

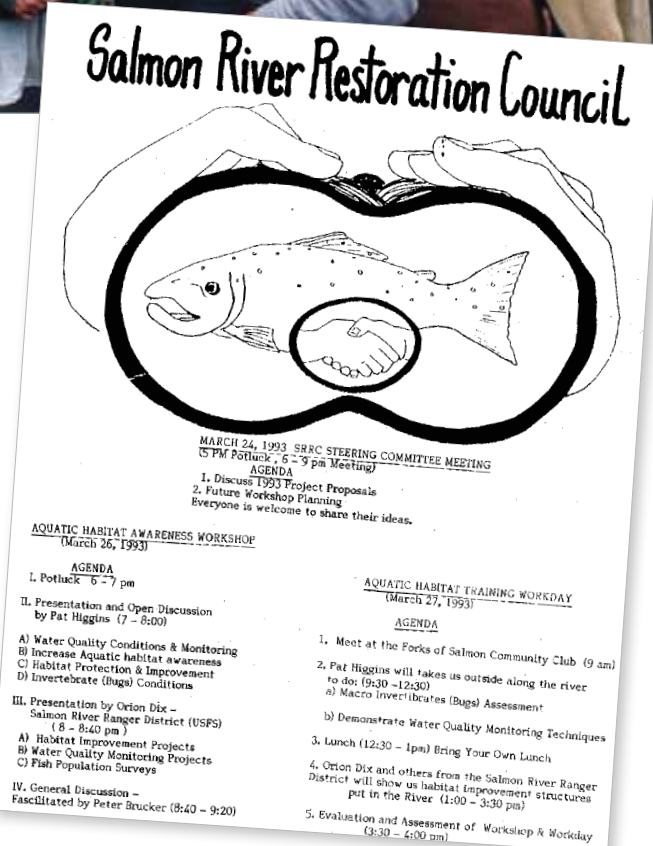
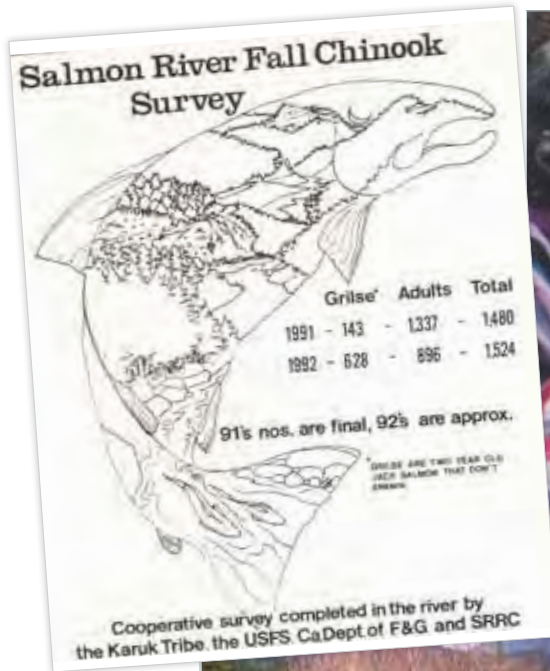


Salmon River Restoration Council

1992 to 2022

Accomplishments Report: 30 Years of Restoration!





The Salmon River Restoration Council celebrated 30 years of working to protect and restore the Salmon River watershed in 2022! During this time SRRC and the Salmon River community have accomplished a lot to be proud of, coming together on numerous issues that we all care about – from protecting our spring Chinook salmon from extinction, to keeping herbicides out of the watershed, and adapting our communities to wildfire.

Our efforts began in 1992, when a group of Salmon River community members received support from the Klamath Fisheries Task Force to host a series of educational workshops for the Salmon River communities. The “Salmon Ed” workshops, as they were known, brought together community activists and artists, loggers and miners, tribal members and US Forest Service employees to learn about and create awareness of our river’s dwindling spring Chinook population. The community response was overwhelmingly positive. Illegal fish harvest was reduced and local involvement in restoration increased. The local community’s growing desire to be involved in the protection and restoration of the river’s fish runs led to the formation of the Salmon River Restoration Council, which incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1995.

We have always worked hard to bring people together around the work of restoration, from the early days of USFS biologists and volunteers counting fish and digging knapweed together, to our co-founder Petey Brucker’s long years of consensus building around Klamath dam removal. Our programs have

grown and expanded over the years in our effort to keep all aspects of our watershed healthy, from the fish to the forests to the community. As an organization, SRRC has changed a lot, growing from a ragtag group of volunteers driven to take care of this place by passion and grit, into a highly-qualified staff of restoration professionals working on projects at a scale that will help keep this watershed resilient into the future. Through the years of growth and change our vision of being part of a community that takes responsibility for the stewardship of the river that it loves has held firm.

We’re very proud to share our accomplishments with you in this 30th anniversary edition of our newsletter and we hope that our work inspires you to get involved in the challenging but joyful act of restoration wherever you call home.

Cover photo top, Noxious weed crew looking for Italian thistle enjoy their work environment! Cover photo bottom, 2009 SRRC fisheries crew on a spawning survey by Ford Lowcock. This page, photo top right, 1993 Aquatic Habitat Awareness Workshop with Pat Higgins (with poster for the event below the photo). Photo left, 1996 Riparian planting project at Petersburg. Posters by S.J.Hugdahl. Unless otherwise noted, all photos within are from the SRRC archives.

SRRC’s Top 10 Accomplishments



Spring Chinook Recovery

Substantially decreased the illegal harvest of Salmon River spring Chinook through educational workshops and workdays, helping to inspire an engaged community of local fish conservationists. Successfully petitioned the State of California to list spring Chinook under the Endangered Species Act.



Klamath Dam Removal

Participated in and signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement for the removal of Klamath River dams and the restoration of Klamath River fisheries.



River Restoration

Completed the largest salmon habitat restoration project ever undertaken in the Salmon River watershed. The Kelly Bar project created off-channel fish habitat that will provide rearing habitat during high winter flows and restored diverse riparian vegetation. Several similar projects are being planned.



Pesticide Free Watershed

Managed 20 species of noxious weeds on over 550 sites throughout the watershed with manual techniques, preventing the use of herbicides in the watershed and aiding in the protection of healthy and diverse native plant communities.



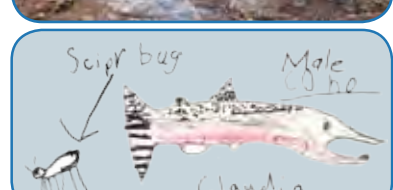
Leave No Junker Behind

Over 330 junk vehicles, 625 tons of scrap metal, and 37 tons of tires were removed from the watershed and recycled in 2006. This project involved more than 2000 hours of volunteer work.



Fire Safe Community

Completed over 1,600 acres of fuels reduction and prescribed fire, reducing fire risk and raising wildfire awareness in the Salmon River. Coordinated the Salmon River Community Liaison Program since 2009 in order to provide accurate and current information, maps, and strategy during wildfire events.



Nature in the Classroom

Provided watershed education to Salmon River schools for 28 years, bringing up the next generation of natural resource professionals



Fish Barrier Removal

Restored access to over 8 miles of anadromous fish habitat through several fish barrier removal and stream restoration projects.



Fish Friendly Roads

Completed sediment source assessments for all federal and most private roads in the watershed, totaling nearly 900 miles of road and leading to extensive road restoration efforts by the USFS and SRRC.



Local Restoration Economy

We’ve long been the largest employer in the Salmon River Watershed, creating restoration jobs for Salmon River residents since 1992 and providing critical economic opportunity in our remote area. We’ve also contributed over \$4 million to the restoration economy since 2013 by hiring local and regional contractors for large scale restoration projects.

Fisheries Program



Thirty years ago the SRRC was born out of the community's desire to conserve and restore the fisheries of the Salmon River. In 1992, a series of cooperative salmon education workshops highlighted the imperiled state of the river's fisheries and prompted a powerful response from community members to reduce poaching and become actively engaged in the monitoring and management of Salmon River fish populations. The SRRC Fisheries Program continues to build upon that original sentiment, working with volunteers as well as with tribal, federal, state, and non-profit partners in the restoration and monitoring of our native fish. The Salmon River is one of the last remaining strongholds for spring-run Chinook salmon in the Klamath basin, and the SRRC Fisheries Program remains dedicated to their recovery.



Ongoing Projects

Salmon River Spring Chinook & Summer Steelhead Cooperative Dive

In collaboration with the Klamath National Forest, SRRC has hosted a spring Chinook and summer steelhead census since 1996. This volunteer driven effort has generated a long-term population trends dataset. Approximately 80 fisheries professionals and community volunteers snorkel the entire Salmon River in a single day counting every spring Chinook and summer steelhead encountered.

Partners: USFS, Karuk Tribe, CDFW, MKWC, volunteers!

Fish Passage Improvement

Since 2001, SRRC and MKWC have worked together, along with other partners, identifying and manually treating barriers to anadromous fish passage on key tributaries. Seasonal low flow barriers are modified by hand to allow for adult and juvenile fish passage. This work is seasonal and not intended to remain after annual winter flooding, but it is cost-effective and provides immediate results to the fishery. Fish passage problems in the Klamath River watershed include human-influenced and natural barriers. Recent research in the Klamath Basin indicates that both summer and winter refugia associated with the lower reaches of tributaries are critical for the survival of juvenile salmonids.

Partners: MKWC

Fall Chinook Spawning Ground Surveys

The Mid-Klamath fall-run Chinook spawner escapement and redd survey is a cooperative effort to determine the population of fall Chinook in the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and has been taking place each year since 1978. SRRC has been participating since 1995. The data are a key component in the management and determination of harvest levels for Klamath River Chinook salmon stocks.

Partners: Karuk Tribe, USFS, CDFW, NCRC, MKWC

Analyses and Assessments

Salmon River Weak Stocks Assessment

From 2004 to 2008, SRRC investigated and reported on the status of spring Chinook, coho salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey. This effort included extensive steelhead spawning ground surveys, spring Chinook head of run surveys, presence/absence surveys for sturgeon and Pacific lamprey, and more!

Salmon River Spring Chinook Limiting Factors Analysis

A collaborative document produced by the Salmon River Spring Chinook Voluntary Recovery Group summarizing existing data for informing spring Chinook recovery actions.

Juvenile Coho Rearing Assessment

This project was conducted in 2015-2017 to assess the status of juvenile coho rearing in the Salmon River in order to inform restoration activities with a focus on near-term actions to protect or create coho habitat in key locations including summer and winter refuge habitat.

Thermal Refugia Assessment

An inventory of thermal refugia sites throughout the Salmon River conducted in 2005 and 2006. This effort included the collection of habitat and fish use information.

Highlights!

Spring-run Chinook Symposium

SRRC and the Salmonid Restoration Federation hosted the 2nd, 4th, 9th, and 10th Spring-run Chinook Symposia in 2007, 2009, 2017 and 2020. Topics addressed included spring Chinook genetics, impacts of climate change, restoration projects, historical distribution, and indigenous perspectives.

Spring Chinook Genetics Research

A study led by UC Davis and published in 2017 in the journal Science Advances used DNA analysis technology to identify the gene that makes spring Chinook salmon distinct from fall Chinook. This study used tissue samples collected by SRRC and partners during spawning ground surveys. The results had major implications for the conservation of spring Chinook as they provided evidence necessary to differentiate them from fall Chinook for management purposes.

Ongoing Projects

Spring Chinook Spawning Ground Surveys

Cooperative spring Chinook spawning ground surveys carried out by SRRC and partners have occurred on the Salmon River since 2003. These surveys provide information regarding where these fish spawn, assist in tracking long-term habitat trends under different environmental and flow conditions, and provide data on hybridization between spring and fall Chinook stocks. Biological samples are also collected for genetic research. This effort provides information on the distribution, abundance, and population status of Salmon River spring Chinook each year and allows for better management of this important species.

Partners: Karuk Tribe, USFS, CDFW, Yurok Tribe

Juvenile Outmigration Monitoring

Since 2002, SRRC has assisted the Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program in running two rotary screw traps on the lower Salmon and Mid-Klamath rivers to monitor the health and abundance of outmigrating juvenile salmon and other native fish.

Partners: Karuk Tribe



Rearing and Refugia Habitat Enhancement

SRRC works in cooperation with MKWC to improve critical rearing and refugia habitat in the Salmon River and throughout the Mid-Klamath. Fisheries crews increase cover and habitat complexity in off-channel and thermal refuge habitat through strategic placement of brushy material and woody debris. Brush bundles and wood are installed in prioritized refugia, as well as in association with restoration projects, to provide shelter and escape cover for juvenile fish. At tributary confluences, cold water input is directed into pools or other slow-water habitat to enhance the thermal refugia habitat, and increase the size and duration of cold water plumes.

Partners: MKWC



Habitat Restoration Program – Instream Restoration



Before



After dam removal

On the surface the Salmon River can seem untouched. However, past disturbance from mining and logging have caused irreparable damage to the watershed. Without active restoration, the river will continue to see a loss in biodiversity and function. SRRRC has been restoring habitat in diverse ways for the life of the organization; from fuels reduction and invasive species control,

to road sediment reduction and fish barrier removal, to trash and junked car cleanups. In the early 2000's larger instream projects began to be taken on, notably the White's Gulch dam removal (photos above), a watershed-wide riparian shade assessment, and the development of conceptual designs for our first off-channel river restoration projects.



Photo above, Chinook fry using the alcove at the mouth of the willow pond channel on the Kelly Bar Project last March.

SRRRC recognized that restoring fish habitat for spring-run Chinook and coho salmon was needed to help these imperiled species. One of the biggest limiting factors to fisheries recovery on the Salmon River is the lack of quality rearing habitat for juveniles, including: tributary access, habitat complexity, off-channel river habitat for both cold-water and high-flow refugia, and riparian shade. Towards that end, in 2012 the Salmon River Instream Restoration Working

Group was formed. This technical advisory committee of local experts from agencies, tribes, non-profits, consultants, and the local community created a consensus-based list of restoration needs throughout the watershed. Beginning in 2015, the number of projects were enough to support the creation of an entire new program at SRRRC- the Habitat Restoration Program.

The program has grown a lot in recent years, requiring the broad background of SRRRC's multi-disciplined staff. We are currently managing ten large projects, with four more being planned for the near future. We lead feasibility studies, design efforts, environmental compliance, implementation, and monitoring. Over the years we have accomplished the following:

- ✦ We completed a watershed-wide planning effort to rank sites and design restoration concepts throughout the river corridor, including riparian, floodplain and mine-tailing assessments.
- ✦ We implemented one off-channel, river floodplain enhancement project; restoring complex, cold-water, high-flow, and riparian habitat on 12 acres/2,000 feet of channel. A second will be implemented in 2023 (30 acres/2,500 feet of channel). Two more are in the design process.
- ✦ We constructed two bridges (one included 550 feet of stream restoration) restoring fish access to 5.65 miles of tributaries, and supported two more bridge projects, restoring access to an additional 1.5 miles of tributaries.
- ✦ We removed two diversion dams, restoring fish access to 1.5 miles of tributary habitat, and one more is in the design process.
- ✦ We enhanced two tributaries with large wood structures, restoring 3.15 miles of fish habitat. A similar project in another tributary has been designed.



Before restoration



After restoration

Hotelling Gulch Aquatic Restoration Project

A major component of this program includes monitoring before and after the work to see if these projects are enhancing fisheries and riparian habitats. We have a few exciting things to share from our recent work.

so excited they are using the restored features! Our projects have enhanced these three tributaries, which are providing critical cold water habitat for imperiled juvenile fish during the summer when river temperatures are lethal.

Last winter we saw two possible coho redds in Methodist Creek near one of our project's large wood structures. Then this summer we saw 657 coho juveniles in that creek, with 189 of them using habitat created by our wood structures! We also saw 20 coho juveniles in Knownothing Creek, 4 of them using pools from our wood structures. Since implementation, we have seen over 150 Chinook and 30 steelhead juveniles at a time use the cold, enhanced mouth of Hotelling Gulch (photos above). This summer and fall we saw 1 juvenile coho in the creek, 7 in the mouth and 15 more in the river nearby. This year marks our first observations of coho salmon following implementation of these projects and we are

Our revegetation efforts at Kelly Bar (photos below), our first off-channel floodplain restoration project, are looking great! The diverse native shrubs and trees we planted are thriving throughout the site despite drought conditions. In areas we enhanced for native plants, we are seeing natural recruitment. The successful revegetation in the Kelly Project is also attracting neotropical migratory birds, like Yellow-Breasted Chat. Additionally, foothill yellow-legged frogs have been seen throughout the site since we first created the off-channel ponds and alcoves. Several 1+ year Chinook fry have been observed within the Kelly Project, and one more just upstream, indicating that spring Chinook fry are using our project to grow an extra season before heading to the ocean. Over the last two summers we observed



Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project

many Chinook fry using enhanced habitat in the project. It is heartwarming to see our beloved fish using this project to grow up.



Habitat Restoration – Upslope



During SRRC's earlier years, most of our larger scale habitat restoration happened outside the active river channel, in upslope areas. Most notable of those projects were road assessments and restoration, and river clean-up projects.

River Cleanup ~ Junk has been accumulating within the Salmon River watershed since miners first began hauling in supplies and equipment in the early 1850's. Once the utility of any given item is exhausted, it tends to be a hard place to get things out of. From abandoned vehicles and barrels of oil to batteries and beer cans, some of the junk left behind creates safety hazards and eyesores and some of it presents potential sources of chemical pollution into streams, ground water, and soils (photo left, Barrel of unknown contaminants near the river). SRRC has taken on helping to solve this problem on several different levels. We organize biannual river and road clean-up days to walk, float, bike or drive to pick up the trash littering our river banks and roadsides. We also organize periodic larger clean-up days (photo below) where we tackle



cleaning up around dumpsites, camping areas and mining claims. These fun volunteer workdays garner strong public support and it's always gratifying to see the immediate results of our efforts.



On a much larger scale, SRRC undertook the "Leave No Junker Behind" project in 2004-2006. This project (photo at top of page) took river cleanup to the next level. It began with an inventory of abandoned/unwanted vehicles, large appliances, and scrap metal on public and private land throughout the watershed. Then with the tireless help of community volunteers, we coordinated the collection of 332 junker vehicles, 37 tons of tires and 625 tons of scrap metal. We partnered with North State Recycling to crush and haul off 32 semi loads of scrap metal. It was an epic endeavor that freed the Salmon River of over a century of accumulated junk.

Water Monitoring Program



Photo above, Community members Lorelei & Red Tom monitoring flow on the North Fork, 2002. Below left & bottom right, Forks School 1998 & 2016 students deploying HOBOTemps in the mainstem Salmon and Nordheimer Creek. Below right, Community volunteers on a South Fork site, 2002.

Roads ~ In the 1990's roads were identified as a major contributor to sediment run-off into the Salmon River. Since sediment can pose a serious threat to streams and fisheries, reducing the input of sediment became a priority for land management agencies. SRRC, in cooperation with the USFS and other partners, developed a multifaceted approach to better manage our roads. We completed a comprehensive sediment source assessment of all of the federal and private roads in the watershed – a total of 884 miles of roads. The assessment information was then used to develop a ranking system that was used to determine if roads should be storm proofed or decommissioned to reduce the sediment reaching the river and streams. This assessment led to millions of dollars of road improvement and decommissionings by the US Forest Service on public lands. Additionally, SRRC undertook improvements to roads that posed a threat to fisheries on private lands.



Photos above and below, Community roads workshop with USFS geologist Don Elder 1999



For over 25 years, the Salmon River Monitoring Project has been a cooperative effort involving SRRC, the US Forest Service, the Karuk Tribe, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control (NCRWQCB), local schools and community volunteers. The monitoring project has focused on stream temperatures and stream flow, especially during the summer months when low flows and warm temperatures pose a threat to the health of the fishery. Stream temperature is one of the most important environmental factors affecting aquatic ecosystems, including the anadromous fishery, and this data helps us better understand the health of the river. Over the years, the project has expanded in number of cooperators, number of sites, and in its focus.



The project originated following the 1987 wildfires, when several community members began monitoring water temperature in the Salmon River using handheld thermometers. This community driven concern about post-fire water quality eventually gave rise to the Salmon River Cooperative Water Monitoring Project, which SRRC began coordinating in 1996. The project began as part of SRRC's watershed education curriculum, and involved a close association with the three river elementary schools. In the early years students adopted responsibility for several temperature monitoring sites and SRRC provided the technical oversight and data compilation for the project.

The goals of the monitoring project:

- ◆ Establishing baseline water quality data
- ◆ Supporting the implementation of the Salmon River TMDL
- ◆ Correlating river temperatures with fish behavior
- ◆ Characterizing fisheries refugia conditions
- ◆ Identifying opportunities for habitat restoration
- ◆ Assessing restoration effectiveness

Over 13,248,000 temperature data points have been collected in the Salmon River since 1997.



As a result of excessive summertime stream temperatures, the Salmon River is considered to be temperature impaired and is subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act. In 2005, the NCRWQCB adopted the Salmon River TMDL (total maximum daily load) and Implementation Plan. SRRC contributed much of the temperature data on which the TMDL was based, and has continued to coordinate with Regional Water Board and US Forest Service to help bring about its implementation through habitat restoration and monitoring.

SRRC and cooperators have maintained between 35-50 temperature monitoring devices (HOBOTemps) throughout the Salmon River watershed during the summer months since 1997. We also conduct flow monitoring at a number of sites during the low water months. Our flow monitoring focuses on tributaries since they contribute crucial cold water to the Salmon River during the hotter months. The data is used to guide ongoing fisheries habitat restoration projects and plays an important role in the scientific assessment of the overall health of the Salmon River.

Fire, Fuels and Forestry Program



Fire, both wildfire and intentional cultural fire, has played a critical role in shaping and maintaining the Klamath region for hundreds of thousands of years. Fire has always been one of the most significant agents of both change and stability in the ecosystem. Many of the distinctive environments of the Salmon River are not only adapted to periodic fire, but dependent on it to remain healthy and in balance. Before European colonization of the region, fires were incredibly frequent and generally small and self-limiting. This cyclical pattern was interrupted when indigenous burning practices were broken by western colonization, and was further damaged when the newly established US Forest Service initiated a policy of fire suppression in 1910.

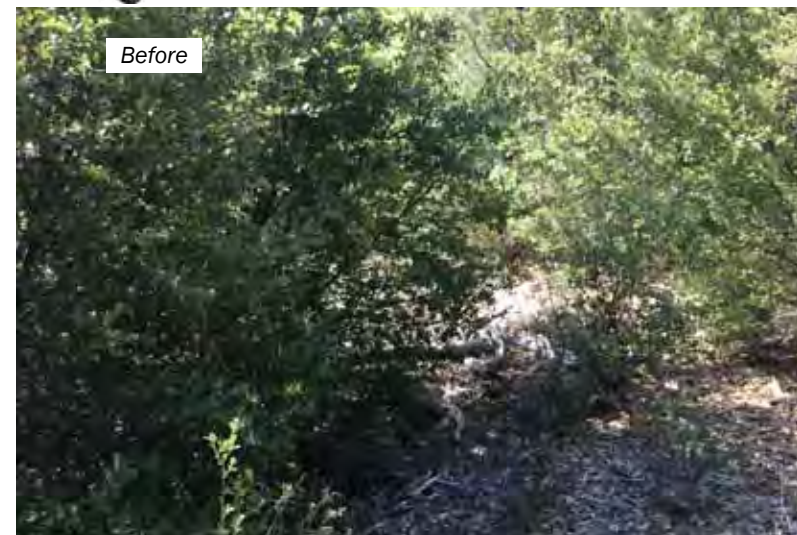
The SRRC realized early on that over 100 years of fire suppression, while greatly decreasing the total number of fires through time, had actually increased the size and intensity of wildfires in the Klamath Mountains. Preventing nearly all fires had the unintended and disastrous result of greatly increasing fuel loads throughout the watershed. Now, due to the combined forces of climate change and decades of built up fuels, many fires are unable to be suppressed and can grow to many times their historical size and ferocity.

Today, catastrophic wildfire is likely the greatest single threat to fisheries, ecosystem health, and biodiversity in the Salmon River watershed, including the small communities nestled in its canyons. At the same time, “the right fire, at the right time, and in the right place,” as Bill Tripp often says, is likely the only thing that can bring our system back into balance.



Fire safety and fuels reduction became a part of SRRC's essential work early on in our development. We received our first fuels reduction grant in 1995, treating nearly 50 acres of defensible space on 15 properties within the watershed, and beginning decades of work reducing fuels on private property. Our Fire, Fuels, and Forestry program has evolved along with the organization and the changing fire and fuels paradigm over the years. Early on we focused on defensible space and areas directly around structures,

then started to include buffers along emergency access routes. Over time we have shifted into treating larger areas with a more holistic approach, creating strategic fuel breaks where possible, improving wildlife habitat, and preparing for prescribed burns where it makes sense. Since 1995 SRRC has treated over 1,500 acres of land on the Salmon River; working on over 60% of private properties at least once.



Before



After

Above, Fuels reduction treatment at Godfrey Ranch, where vegetation has been regenerating since high severity fire in 1987. Removal of flammable shrubs and trees around oaks increases the chance that they will survive wildfires.

In order to get more involvement and collaboration from agencies and the community on fire related issues, we started the Salmon River Fire Safe Council (FSC) in 2000. Over the following several years the FSC embarked on many significant projects to increase fire safety in the watershed. This included identifying and mapping emergency access routes, engine fill sites, and helicopter landings, and providing uniform address signs for residential emergency response along roads.

In 2007 we completed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the entire Salmon River watershed. This was a collaborative effort with community members, tribes, and agencies to develop strategies to increase community safety and prioritize fuels reduction and other fire safety work. Several Neighborhood CWPP's, addressing more detailed fire related issues for towns, neighborhoods, and surrounding Wildland Urban Interface zones (WUI), have been created in the years since. In 2021 we developed a new and updated CWPP for the entire watershed.



Large Fires in the Salmon River watershed (1973-2021)		
Year	Fire Name	Acres
1973	Offield	8,200
1977	Hog	50,000
1987	1987 Complex	90,900
1994	Specimen	7,500
2002	Forks	1,387
2006	Bake Oven*	1,774
2006	Uncles Complex	48,085
2008	Ukonom Complex	80,000
2009	Backbone & Red Spot*	6,324
2013	Forks Complex (arson)	38,000
2014	July Complex	34,000
2014	Happy Camp Complex*	11,000
2017	Orleans Complex*	9,978
2017	Salmon August Complex (Wallow Fire)*	56,854
2020	Red Salmon Complex*	83,117
2021	River Complex*	86,229
2021	McCash*	28,150

* = portion of fire in Salmon River watershed

Forest, and planning a nearly 10,000 acre project in the lower Salmon River and Mid Klamath areas.



Another significant action of the FSC was to create a Community Liaison Program which facilitates communication between USFS Fire Suppression Teams, community organizations, and local community members during large wildfire events. SRRC co-founder, Jim Villeponteaux (above), first envisioned the program after the 2006 wildfires, but it was not fully embraced until after the 2008 fires which burned in the watershed from June 21st through October 15th, with many avoidable miscommunications along the way. Since then the Community Liaison Program has become a vital resource in these remote mountains during fire season, bringing valued, timely information to community members and providing fire teams with important, place based data and information.

In recognition of the importance of healthy fire in this landscape, SRRC began working with partners to bring fire back through intentional prescribed fire. Working with the Karuk Tribe and MKWC, along with fire agencies, SRRC began participating in the

Klamath Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) in 2014. To date SRRC and partners have successfully burned over 100 acres on 10 properties within the watershed. Additionally, over a dozen staff and crew members have been trained and certified as basic fire fighters through TREX in an effort to increase regional capacity for prescribed fire.

Taking this concept forward several steps, SRRC has been a partner in the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP), since 2012. WKRP is a collaborative group of Tribal, NGO, agency, and community entities who are utilizing cultural and contemporary knowledge to maintain resilient Klamath ecosystems, communities, and economies. Currently WKRP is implementing two large scale forest and fire management projects on the Six Rivers National

We believe our program has stimulated the community, as well as agency personnel, 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. Since we started our fuels program there has been a visible transformation on private lands on the Salmon River. Awareness of fire risk and fuel loading has seeped into the consciousness of the community. Even those who haven't participated directly in our Fire, Fuels, and Forestry program have begun to reduce fuels on their property as a part of basic maintenance.

Over time we've come to understand that fire isn't only about safety, but also forest health. People are beginning to see fire as a natural and necessary part of our ecosystem. If we adequately protect our homes and most valued resources we can let fire burn in the landscape with lower risk to our communities, and fire can once again become an important solution to watershed health.

Plants Program ~ Cooperative Noxious Weeds



Photo above, SRRC and MKWC crews digging invasive oblong spurge on the lower Salmon River

After 28 years of successfully treating noxious weeds throughout the Salmon River watershed the Cooperative Noxious Weeds Program (CNWP) is recognized as one of the most unique and effective watershed scale weed control programs in the West. It is a community driven program owing its success to the volunteers, field technicians, and program coordinators, who have dedicated thousands of hours to keeping noxious weeds at bay and herbicides out of the watershed. Invasive plants threaten biodiversity here in one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. As climatic conditions change and environmental stressors increase, the threat of noxious weeds gaining ground becomes an ever increasing issue. SRRC is committed to continuing to meet the threat head on.



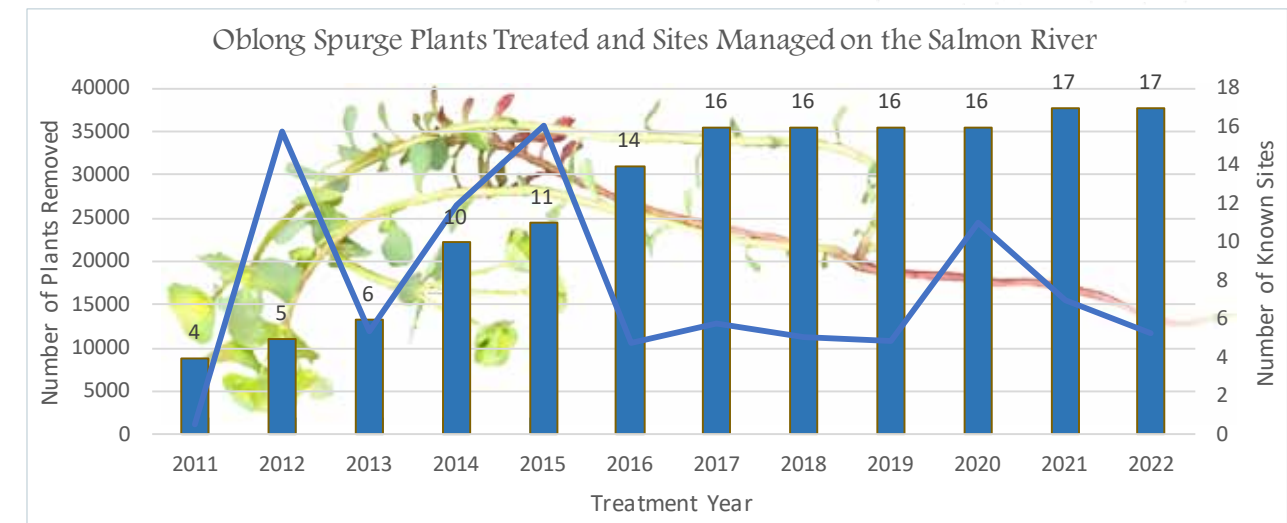
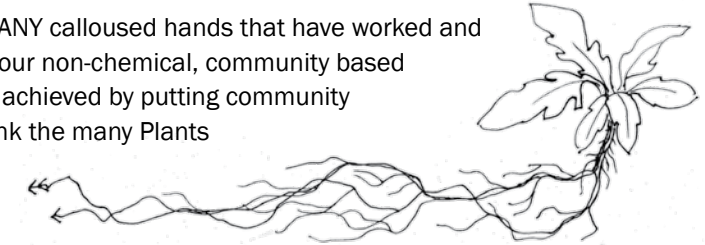
Petey Brucker with Italian thistle, 2012. Without his determination, relentlessness, and talent at bringing people together, our program wouldn't be where it is today.

In 1994 the SRRC and its partners created CNWP and began treating Scotch broom, Spanish broom, and Marlahan mustard. In 1997, spotted and diffuse knapweeds were discovered on the North Fork Salmon River. Since they were both Class A species which were slated to be treated with herbicides, SRRC expanded its program to stand with the community in challenging the use of herbicides in the watershed. Together this community successfully proved that manual removal techniques were more than adequate to contain the spread of recently infested invasive species populations. Over the years more species have been identified and targeted including: Italian thistle (2005), oblong spurge (2010), sulfur cinquefoil (2018), Canada thistle, meadow knapweed, tree of heaven, houndstongue, tamarisk, Malta starthistle, French broom, puncturevine, white top, and teasel. SRRC and its partners are now managing 20 key species on over 550 sites, spread across the 751 square mile watershed, without the use of herbicides.

As we've adapted to treating new species, training new staff, working with different funders, and accessing new terrain, there have been some constants throughout our program's history including the foundation for knowledge sharing and strong collaborations. Working with local tribes, non-profits, and National Forests has allowed us to create shared strategies and tackle larger projects like the Klamath Alliance for Regional Invasive Species Management, Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, Sudden Oak Death searches, and Burned Area Emergency Response surveys. We are so grateful to have incredible partners working within the Klamath River watershed.



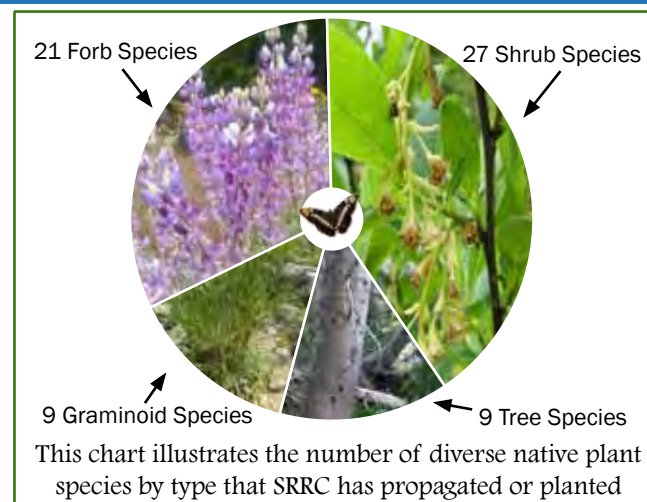
Over these 28 long years of hard work and dedication there have been MANY calloused hands that have worked and volunteered to make the CNWP a program that is known far and wide for our non-chemical, community based approach. The CNWP is a potent example of the real success that can be achieved by putting community solutions at the forefront of invasive species eradication. We'd like to thank the many Plants Crew Members, volunteers, and funders who have stuck with us over the years and helped make this program a success.



Photos top left to right, Group crossing the river to get to a knapweed site 1999; Crew working on tree-of-heaven behind the Town Hall 2016; Spurge weeders in front of the mountain of spurge they dug that day in 2010. Photo beside graph, Naomi tackling an upslope field of Marlahan mustard (with the help of the CCC's). Photos below left to right, Marlahan mustard population takes a hit from weeders on the Main Stem 2014; Italian thistle is harder to find in 2019; and SRRC crew with volunteers digging out broom near Hippo Rock 2017



Plants Program: Native Plants



Over the past 30 years, SRRC has worked closely with plants. Whether digging knapweed on a river bar, planting willow stakes along streambanks, or botanizing on a wildflower walk, we've learned a great deal from plants. While our work with weedy species has been a central focus, over the years we have also engaged in collecting, propagating, and planting native plant species. We now have a dedicated Plants Program to encompass the varied work we do with both non-native and native plant species.

Our first 10 years of work with native plants marked a period of experimentation. Early on, SRRC engaged in seed collections primarily focused on grasses.

Later we built a greenhouse behind the Watershed Center and cultivated 24 riparian species to refine propagation techniques, including the development of a local soil mix. Over 10,000 riparian plants were propagated and planted out to enhance riparian shade along the river corridor. Trial plots were established at Kelly Bar to test revegetation techniques and to advance the site's recovery following intensive treatments of the highly concentrated spotted knapweed infestation.



In 2018 we set out to implement two aquatic restoration projects, both of which featured revegetation components, the Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project and the Hotelling Gulch Aquatic Restoration Project. Riparian species were selected that would reduce stream temperatures, provide woody stream inputs in the future, and contribute to aquatic and terrestrial food webs. Additionally, these two projects integrated thousands of live willow stakes to add habitat complexity and create slow-water refugia for rearing fish during high flows. During construction, planting areas were enhanced with woody slash, filled with quality soils salvaged on site, and mulched. We have found this "hugelkultur" approach to be an effective technique to promote plant survival in otherwise challenging terrain. In upcoming projects, we intend to work with regional nurseries to propagate plants, some of which will be collected locally by our crew as seeds and cuttings.

More recently we have incorporated broadcast seeding of native species into our noxious weed treatments. To help noxious weed sites recover following infestation and subsequent intensive treatments, we collect seeds from diverse riparian and upland, forb, shrub, grass, sedge, and rush species. The seeds are broadcasted at sites of historic high-density noxious weed infestations to facilitate the establishment of diverse vegetation (photo top left). Some of the seed has also been grown out as plugs and planted at the sites identified for revegetation. Our initial findings indicate that at least some of this revegetation has been successful, with germination apparent at these sites and the plugs becoming establishing.

When working with plant materials, it is a high-priority of ours that we retain and promote the biologic and genetic diversity within the basin, while minimizing the potential introduction of invasive species and forest pathogens. Momentum towards this outcome is building within our organization and among our partners. We are working closely with the Klamath Alliance for Regional Invasive Species Management to seek funding and promote the expansion of regional capacity for native plant materials sourcing, both for seeds and nursery plants. We are committed to using best management practices and strive to continue learning from the plants around us and the members of our broad community while we work to restore habitat.

Outreach & Education Program

SRRC believes that informed, caring citizens are some of the most effective stewards of our watershed. Our community is essential to the restoration of our ecosystem. Towards this end, we've coordinated the Watershed Education Program in local elementary schools since 1994. The program has been enriched by volunteers from the community, local tribes, and resource agencies. We continually seek to build upon the already strong alliances with the education programs of the Karuk Tribe, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and school staff members.

Photo right, Forks Elementary students suit up in readiness to do water monitoring and macroinvertebrate studies 2014.



The Watershed Education program teaches natural resource sciences, ecosystem management, and watershed stewardship. Students have the opportunity to learn scientific methods and gain valuable watershed knowledge through field work and experiential learning. The core program gives kids hands-on experience with fish surveys (photo right), water monitoring (above), native and invasive plant management, and habitat restoration. We also incorporate science education within topics such as fire, geology, wildlife, and climate. During the annual Watershed Fair, local experts in many subjects are invited to present (photo left) and all the students do science project displays which are shared with their parents and community.

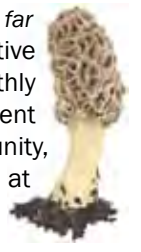


Our Community Restoration Program works to cultivate a watershed stewardship ethic within the community by engaging the public in the hands-on restoration of the Salmon River watershed. We implement an annual series of workshops, workdays, field trips, trainings, and presentations to increase the capacity for the local community to engage in watershed restoration.



In recent years we've begun working with older students participating in summer youth programs from around the basin, including KSOS, YESS, Rios to Rivers, and HSU. We engage these students in actual restoration projects, where they work with our staff on fish passage, fisheries monitoring, and invasive species removal. We enjoy mentoring this next generation of restoration professionals.

In addition to our program in the schools, SRRC also holds watershed outreach and education activities for the community. From geology workshops to mushroom ID forays (photo left) to botany walks (photo far left), we try to hold several fun, informative community events each year. Our monthly e-news and annual printed newsletter are sent to nearly 1000 people in the greater community, and we distribute other outreach materials at events and on bulletin boards throughout the area.



Stakeholder Collaborations



Since the Salmon River Restoration Council was created in 1992, with support from the Klamath Fisheries Task Force, we have been striving to build strong collaborative relationships with stakeholders throughout the region. All of our programs involve working with partners and community members to develop and implement projects. Finding common ground can be difficult at times, but the rewards can be seen when those efforts are successful. The following are a selection of some current collaborations:

Spring Chinook Working Group



From 2001-2008 SRRC coordinated the Salmon River Spring Chinook Voluntary Recovery Work Group in an effort to bring together fisheries biologists and managers to develop a recovery plan for spring Chinook salmon in the Klamath River system. They coordinated on spring Chinook research and developed a draft limiting factors analysis. In 2016, after years of advocating unsuccessfully for the development of a voluntary recovery plan, SRRC and the Karuk Tribe decided to submit petitions to list Upper Klamath Trinity River spring Chinook under both the federal and state endangered species act. In 2021, they

were listed as Threatened by the state of California. The federal petition is still under consideration. In 2019, a new Spring Chinook Work Group was formed and SRRC began working in collaboration with tribes, academic institutions, and other NGO's towards the development of a Klamath-Trinity Spring Chinook Recovery Plan, and spring Chinook conservation.

Klamath Basin IFRMP

Since 2017 SRRC has participated in the Klamath Basin Integrated Fisheries Restoration & Monitoring Plan (IFRMP), a collaborative planning effort to restore native fish in the Klamath Basin. The IFRMP's goal is to use an adaptive management framework with scientific input to develop a strategy for the restoration and monitoring of fisheries in the Klamath and its subbasins.

Klamath Basin Monitoring Program

SRRC is an active member of the Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (KBMP), and our fisheries program has an active role in monitoring fish health on the Salmon River as a participant of KBMP's Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team (KFHAT). KBMP is a multi-agency organization that strives to implement, coordinate, and collaborate on water quality monitoring and research in the Klamath Basin. KFHAT is a technical workgroup which formed in 2003 in response to the 2002 fish kill on the Klamath River with the purpose of providing early warning and a coordinated response to avoid and address fish health concerns in the basin.

Klamath Dam Removal



Through the tireless efforts of our co-founder Petey Brucker, SRRC began participating in the Klamath Basin Restoration and Hydroelectric agreements in 2005. SRRC is one of only a handful of NGO signatories to both agreements and as the process has moved towards fruition in recent years, we've continued to participate as a KHSA signatory. Removing the four dams on the Klamath River will provide access to the plentiful habitat in the upper Klamath Basin. When it is finally implemented next year, it will be the largest dam removal project in history. It will improve habitat and the health of fisheries by allowing salmon, steelhead, and lamprey access to over 400 miles of historic spawning habitat upstream of the dams.

Additional collaborative efforts of note include:

- Salmon River Subbasin Restoration Strategy
- Salmon Learning and Understanding Group
- Salmon River Fire Safe Council

SRRC's 30th Anniversary Celebration



We would like to thank the many volunteers, businesses, and people who donated their time, artwork, crafts, and produce to make this unforgettable evening of coming together a success.

Donations of Auction Items: *Adventure's Edge, Aida Kastel Baskets, Amanita Molier Silk Painting, Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites, Backcountry Press, By Nieves Body Care, Case Coffee Roasters, Chris Adams, Chris Garcia, Denny Bar Company, Dobrá Tea Room, Elder Apothecary, Elsa Skylark Marley, Erica Terence, Erin Fowler of At the Waters' Edge Massage, Fruitwood Nursery, Holly Yashi Jewelry, Jan Pfaff, Jeremy Dahl of Ukonom Designs, Jessie Allen, Karuk Tribe People's Center Museum Gift Shop, Kobe Modern Japanese Cuisine, Martin Swett, Maisy Metrix of Crimson Sage Nursery, Momentum River Expeditions, Myanna Nielsen Woodworks, Naja Tepe Art, Nature's Kitchen, Nena's Chocolates, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pepper Forrest Spice Company, Pricilla Winters, Rachel Budai-Fieberg of Upriver Pottery, Rogue Creamery, Rex Richardson of Salmon River Jade, Salmon River Saloon, Sandy Bar Ranch, Sarah Hugdahl Wild & Scenic Art, Scott Harding Photography, Serena Conkey Quilts, Shannon Flarity, Stefan Dosch, Stewart Buehler Art, Sue Terence, Susie Robison of Cheerio Textiles, Sweet Beet Station & Thalia Truesdell.*

Donations of Goods & Services:

Brio Breadworks, Cabot Vineyards, California Heritage Farms, Cathy Leavens Catering, Chris Birdman McCullough of Chateaux Afreaux Winery, Cypress Grove Cheese, Etna Brewery, Mad River Brewery, Medford Food Co-op, Nancy Doman Catering, Red Buttes Farm, Rogue Creamery, Ashland's Own Shop N Kart, Trinity River Farm, Trinity River Vineyards & Wildberries Marketplace.



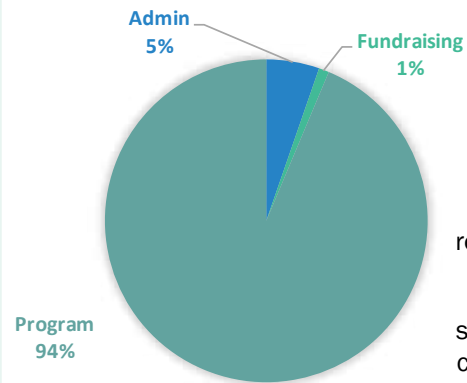
Between 1992 and the present, SRRC has been generously funded by the following:

- Private Donors –**
 - Ayers Family Fund
 - Danny Hagens
 - Frank Colver
 - Peter Brucker
 - SRRC Members
- Government Agencies –**
 - CA Coastal Commission
 - CA Coastal Conservancy
 - CA Department of Conservation
 - CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - CA Department of Food and Agriculture
 - CA Department of Forestry and Fire
 - CA Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse
 - Karuk Tribe
 - Klamath Fisheries Task Force
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - NOAA Restoration Center
 - North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
 - Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture
 - Siskiyou County RAC
 - US Bureau of Land Management
 - US Bureau of Reclamation
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - US Forest Service
- Private Foundations and Non-Profits –**
 - Bella Vista Foundation
 - Bigfoot Trail Alliance
 - Bower Foundation
 - Cereus Fund of the Trees Foundation
 - Clif Bar Family Foundation
 - Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc.
 - Dancing Tides Foundation
 - Firedoll Foundation
 - Fish America Foundation
 - Ford Family Foundation
 - Humboldt Area Foundation
 - Jiji Foundation
 - McConnell Foundation
 - Mid Klamath Watershed Council
 - Mountaineers Foundation
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 - National Forest Foundation
 - Norcross Wildlife Foundation
 - Patagonia Environmental Grants
 - Sacramento Regional Foundation
 - Shasta Regional Community Foundation
 - Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
 - Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
 - Sustainable Northwest
 - Wild Salmon Center
 - William H Moffat Jr. Foundation
 - Yellow Chair Foundation
- Corporate Donors –**
 - Bank of America
 - Bedrock Sandals
 - ESRI
 - Eileen Fisher Inc.
 - Hewlett Packard
 - Outback Power
 - Trimble

The Financial Overview

Since 1992, SRRC has received approximately \$13,600,000 in funding from over 550 grants and agreements. We've also recorded over \$3,600,000 in volunteer and in-kind services during that time. We are proud to report that we have employed 260 people over the years, many of them residents of the Salmon River watershed. We employ an average permanent staff size of 12 people working out of the Watershed Center and many seasonal field crew.

SRRC TOTAL FUNDING BY CLASS



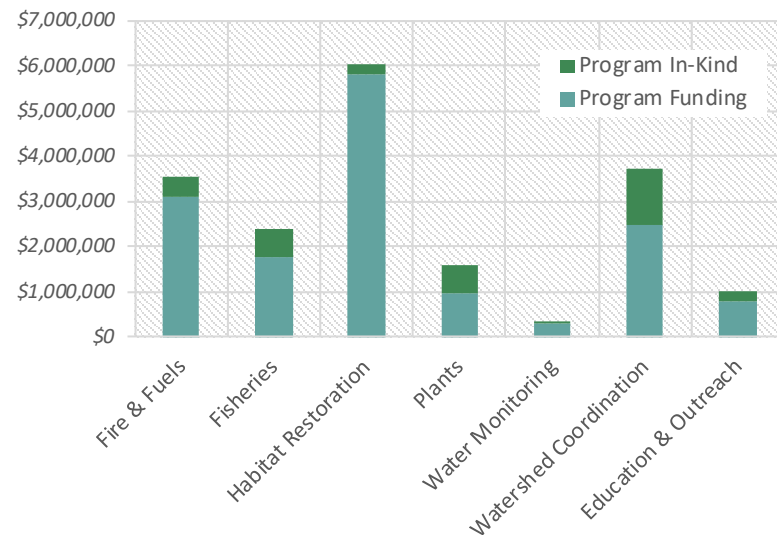
SRRC has sponsored more than 2,182 restoration related workshops and workdays.

Community members, staff, technical specialists, agency partners and others have contributed over 113,400 volunteer hours to watershed restoration activities.



Les Harling (past financial wizard) and Petey Brucker 2008

1992-2022 Total Funding and In-Kind Contributions by Program



SRRC's Watershed Center



The SRRC's Watershed Center has been located in Sawyers Bar since 1995. Our original office was in the KNF Ranger Station, followed by a brief stint in the old store after it closed. For the past 21 years we've been located in the old Sawyers Bar school. We are now facing a period of transition as Forks of Salmon School will close in 2023 and the building will pass into new ownership. With many of our staff working from home nearly full-time since the start of the Covid pandemic, this building has begun to feel overly large for us, but it has also been a wonderful home for our organization for many years, and we are not anxious to leave it. For the time being we're waiting to see what the future will bring.

Wherever we end up, we'll make sure that our facility continues to be open to the public and to serve as a community center and office for SRRC staff. The Watershed Center has always provided a space for many of the educational and outreach events the SRRC puts on as well as a meeting place for local stakeholders. Services include wireless internet and computer access, photocopies, phone and fax, library, history archive, and hub for information about river conditions, fire, and watershed information.

SRRC Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Toz Soto, President | Will Harling |
| Joshua Saxon, Vice President | Creek Hanauer |
| Kathy McBroom, Secretary/
Treasurer | Crystal Robinson |
| Petey Brucker | Jennifer Silveira |
| | Erica Terence |

SRRC 2022 Staff and Program Managers

- Karuna Greenberg, *Restoration Director*
- Lyra Cressey, *Associate Director*
- Kathy McBroom, *Office Manager*
- Melissa Van Scoyoc, *Habitat Restoration Program Manager*
- Alex Varner, *Fire, Fuels, & Forestry Program Manager*
- Sophie Price, *Fisheries Program Manager*
- Stefan Dosch, *Habitat Restoration Program Assistant*
- Deja Malone-Persha, *Habitat Restoration Program Assistant*
- Shannon Flarity, *Watershed Ed Program Assistant*
- Bonnie Bennett, *Water Monitoring Project Coordinator*
- Briana Fries, *Noxious Weed Project Coordinator*
- Sarah Hugdahl, *Program Staff, Graphics & Outreach*
- Scott Harding, *Technical Assistant*
- Brendan Twieg, *Technical Assistant*
- Brenda Hurlimann, *Bookkeeper*
- Wind Beaver, *Watershed Center Maintenance*



2022 Field Crew Leaders and Crews

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Andy Ayers | Sarah Hugdahl |
| Bonnie Bennett | Michael O'Neil |
| Linde L. Cohen | Irie Swift |
| Carol Cook | Asher Vogel |
| Paulos Ghebre-Ab | Todd Whitmore |
| Naomi Huddleston | |



2022 Strategic Planning Retreat attendees included SRRC staff & board

SRRC Vision Statement

We envision a sustainable Salmon River watershed that has healthy forests and streams, with natural fire regimes and abundant native fish and wildlife populations, managed using best land practices and traditional cultural knowledge.

We envision a well-informed Salmon River community that draws its sustenance from and lives in harmony with the environment, respects its own diversity, values the complexity of the natural world, and accepts responsibility for the social, economic, and ecological well-being of present and future generations through individual and collective action.

We seek to encourage and enhance the exchange of knowledge among all community members in order to achieve this vision.

Salmon River Restoration Council
 25631 Sawyers Bar Road
 Sawyers Bar, CA 96027

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srrc.org/support
 to help keep the
 Salmon River wild
 and beautiful!

On July 16, 2021 the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to add Klamath Trinity spring Chinook salmon to the endangered species list! This listing was based on a petition that the Karuk Tribe and SRRC submitted jointly in 2018. This was a monumental win after decades of hard work by countless, dedicated people to get recognition and protection for our iconic spring Chinook salmon, and was a significant step in preserving and restoring these fish.

