration Program (CRP) we will continue to lead collaborative efforts towards further recovery of our watershed and the greater Klamath Basin.

The SRRRC has been a strong advocate for dam and fish barrier removal in the Klamath River Basin. We have been an active participant in the Klamath Settlement Group. We hope that we all agree to remove the dams, restore the fisheries, and help the communities to be sustainable.

In 2005, the SRRRC created an Accomplishments Report of our Community Restoration Program from 1992 to 2005, which articulates the Council's community based contribution to protecting and restoring the Salmon River (see SRRRC website – www.srrc.org). This publication you're reading serves as an overview of our work since 2005 and is tiered to update our past Accomplishments Report.

We hope that you find this Newsletter helpful in understanding what we have been doing, as well as where your attention and assistance is needed. If you have any questions or would like more information, see our website (www.srrc.org), contact us, or even better, come visit us at the Watershed Center in Sawyers Bar. We're also looking into opening a satellite office soon in Somes Bar, next to the store.

See you Sooner- Petey Brucker

SRRC's Financial Report

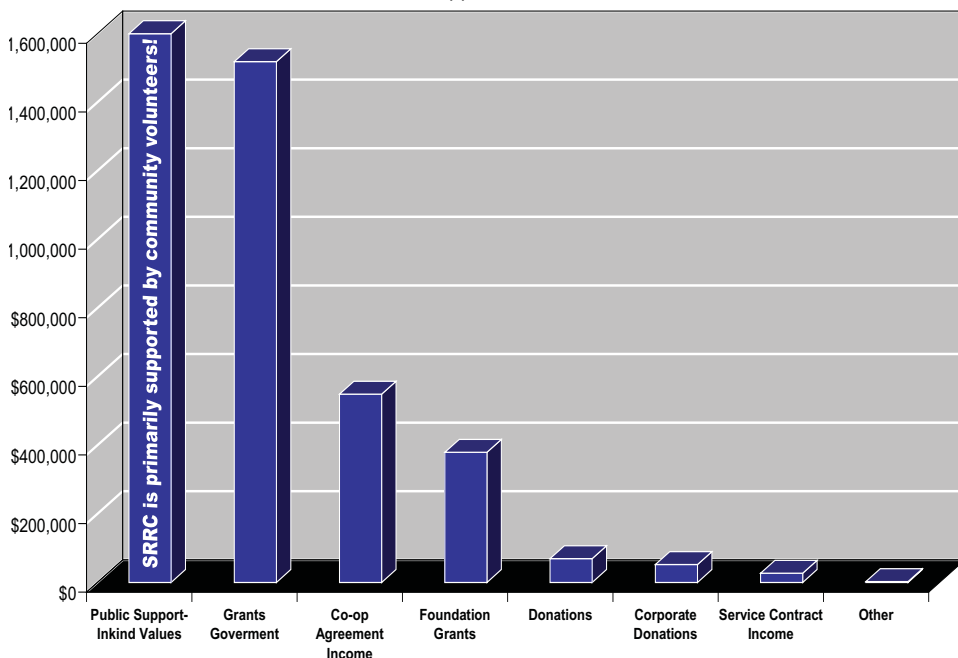


During 2007 the SRRRC received cash funding of \$310,920 from grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and donations. We also recorded \$218,513 in volunteer services, for a preliminary total 2007 income of \$529,432. Our recorded total expenses for the period, including the value of volunteer service were \$556,449 making us truly a non profit. We operated under 28 separate agreements with eleven entities and we employed 32 community members part-time. Wages paid in 2007 were \$129,805 and \$100,349 was paid locally for contract services.

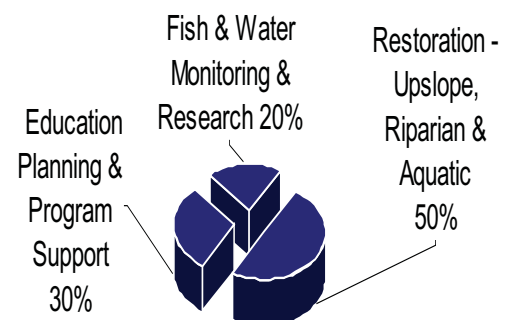
Since 1992, the SRRRC has received over \$2.5 million from grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and donations and given employment to 105 people. We have also recorded over \$1.6 million in volunteer services for a total income of \$4,201,541. Our recorded total expenses since 1992 (including volunteer services) are \$4,168,232 and our Fund Balance (Net Worth) as of December 31, 2007 was \$33,309.

Les Harling & Christi Hadley

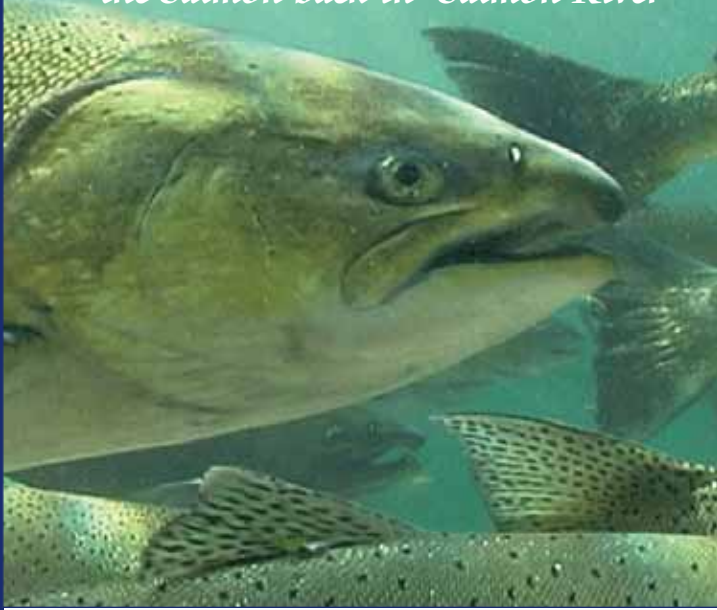
SRRRC Fiscal and Volunteer Support 1992 thru 2007 Totals \$4,201,541.00



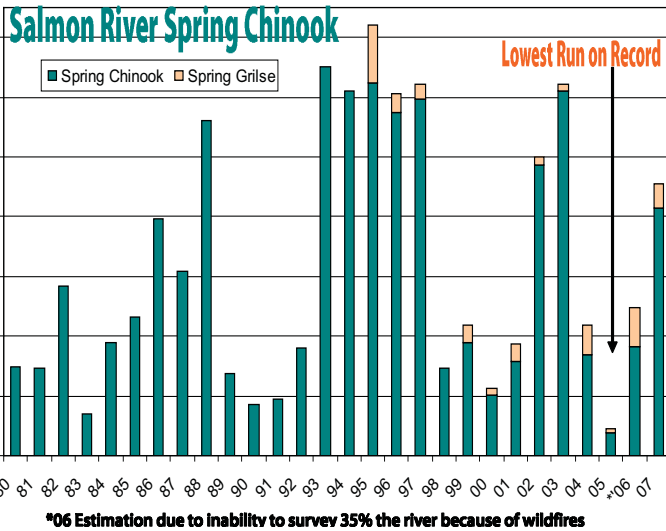
SRRC 2007 CRP Expenditures by Program Area



A Community Investment - Putting the Salmon back in "Salmon River"



The Salmon River community has long known that we as humans are integral to the survival of our local salmon runs. Partnering with the Karuk Tribe, we have learned that salmon are a part of the same natural cycle that brings about our existence. Understanding and participating in that natural world is becoming more challenging as modern life closes in around us. Even on the Salmon River we have not been able to fish for Salmon for over twenty years and the way of life has consequently suffered. The problems that the Salmon River Community and the Salmon River Salmon face are a microcosm for the greater problems humanity faces.



Since SRRC's inception in 1992, years after the river was closed to fishing, we have known that community investment, "people power", is needed to bring the Salmon back.

This is why the Salmon River Fisheries Program has been so successful at mobilizing thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations to contribute time in the Salmon River fishery. They come to share their knowledge, energy and skills, and learn from the experiences of this community.

What sets us apart from many other efforts is that our work is largely un-funded. The Salmon River community, through SRRC, has volunteered more and been paid less per capita than most established salmon restoration efforts.

A Path to Recovery



The Salmon River Restoration Strategy, was developed by the SRRC, the community and Forest Service. Completed in 2002. This document and the Community Restoration Plan guide our efforts.

Some of our accomplishments and ongoing projects include:

- Update SRRC's Community Restoration Plan and the 3 Year Work plan
- Instigating and overseeing research projects which direct restoration and management in the Klamath Basin
- Involve renowned scientists, such as Peter Moyle from the National Research Council, in the collection of that data
- The development of The Spring Chinook Recovery Group even without a ESA listing
- Inspiring government agencies and fisheries managers to acknowledge Klamath Spring Chinook as a separate stock and manage them accordingly (CDFG 2007 emergency regulations)
- Continuing to monitor baseline river conditions
- Attaining crucial, otherwise unavailable population data for Salmon River and Klamath Basin Spring Chinook and other anadromous fish
- Maintaining and expand education and outreach activities/products
- Promote restoration focusing on Coordinated Neighborhood Programs
- Educating a community that actively seeks to restore salmon
- Protecting critical fisheries habitat through work with local suction dredge miners
- Decrease the illegal harvest of the Salmon River Spring Chinook
- Continuing to fix fish passage barriers in the Salmon River
- Continuing to improve cold water refugia areas and rearing habitat on prioritized river sites and tributaries
- Implementing strategies to improve upslope conditions focusing on forests, fuels, and fire
- Expanding control of invasive species
- Revegetate prioritized habitats
- Maintaining aquatic, riparian and upslope monitoring efforts to promote adaptive management
- Developing the Limiting Factors Analysis for Spring Chinook
- Preventing sediment from reaching anadromous streams by completing road restoration

*above, Salmon River Spring Chinook spawning.
below, Yearling Chinook salmon. Photos by Nat Pennington*



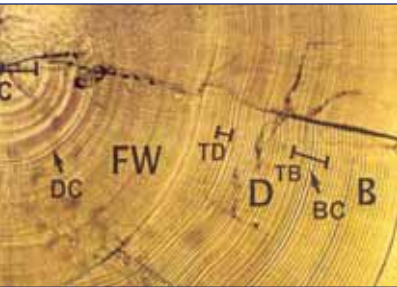


In order to get important answers on Genetic Stock Identification of Klamath Chinook Salmon Populations, the Restoration Council brought on board an entire University wildlife genetics lab. The single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) project is up and running at Humboldt State University and the early results look good. By discovering specific genetic markers for each separate Chinook run in the Klamath, like the Salmon River Spring Chinook run or the Klamath River hatchery run, we can monitor all the life stages of these fish and find out why we are losing most of them. There is also a possibility that with the new genotyping method we are using, fish harvesters in the river and ocean would be able to test the salmon they harvest in the field and see if the run they are catching is comprised of wild or hatchery Chinook. This would allow them to selectively harvest to avoid stocks of concern like Salmon River Springers. Alaska and British Columbia are using this method to divvy up the Yukon salmon which have origins in both U.S. and Canadian tributaries.

Nat Pennington, SRRC Fisheries coordinator, collecting genetic tissue and otoliths from Spring Chinook carcasses on the Salmon River during surveys in late September and October. Photo by Petey Brucker

Another innovative project SRRC has initiated with our partners, involves examining salmon ear bones, called otoliths. These small calcium rich deposits located underneath their brain have growth rings like those of a tree. Unlike tree rings, salmon otolith rings are laid down on a daily basis. By measuring the amount of the element strontium that is present in each ring we can tell where the fish was in the Klamath Basin on the exact day that the ring was laid down. This allows us to identify problem areas in the basin that are preventing the restoration of a healthy Klamath salmon run.

Chinook Otolith daily growth rings, photo by Jane Satori



The Klamath basin, and particularly the Salmon River have an amazing group of folks working for the recovery of our fishery. The SRRC has long been central to increasing coordination amongst these groups. Together we are on the

Recent Fisheries Grants					
Year	Funder	Project	Description	Fed. State or Private funds	In-kind volunteerism
2005-2007	USFS/USFWS	Fall Count	Fish surveys & Observations	\$ 24,155.	\$ 28,017.
2004-2006	Task Force USFWS	Weak Stocks Assessment	Fisheries Assessment & Protection Program	\$20,000.	\$ 57,325.
2005	Task Force USFWS	Screwtrap	Operation of Salmon River Screw Trap	\$ 10,042.	\$ 4,596.
2005-2007	CA F&G	Weak Stocks Assessment	see above Weak stocks	\$ 39,623.	\$ 75,608.
2006-2007	Karuk Tribe USFWS	Screwtrap	see above Screwtrap	\$ 9,770.	\$ 1,195.
2006-2007	CA F&G	Klamath Genetic Salmon ID	see 1st paragraph in article	\$56,725.	\$18,090.
2007-2008	CA F&G	Weak Stocks Assessment	see above Weak stocks	Partial funding secured, contract in development.	

brink of an amazing accomplishment, the restoration of the Klamath Salmon. At SRRC and on the Salmon River in general we are dedicated to that goal and have a working template to share with the world. The SRRC fisheries program wholeheartedly thanks you for your help in accomplishing that goal.

Through our combined efforts, the Salmon River Restoration Team is growing. Our Spring Salmon Symposium, cosponsored in 2007 by the Salmonid Restoration Federation, brought hundreds of restorationists to Forks of Salmon for a week of networking, restoration, planning, and education. At SRRC we believe that a well planned, educated and coordinated approach is the only way to make progress in restoring our salmon runs. From academia to the media, the Symposium had it all. This event was truly inspirational to all who attended. Over 150 people participated in the Symposium, field trips, and the Salmon River Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead Dives.

Salmon River Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead using cold water refugia in early August.

Photo by Nat Pennington

We topped the week off with a Restoration Celebration – Jammin’ for the Salmon, where we, along with the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, educated over 500 attendees through the event’s speakers, performances, workshops, and music with a message.

The Dives are one of the most important components in the effort to restore the once million strong Klamath Spring Chinook run. They involve approximately 70 participants for several days of work surveying over 80 miles of habitat. SRRC provides food, facilities and critical coordination for the event.

In 2007, both the dives and the symposium were put together by SRRC fisheries program volunteers because our grants had not been funded. This amounted to \$24,000.00 in voluntary efforts on behalf of Spring Chinook in just one week.





Community members, school kids and SRRC staff monitoring water temperatures and flow.



The Klamath River Fisheries Task Force identified high water temperatures and excessive sediment production as the key limiting factors for the anadromous fisheries in the Salmon River subbasin.

Goals of the Monitoring Program;

- Establishing baseline data
- Correlating temperatures with fish behavior
- Identifying fisheries refugia conditions
- Identifying opportunities to improve habitat
- Involving community members in the monitoring process
- Assessing restoration effectiveness
- Supporting the implementation of the Salmon River TMDL

In addition to temperature monitoring, the SRRC, Karuk Tribe, and USFS have been cooperating on a flow monitoring program for the past eight years. Flow measurements are made at 15-20 sites once a month during the low-water season, and provide important data on the volume of water in the river and its tributaries *see photo, below*. The flow monitoring program focuses on tributaries, which contribute crucial cold water to the Salmon River during the summer months.

The SRRC began coordinating the Salmon River Cooperative Monitoring Program in 1996. Since that time, the program has expanded both in its number of cooperators and its focus.

The Salmon River temperature monitoring program is a cooperative effort involving SRRC staff, local schools, community volunteers, the Karuk Tribe, the US Forest Service, the CA Dept. of Fish & Game, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Training is offered for community members wishing to participate in this program. Between 5-10 citizen monitors help in the summer months, with the approximately 50 temperature data loggers throughout the watershed. The temperature monitoring program provides data to the Klamath River Information System, agencies, tribes, and the TMDL implementation process.

The SRRC recently received funding from the Bureau of Reclamation to have thermal infrared imagery of the Salmon River completed. The images will detect cooling and warming inputs to the river, such as tributaries, surface springs, and in-channel seeps. In summer 2008, the thermal infrared flyover will be done on the entire Mainstem Salmon River, the lower 23 miles of the North Fork Salmon, and the lower 26 miles of the South Fork Salmon. This will encompass the majority of the habitat utilized by anadromous fish on the Salmon River.

In the past several years the SRRC and the Karuk Tribe have cooperated to complete a Thermal Refugia Assessment for anadromous fish species of the Salmon River. The purpose of the project has been to locate, inventory and characterize all thermal refugia sites in the Salmon River.

The data gathered helps to:

- Determine life stage and species usage at Salmon River thermal refugia and other high value habitat (refugia)
- Establish baseline relationship between Water Temperature and Fish Usage at primary sites on the Salmon River
- Characterize habitat quality and complexity of each site
- Determine extent and area of refugia sites
- Develop a GIS layer of refugia sites
- Determine stability and habitat control features of each site

Recent Water Monitoring Grants Received

Year	Funder	Project	Description	Fed. State or Private funds	Inkind volunteerism
2003	USFS/ Regional Water Board	Temperature Monitoring	Gathering water temperature data used for developing Total Maximum Daily Load	\$12,981.	\$27,503.
2004-2006	CDFG	Watershed Monitoring	Gathering water temperature data	\$12,000.	\$11,117.
2007-2008	BOR	Temperature Dynamics	Conducting a FLIR of the Salmon River	\$49,378.	\$9,348.



Funding for the initial stages of our Riparian Restoration Project has come from Bella Vista Foundation.

Riparian Restoration Project - Shading the Salmon River

In June, 2005 the Salmon River Total Maximum Daily Load study (TMDL) was released. The TMDL determined that the Salmon River is temperature impaired, and that the best way to address the problem is to increase riparian shade. In response to that, the Restoration Council developed a project to assess the river's riparian zone. The assessment located areas that are deficient in vegetation (including tailing piles), and decided whether there is potential for planting more vegetation at the site. Restoration of a site will depend on accessibility, flood risk, soil type, cost and other factors. Some sites will be able to be planted or enhanced by hand; others will require large scale and more complex site preparation.

Field work was completed early this year. Based on the field assessments, we have prioritized all the sites and will begin developing implementation plans and completing NEPA documentation for three river reaches that contain some of the highest priority sites. **The reaches where we will be planting trees on barren stream banks to enhance fisheries habitat are on the North Fork from the Sawyers Bar to Red Bank campground; on the lower South Fork from 0.5 mile post to Negro Creek; and on the upper South Fork along Caribou Road to the South Fork Trail head.** Danny Hagans with Pacific Watershed Associates is working with us on this project.



We have established a native plant nursery at the Watershed Center to grow our own plants to shade the river. If any community members want to help this project by growing various plants we encourage your participation.

Conifers, cottonwood, oaks, willows, and other native plants fill the greenhouse. Jim and our 2006 Americorps worker installing the misters.



top, Our Solar Pathfinder determines holes in the treeline that we might be able to fill. It is available for public use. above, Crews collected shade data, tree species, soil type and other information into the GPS unit for prioritizing riparian restoration.

If you would like to know more or get involved in the Riparian Restoration project or the native plant nursery, please contact Jim or Lyra at the Watershed Center.



Students suiting up in waders preparing to help with the fall surveys.

Visit our Watershed Ed page on the web www.srrc.org to see what we've been up to since 1992.

Watershed Ed continues to facilitate the annual fall Chinook survey training, and we love to get out on fall days to participate in the annual cooperative fall spawning ground surveys. Students got a chance to do something different when we participated in the springer survey a week before fall surveys began. We all went up the North Fork to Sawyers Bar, to survey reaches of the



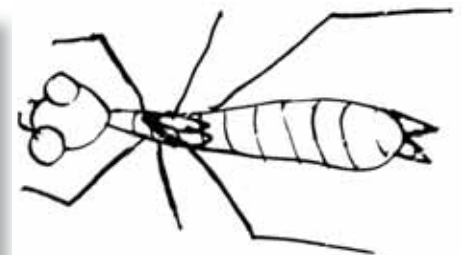
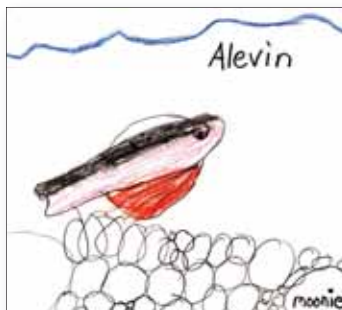
river and visit the Watershed Center. The student's professional work on these surveys was highly appreciated.

Watershed Education on the Salmon River can mean a big field trip to the estuary to learn about the larger watershed, or it can be as small as the macroinvertebrates in the nearest creek. Junction and Forks of Salmon Elementary school students are learning about our world in a variety of ways.

We continually seek to build upon the already strong alliance with the education programs of the Karuk Tribe of CA, AmeriCorps, MKWC and local schools. The SRRC has been helping to implement a Watershed Education Program in local school curriculum for over 15 years.

Our current program integrates specialists, students, teachers, parents and community members in engaging, hands on activities. Watershed education is a natural place to learn about physical and biological sciences.

below, Students working on their Watershed Ed Nature Journals.



Fish and dragonfly larvae are student art from the River schools Watershed Ed classes. above, Taking otoliths from carcasses during a survey.



One of the more exciting developments is the increasing volunteerism the community is providing. Many local people came together for the Watershed Fair in May 2007. This is an annual event that has traditionally gathered people to learn about the Salmon River bioregion and the watershed education programs. The local expertise available provided an exciting day full of theater, fish printing, gold panning, a native plant tea party, live native fish and a traditional cooking demonstration. The wealth of knowledge within our community is an irreplaceable asset as we teach children about this place and help them find their roles. Students have learned about job opportunities from local professionals in areas like fisheries, fire management, noxious weed eradication and more.

On Kelly Gulch SRRC has initiated a tributary enhancement project to improve habitat for juvenile and adult salmon.

For the SRRC, it started when Kelly Gulch was the first place in California that the dreaded noxious weed, Spotted Knapweed, was found. We initiated our acclaimed Community Noxious Weed Program, "Can You Dig It", at Kelly's. Now knapweed sightings are down 99% in the entire Salmon River!

In more recent years, barrier removal and creek mouth enhancement projects have allowed juvenile Spring Chinook and Coho to swim up the Gulch. We saw 1200 juvenile Chinook using this habitat in 2003. Then again, in the spring of 2004, juveniles flocked to Kelly Gulch through the recently improved Creek Mouth Enhancement Project.

The Restoration Council and Karuk Tribe have facilitated a fish passage project on Kelly Gulch for adult Steelhead and Coho. **Along with the many volunteer creek mouth enhancement work days, plans were developed for the removal of a fish blocking culvert at the County Road crossing at Kelly's. Fortunately, the SRRC had been successful eradicating the Spotted Knapweed population that was holding the project up.** In 2006 the culvert was removed and a fish friendly bridge was put in its place. The project was assisted by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game and the Five County Salmonid Conservation Program. The SRRC, the Karuk Tribe and the USFS also assisted with project development and implementation. Siskiyou County public works department implemented the bridge installation. The SRRC is performing restoration effectiveness monitoring surveys to assess the benefit of the project.

We have a good grasp of the requirements of adult salmonids for spawning migration and have buttoned up many of the problems. Now we are repairing the juvenile rearing habitat. Kelly Gulch is our model juvenile salmon and steelhead rearing area enhancement project. Aspects of the project include; increasing cover and volume of the side channel wetlands area that forms on lower Kelly Gulch, and restoring permanent stream connectivity to the Salmon River.

SRRC discovered the importance of rearing areas for Spring Chinook through its otolith research project with the Karuk Tribe and USF&WS (See the Summer 2006 newsletter on our website www.srrc.org). The stream was home to thousands of juvenile spring Chinook for several crucial months in 2004 and juvenile Coho were present in 2005. Over one thousand locally grown willow, conifer, and hardwood trees have been planted by volunteers in the wetlands area for water cooling shade and cover. An old roadway that went right through the stream has been decommissioned and planted with native vegetation. Four volunteer stream mouth enhancement workdays have dramatically improved the accessibility of the stream and wetlands for juvenile and adult salmon and a log structure placed in the stream channel by SRRC improved the stability of water levels in wetlands rearing area. We also replanted the footprint of the fish barrier removal project with Alder, Willow, Cottonwood and Conifers that were grown in our riparian nursery.

Photos, SRRC volunteers planting willows at Kelly Gulch juvenile rearing nursery area, a fish passage barrier removal site..



What one Spring Chinook would say to another Spring Chinook upon finding Kelly Gulch:
*"Hey good looking, nice gulch you got here."
 Other Springer - "Thanks, I just had it restored."*



View of the Caribou Fire 2006



Fire Planning, Fire Safe Council & Fuel Reduction

Salmon River Fuel Reduction Grants & Accomplishments

Grant	Funder	Amount	Acres	Parcels
JITW Part 1 & Part 2 (Also included erosion control and tree planting)	USFWS	\$92,000.	47.75	13
JITW 97 & JITW 98	USFWS	\$61,868.	91.83	34
JITW 2001	USFWS	\$39,052.	72.0	9
CBWP 2001	BLM	\$42,009.	52.75	3
JITW 2002	USFWS	\$58,577.	40.0	5
TF 2002 FR	USFWS	\$47,736.	14.75	7
SB RAC 2003	USFS	\$27,600.	18.5	
CBWP 2003 Forks	BLM	\$34,738.	28.5	6
CBWP 2004 Cecilville	BLM	\$34,738.	28	8
Godfrey Blue Ridge 2006	USFS	\$47,000.	25	6
Fuels Reduction 2007 (Crew is working now)	USFS	\$92,449.	50	3
Forks of Salmon Fire Hydrants	USFS Siskiyou Co. RAC	\$13,000.		
SR FSC Cecilville Tanks	USFS Siskiyou Co. RAC	\$13,000.		
100 Foot Defensible Space (Crew is working now)	USFS Siskiyou Co. RAC	\$29,000.	25-50	24
Totals		\$633,000.	500+	118

Starting in 1994, the SRRC began writing proposals for fuel reduction on private and public property in the Salmon River Watershed. With the exception of one grant (Klamath River Fisheries Task Force Fuel Reduction Grant 2002), the funding we have received has only been for work on private property.

In 2000, we started the Salmon River Fire Safe Council (SR FSC) in order to get more involvement from agencies and the community on fire issues. To date, SRRC has coordinated four grants for SR FSC to complete detailed Community Wildfire Protection Plans. **We believe our program has stimulated agency personnel, as well as the community, to have a better understanding of fire's role in the watershed and what we can all do to reduce the risk of fire damage to our properties and the public lands surrounding them.**

Current projects we are seeking funding for include initiating and maintaining fuels management projects, road signs, revising the residential risk assessment, and developing informational posters and presentations.

The SRRC realized early on that management activities such as fire suppression have actually increased the size and intensity of larger wildfires in many areas of the Klamath Mountains.

Over the years we have been developing a fuels reduction program, which has morphed into a fire and fuels program. Included in this program is education about Fire Safe landscaping and building materials, prioritized fuel reduction projects, Fire Awareness Week, Volunteer Fuels Reduction workdays, Fuels Loading Assessment workshops and Fire Safety Training.



Fuels Reduction Thinning Project field trip with SRRC staff, community members and USFS to discuss prescriptions in old growth habitat.



top, Volunteers at a Fuels Reduction workday for a Salmon River home. lower, Oops! The new 5,000 gallon Cecilville Fire Department water tank will help reduce tanker fill impact to fish was completed this year. It momentarily got away from these guys! Luckily it was filled with dehydrated water.



Tools of the trade.



The SRRC and its partners (USFS, Siskiyou Co. Dept. of Agriculture, Karuk Tribe, and others) started the Salmon River Cooperative Noxious Weed Program (CNWP) in 1994. We began holding regular noxious weed Workshops and Workdays, initially focusing on Scotch & Spanish Brooms and Marlahan Mustard. The SRRC and its cooperators expanded noxious weed control to 15 prioritized species including Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds, Italian Thistle, Tree of Heaven, White Top, Poison Hemlock, Teasel, Pampas Grass, Fennel, and others throughout the Salmon River. Funding from the CA Dept of Agriculture has provided multiple years of support to combat incipient invaders on private property. This means we have been able to work extensively towards elimination of a large population of Italian Thistle in downtown Forks of Salmon. We have used a variety of manual techniques (see photos), with inspiring and notably effective results.



We start 'em young! This little girl is wielding the specially adapted weed tool and going after Italian thistle.

Knapweeds were first discovered on the Salmon River in 1997, with the most concentrated populations on Kelly Bar. Both species have "Class A" ratings by the County and State Departments of Agriculture mandating eradication. Local land managers promoted the status quo management approach, which was to apply herbicides. This prompted a surge of community support for manual eradication efforts, and volunteers have been manually removing knapweed ever since, with amazing results. Extensive planning, inventory, tracking, monitoring, and coordination have resulted in over 99% reduction of Spotted knapweed plants throughout the watershed over the past 10 years. Through our exact tracking of plant treatment we're able to demonstrate the viability of our program. CA Invasive Plants Council recently recognized the SRRC's achievement with a cash award!



Fire Safe Council

Through the FSC we have been working on a **Salmon River Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** which address es towns, neighborhoods and residences. This Plan also addresses the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), WUI areas can be defined by the community in cooperation with the USFS and CA Dept. of Forestry. The CWPP was signed on October 30th 2007. The complete Community Wildfire Protection Plan can be accessed from the SRRC web page. In the Fire Management page you can also learn about the fire history of this watershed.

Having a Wildfire Protection Plan in place to define conditions and priorities, should allow the Salmon River to have a better chance for receiving money through various funding sources. The safety buffer we are currently considering for WUI areas is 200-300, with 1/4 mile buffer around Private properties, 200-300 feet on either side of emergency access routes, domestic water use watersheds and special WUI areas.



We hold monthly meetings where we discuss progress on our different projects, and participants share things they have been working on. Participants include the SRRC as facilitator, Salmon River Volunteer Fire & Rescue, the Karuk Tribe, residents, landowners, the USFS, local business owners, Siskiyou County, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and other stakeholders. The meetings are usually 1pm on the last Wednesday of the month at the Forks of Salmon Community Center. Everyone interested in Fire on the Salmon River is invited. Please check with our office at 530-462-4665 to confirm meeting time and date.



Forks Fire 2002



Photo taken near the Godfrey Ranch after lightning caused fires to rip through the watershed in 1987. Many structures were lost in this devastating fire.

The Salmon River FSC mission statement:

“...to help plan, implement and monitor the reinstatement of natural fire regimes in the Salmon River ecosystem in a manner that protects life, property, improves forest health, and enhances the resources valued by its stakeholders.”



Fuels Reduction crew working on a homeowners land and the beautiful results! Our 100 Foot Defensible Space project will treat around structures throughout the subbasin.

A key prescription in the CWPP for “Fire Safeing” Emergency Access and Escape Routes. Ideally, there should be 2 ways in and out maintained to specifications. This includes regular cleaning and brushing roads creating wide enough accommodations for fire fighting equipment, and traffic turnouts. These key roads not only reduced the threat to people, they can help break up the landscape into fire management areas. We have developed an Assessment and Implementation Plan for which we are seeking funding.

The local community launched the most effective noxious weed eradication efforts known in the region, significantly reducing or eliminating knapweed plant concentrations in over 250 sites.



Italian Thistle

Treatment - Digging

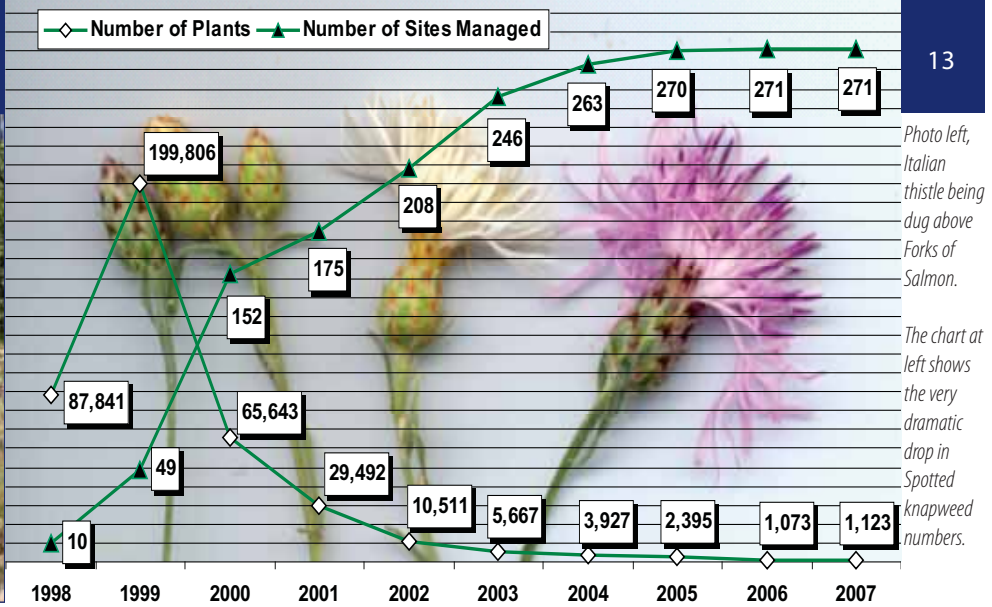


Photo left, Italian thistle being dug above Forks of Salmon.

The chart at left shows the very dramatic drop in Spotted knapweed numbers.

The following chart documents volunteer funding provided by our Community, and grants obtained by the Salmon River Restoration Council, from various sources. Current funding comes from grants made by the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee, USFS and the CA Dept. of Agriculture-Siskiyou County. These grants support management efforts for prioritized noxious weed species on public and private lands throughout the Salmon River, as well as education. Beyond the 2008 season, there is a lack of funding for continuing treatment on public lands.

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Volunteerism in Dollars	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$48,000	\$32,000	\$15,040	\$34,000	\$16,560	\$12,480	\$9,500	\$17,000	\$34,800
Grant Funding	\$0	\$1,900	\$10,000	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$29,000	\$26,000	\$10,000	\$16,000	\$17,900



Marlahan Mustard

Prompted largely by the intensive management of the knapweed species, the SRRC with its partners developed the Salmon River CNWP Comprehensive Management Plan. The Plan aims at the recovery of healthy native plant communities in the Salmon River, through the prioritizing and development of prescriptions to manage the most aggressive and problematic invasive species. It can be viewed in its entirety in the Publications page of our newly updated web page www.SRRC.org.



photo far left, SRRC started its "Drivers That Care" Program to help control Marlahan Mustard along the major roads in the Salmon River. Population numbers, size and density have been significantly reduced adjacent to the main county road from Etna Summit to Wooley Creek.

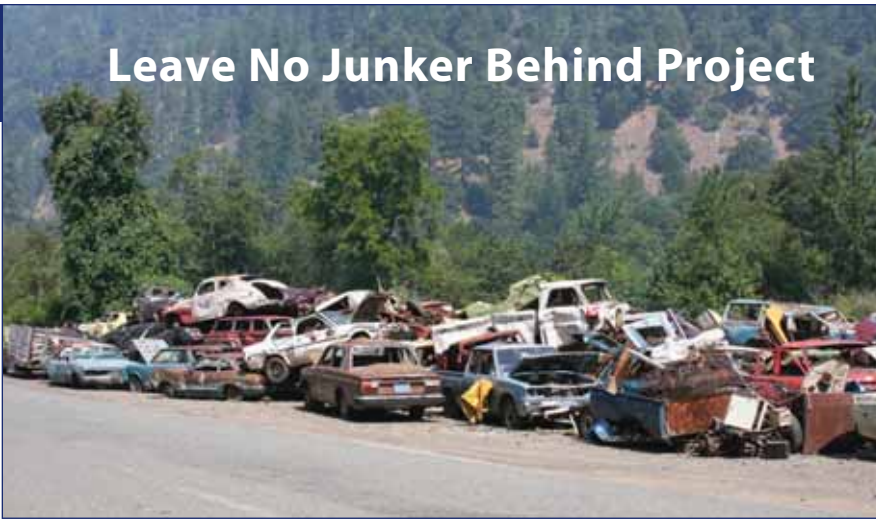
Community volunteers, school kids and SRRC crews digging it!

Treatment - Digging

Our most precious investment has clearly been the enlistment of community members in partnership. The diverse participants in our program have provided a more continuous, thorough and dedicated watch over the vegetation in our watershed than land managers would have believed possible. As noxious weed issues gain increasing publicity both regionally and internationally for their costs to wildlife, agriculture and land management, the Salmon River Community is poised to prevent and/or eliminate new infestations in our area, and offers a model of success that can help other communities succeed as well.



Leave No Junker Behind Project



In March 2004, SRRC received a grant from the USFS through the Siskiyou Co. Resource Advisory Committee to inventory abandoned and/or unwanted vehicles, large appliances and scrap metal on public and private property in the Salmon River drainage. We found plenty. This was followed in 2006 by the "Leave No Junker Behind, Phase 2" project. We coordinated the collection of more than 330 junkers, from motorcycles to school buses, and an astounding 630 tons of scrap metal, tons of tires and batteries to three crusher sites covering over 5 acres.

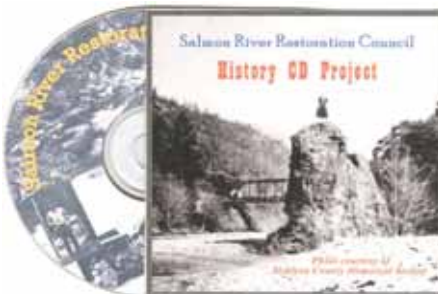
North State Recycling then crushed and hauled off 32 semi loads of scrap metal to Redwood City. The drivers coped with our logistical conditions - narrow, winding one lane river roads and the steep climb over the summit - scary even in a smaller truck. Unfortunately for all involved, the Uncle's Fire added dense smoke and fire traffic into the mix. The word "Epic" was used to describe it by many of us.

Some Epic Numbers:

- 2000 mostly volunteer hours
- 332 junk vehicles removed from the Watershed
- 625 tons of scrap no longer rusting here
- 32 semi loads of scrap junk gone
- 37 tons of tires no longer harboring mosquitoes and spoiling the view



History CD Project and the Ongoing Collection of Area History



A few years back, through a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation, we accumulated thousands of historical images from the Salmon River area. Over 500 images became part of a CD cataloging the rich history of the area through stories, video interviews, maps and photos. It's available through our web page or give SRRC a call.

The SRRC is keeping up the collection of Salmon River history, both the really old and the current generation's stories and photos. When we've collected enough, we hope to make a sequel to the History CD.

If you would like to add your photographs, maps, documents, etc. to the ongoing archive collection, either for another History CD or just for the archives, we can scan them at the Watershed Center or at your convenience. If you would like to view the History CD, visit the Watershed Center in Sawyers Bar and we'd be glad to set you up on one of the computers available for community use.

River Clean Up



Raft full of scrap metal which won't be cutting any ones foot or ripping a raft now.

The SRRC and the Forks of Salmon Community Club have organized yearly River and Road Clean Up Days to walk, float in tubes or rafts, or drive to pick up trash. Trash clean-up days have often been coordinated with Coastal Cleanup Day and sponsored by the CA Coastal Commission. Watch for posters and join us for the next one. They're fun! Ongoing participation by knapweeders, water monitors, fish counters, Forest Service fire crews, county sponsored Adopt-A-Hwy (SRRC acquired a section of the Main Stem this year), and ongoing diligence by concerned citizens have helped keep the Salmon River Watershed cleaner, safer and that much more beautiful. Since 1997, over 500 volunteer hours, 60 pickup loads of trash and 22 tons of debris (including a 20 ton bridge by Les Harling and crew) have been documented by the SRRC during Road Cleanup days.



55 gallons of used motor oil found abandoned by the river during a volunteer cleanup day. SRRC arranged for disposal. by USFS

The Watershed Center distributes pamphlets, videos, books and current recycling info. Check out our website for the nearest recycling facilities for used oil, batteries and other hazardous household waste.

Fish barriers occur naturally, but with our need to drive on roads to get around, man-made barriers such as culverts are common. Many of the once thriving fisheries streams in the west are being choked out due to huge inputs of sediment. The SRRC, in cooperation with local landowners, tribes, agencies, private specialists, and others has developed a multifaceted approach to understand and help manage the roads of the Salmon River.

Two fish barrier assessments have been completed on the Salmon River, one by the 5 County Program which identified culverts on County roads needing replacement and one by the Forest Service on Federal roads. The streams identified on the county roads were Merrill Creek, Kelly Gulch, Whites Gulch, and Hotelling Gulch. In 2002, the Merrill Creek culvert crossing was replaced with a bridge. In 2006, the Kelly Gulch culvert crossing was replaced with a bridge. Both of these projects were paid for with CA Dept. of Fish & Game funding and the work was completed by the Siskiyou County Public Works Department. This cooperative effort made over one mile of habitat available for Spring & Fall Chinook and Winter Steelhead.

The SRRC with our partners, the Karuk Tribe and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, completed spawning surveys on Merrill Creek before and after the bridge, and planted willows to stabilize the new creek bank. There are now fish spawning there!

Merrill Creek culvert acting as a fish barrier



Salmonid habitat opened up and stabilized.



Whites Gulch Dam Removal: The culvert at Whites Gulch will be replaced with a bridge, but first we will be taking out two small diversion dams identified as fish barriers. The lower dam is not being used, while the upper dam (*photo above*) is being used by a landowner for power generation. The SRRC has a grant from the CA Dept. of Fish & Game and one from the Fish America Foundation/NOAA to remove these dams and install a new inlet above a natural fish barrier to deliver water to the private property. We have completed NEPA and have all the permits in place to complete the project in August of 2008. The 5 County Program has applied for funding to plan for the replacement of the Whites Gulch County culvert with a bridge.



Hotelling Gulch Stream Crossing & Channel Realignment: The last fish barrier on the County road through the Salmon River area is at Hotelling Gulch (*photo above*). This is a complicated project since past hydraulic mining and the '64 flood have drastically altered the stream course where it crosses the County road. We are funded to complete a feasibility study to determine the best course of action to correct this problem.



We've completed a sediment source assessment of all of the federal and many of the private roads in the Salmon River. The Lower South Fork roads were assessed in 1999; the North Fork and Mainstem roads in 2000; and the Upper South Fork roads in 2001. The job consisted of assessing all crossings, cross drains, ditches and in between sites (landslides, gullies and other erosional features), as well as GPS mapping of all the roads in the watershed. An overall ranking was then made and collected on maps. We're currently working on restoration plans for private road fixes.

Salmon River Restoration Council

www.srrc.org

info@srrc.org



We all need to work together to improve the quality of our watershed.

CONTACT US! Volunteer!

Become an SRRC Member!

Visit www.SRRC.org for info

(All contributions are tax deductible)

SRRC's Mission Statement - Our 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, resource users, managing agencies, Native American Tribes, academia, and other stakeholders.

SRRC's Watershed Education Program coordinates with local schools for student participation in the Fall Carcass and Redd Survey.



Salmon River Restoration Council

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