



# Salmon River Restoration Council

## Our OVERVIEW of RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS on the SALMON RIVER 1992 - 2005

It's been 13 years since local community members began nurturing the Salmon River Restoration Council and its' Community Restoration Program (CRP). Since 1992, the SRRC has planned and implemented an annual series of cooperative Ecosystem Awareness Workshops, Volunteer Training Workdays, Investigative Field Trips, Presentations, and Projects.

Numerous folks **have contributed over 8,197 volunteer days (65,575 hours) associated with more than 630 SRRC sponsored activities and/or projects.** These activities have helped to increase involvement and cooperation between numerous stakeholders. They have also served as a springboard for the development of

prioritized cooperative fisheries/watershed restoration and protection projects.

Since the "Salmon Ed" Workshops in 1992, the SRRC has been recognized and supported by the Klamath Basin Fisheries Task Force to take a lead role in fostering cooperation between all stakeholders to promote the restoration of this Subbasin, and the recovery of its anadromous fisheries.

Starting in 1994, the SRRC has adopted an Annual CRP work plan, and a 3 year funding strategy to organize and guide our activities for the near and distant future.

The CRP Work Plan is imbedded in the Salmon River Restoration Strategy, which was completed by the US Forest

Service and the SRRC in 2002. This document serves as a road map to fisheries/watershed recovery for various collaborators associated with the Salmon River. We work with multiple stakeholders to complete the tasks prescribed in the Strategy's Action Matrix. It highlights restoration related to roads, fish and water monitoring, fire/fuels/forestry, noxious weeds/native plants, mining reclamation, and overall schematics.

**The community has acquired fundamental technical restoration expertise, and serves as a pool of skilled workers. We are thrilled to continue our programs and expand our efforts as more funding becomes available.**

### 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, managing agencies, Native American Tribes and other stakeholders.

In this Accomplishment Report our staff, program and project coordinators will provide you with summaries of restoration highlights, which the SRRC has performed since 1992. There are currently eight key program areas in the CRP that are illustrated in this publication. Each program is lead by a specific coordinator, who develops annual work plans and calendars that identify various activities and partnerships.

We could not have been so successful without the sincere and creative commitment that has come from our local community. This has been reflected by the extraordinary amount of volunteer donations from the residents and landowners. We at the SRRC want to thank them along with our partners, our committed funders and everyone who has been involved in supporting this model effort. If you would like more information or to become more involved, please see our web site and/or contact us. We welcome your insight and energy to help lead us in to the future.

*Petey Brucker*

**News from the Watershed Center**

The SRRC Watershed Center has come a long way since the days of meeting in our homes. We upgraded in the late 90's to the old USFS office in downtown Sawyers Bar. In 2001 the Forest Service needed their facility back so they could house a new 20-man fire crew, so we moved to the Sawyers Bar Store site. The Store site was an interim situation until something else opened up, which it did with the closure of the Sawyers Bar School in June of 2001. We inquired with the Forks of Salmon School District, and not wanting to leave the school empty and vacant for too long, moved in that September. Our present building is working wonderfully for office space and kitchen facilities for all our meetings.

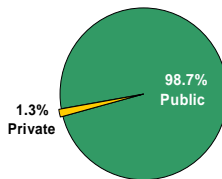


*Several of the twelve computer workstations at the Watershed Center*

Our current site is comfortable and houses 12 computer work stations, conference room area for SRRC as well as for community meetings, a copy machine, fax machine, printers, plotter for mapmaking, scanner for historic photos and Internet use for the River community, with a cafeteria and kitchen facility the best on the river. Stop by for a visit!

*-Kathy Duffy McBroom-*

**Land Ownership**



Public lands are largely National Forest with some county and state owned.

- 65% of Subbasin is in Karuk Tribe Ancestral Territory,
- 45% is in Federally Designated Wilderness,
- 25% in Late Successional Reserves.

We all need to work together to improve the quality of our watershed.  
**CONTACT US! Volunteer!**  
**MAKE A CONTRIBUTION!**  
 (All contributions are tax deductible)

As part of our Program Review, we are asking our partners and readers to provide the SRRC with comments, questions or suggestions that you may have for the SRRC's Salmon River Community Restoration Programs.

**SRRC Board Members**

- Edna Watson
- Toz Soto
- Kathy McBroom
- Steve Gunther
- Will Harling
- Rhonda Olson
- Ron Reed
- Bill Tripp
- Harold Tripp

**SRRC Staff and Project Leaders**

- Petey Brucker.....Program Director
- JimViltepontaux.....Technical Coordinator
- Kathy Duffy McBroom.....Office Manager
- Les Harling .....Accountant
- Shannon Monroe.....Bookkeeper
- Sarah Hugdahl .....Outreach Coordinator
- Nat Pennington.....Fisheries Program Coordinator
- Lyra Cressey .....Water Monitoring Coordinator
- Tera Palmer.....Watershed Ed Coordinator
- Robert Will .....Fuel Assessment & Junker Project
- Shannon Flarity.....Noxious Weed Coordinator
- Pat O'Connor.....Knapweed Groundwork Coordinator
- Dean McBroom.....Anglers & Guides Association
- Lorelei Diamond-Holzem.....Monthly Calendar
- Linda Kerrick.....Housekeeper
- Melanie McPherson.....AmeriCorps Wtrshd Steward
- Aaron Johnson.....AmeriCorps Wtrshd Steward



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Salmon River Spring Chinook photos, taken by SRRC with equipment purchased with a grant from USF &W Service.

### \$\$\$ SRRC's Financial Report \$\$\$

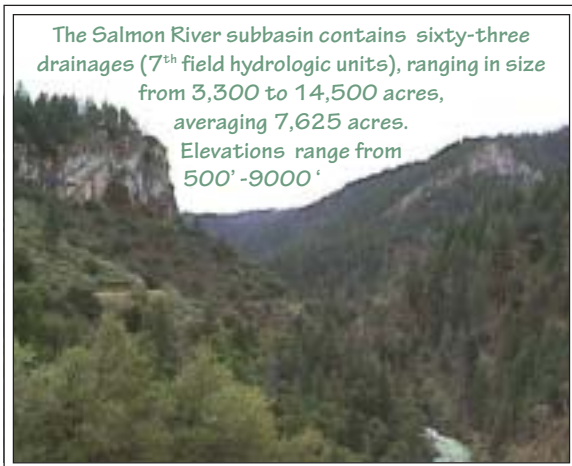
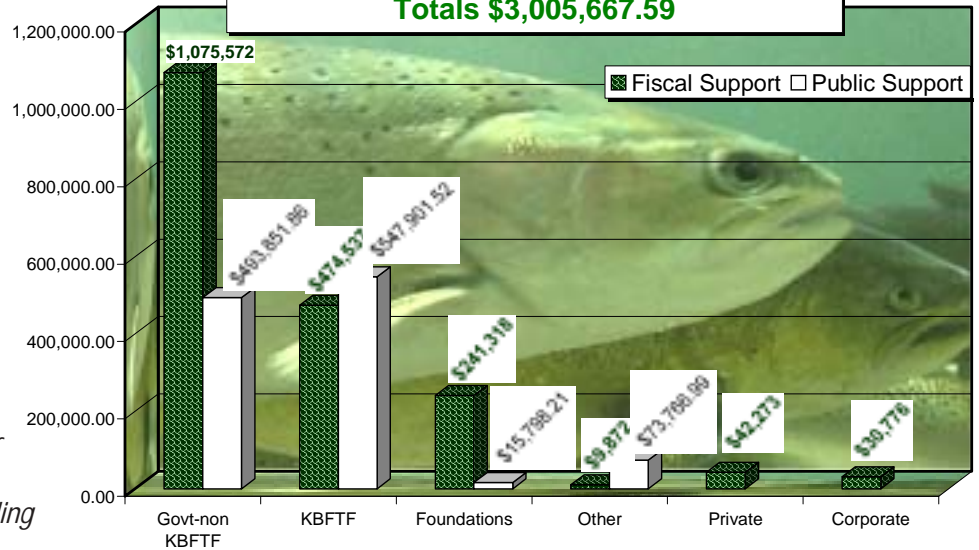
During 2004 the SRRC received cash funding of \$315,576.18 from grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and donations. We have also recorded \$108,147.42 in volunteer services (for 2004 through September), for a preliminary total income of \$423,723.60. Our recorded total expenses (including volunteer services), for the period were \$391,790.31.

We are currently operating under 24 separate agreements with seven entities. During 2004 we employed 34 community members part-time. Our payroll for 2004 was \$157,230.75, and we paid \$48,434.94 locally for contract services. These figures include agreements that we are conducting for the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC), and the Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council. MKWC now has nonprofit status, and will be doing their own agreements in the future.

Since 1992, the SRRC has received funding of \$1,811,873.05.18 from the Klamath Basin Fisheries Task Force, grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and donations. We have also recorded \$1,104,008.41 in volunteer services for a total income of \$2,915,881.46. Our recorded total expenses since 1992 (including volunteer services) are \$2,869,813.93.

*Les Harling*

#### SRRRC Fiscal and Public Support 1992~2005 Totals \$3,005,667.59



The Salmon River subbasin contains sixty-three drainages (7<sup>th</sup> field hydrologic units), ranging in size from 3,300 to 14,500 acres, averaging 7,625 acres. Elevations range from 500' -9000'

Currently funding comes from grants from ESRI, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, CA Dept of Fish & Game SB271, Klamath Fisheries Task Force, Bureau of Land Management, USF&W Foundation, Siskiyou County RAC and the USFS.

Past funding has also come from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sacramento Regional Foundation, McConnell Foundation, NCRWQCB, Hewlit Packard, Humboldt Area Foundation, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Trimble, For the Sake of the Salmon, Cantara Fund, Frank Culver and other private donations.

# Put'n the Salmon back in "Salmon River"



To the right are just some of the **ongoing fisheries projects** happening on the Salmon River with the SRRC and its cooperators.

These salmon must be tickled pink! The amount of volunteer days the local community has contributed over the past seven years is outstanding! Check out the stats on the graph to your right.

They wake up at 6 am, on cold November mornings, strap on waders and boots, then head to the river. Not to catch fish, but to count the few that returned this year. Yes, the people of the Salmon River, for some odd reason, seem to like having salmon in their river. **Since the late 1960's, no one has legally taken a single salmon out of the river.** The spring run Chinook, and even fall run are *too* low to sustain any harvest. **In fact, the river had the lowest fall Chinook run on record just this last year!** So, it doesn't look likely that we will be catching and eating the once abundant food source anytime soon.

Still, numerous people have not given up! Our voice and our story are gaining recognition. We may soon see changes in the management of the Klamath River that would significantly boost our fish population. Also, steelhead fishing has been great the last couple of years.

Long before the SRRC was formed in 1992, the people of the Salmon River helped the fish on their way upstream. Anyone who has lived here loves the fish. If a creek got blocked up, they opened it to help the fish survive. Unfortunately, these days helping the fish can be a little more involved than just moving a few rocks. This is where the SRRC has come in. Not many rivers are lucky enough to have both a community so dedicated to the fish, and an organization to support them so strongly.

Fortunately we have a few people here including myself who, sadly, have to know what the heck the KFMC – TAT or the KBFHAT are [see bottom of article to find out what those acronyms mean] or how they affect our fish runs. Even beyond the knowledge of mind-boggling acronyms, we at the SRRC have a mission to meld together local knowledge and the desire to bring back the salmon with the efforts of our cooperators.

#### Acronyms:

KFMC-TAT: The Klamath Fisheries Management Council -Technical Advisory Team, KBFHAT: (Kay-bee-phat) Klamath Basin Fish Health Assessment Team, NCRWQCB: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA: (Noah) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, KSAGA: (Kay-saga) Klamath – Salmon Angers and Guides Association





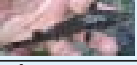



*above, Fish counters from 1999 covering stretches of the Salmon River during the Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead Dives.*

*photo above left from the SRRC archives of Spring Chinook and Summer Steelhead from 8/29/04*



## Salmon River Fisheries Program - Projects Chart

Salmon River Stocks	Ongoing Projects	Project Cooperators	Volunteer Days	Fish Facts
 <p><b>Spring Chinook</b></p>	Spring Chinook run timing assessments; the Salmon River Cooperative spring Chinook Population Dives; carcass and redd surveys; disease and mortality assessments; radio telemetry; refugia (cold water holding areas) monitoring; spring Chinook recovery meetings; and otolith (fish ear-bone) research.	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe, Voluntary Spring Chinook Recovery Group, NOAA	<b>224 volunteer days</b> were contributed to spring Chinook restoration and assessment by the surrounding communities and project cooperators.	<b>The Salmon River hosts one of the only runs of wild spring Chinook left in the Klamath basin.</b> Our run varies from 150 to 1700 fish annually. Spring Chinook were once the predominant run in the Klamath Basin.
 <p><b>Fall Chinook</b></p>	The Klamath Basin Cooperative Fall Chinook Surveys; the downstream migrant screw trap; and disease monitoring on the Klamath.	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe	<b>214.5 volunteer days</b> were contributed to fall Chinook restoration and assessment.	<b>The 2004 Salmon River fall run was the lowest in recorded history.</b> Since '92 cooperators have counted the redds and carcasses instead of using a weir, which blocked adult migration.
 <p><b>Winter + Summer Steelhead</b></p>	Winter Steelhead spawning and redd surveys; the Klamath Salmon Anglers and Guides Association Steelhead Monitoring Program; and the CDFG Steelhead Research, Monitoring Program and the Annual Dives.	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe, KSAGA, NOAA	<b>210.5 volunteer days</b> were contributed to spring and winter steelhead restoration and assessment.	Winter Steelhead runs seem to be getting stronger after years of lower returns, although Summer Steelhead returns remain low.
 <p><b>Coho</b></p>	The Salmon River juvenile coho presence / absence surveys Salmon River adult coho spawning and redd surveys, the downstream migrant screwtrap and barrier modification.	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe, NOAA	<b>71.5 volunteer days</b> were contributed to coho restoration and assessment by the surrounding communities and project cooperators.	Until recently, when SRRC & K-Tribe found several hundred coho juveniles, some thought coho were extinct in the Salmon River.
 <p><b>Green Sturgeon</b></p>	Green sturgeon dives on the lower three miles of the Salmon River; green sturgeon larval sampling; and radio telemetry	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe	<b>32 volunteer days</b> were contributed to sturgeon restoration and monitoring.	<b>The Salmon River is one of only a few known spawning areas for Green Sturgeon</b>
 <p><b>Lamprey</b></p>	Research and monitoring projects include lamprey redd surveys and presence/absence surveys.	K-Tribe, USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Y-Tribe	<b>4 volunteer days</b> were contributed to lamprey restoration and monitoring.	A Salmon River lamprey may hitch a ride from the ocean all the way to Cecilville

### Weakstocks program: Assessment, Coordination and Implementation

\* Habitat Improvements: The SRRC has implemented 24 habitat enhancement projects within the sub-basin including - riparian tree planting, fish barrier & dam removal, crossing upgrades, sediment source assessments and road upgrades, and stream connectivity projects. Also, over 10,000 native riparian plants have been propagated and planted by SRRC volunteers in the last twelve years.

\* Salmon River Fish Work Group Meetings: The SRRC has held 23 fisheries monitoring coordination meetings. Attendees included: USFS, CDFG, USFWS, Karuk and Yurok tribes, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, KSAGA, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, NOAA Fisheries and community members. These meetings serve to coordinate monitoring projects relating to the target species of the program (See Species Chart above).

\* The Salmon River spring Chinook Voluntary Recovery Group: The SRRC held 12 Voluntary spring Chinook Recovery Group meetings with the USFS, KFA, CDFG, NCRWQCB, the Karuk, Hoopa and Yurok Tribes, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries. The group acts to coordinate Salmon River Spring Chinook research and protection. The group has developed a limiting factors analysis for the species which is available for review on our web page.

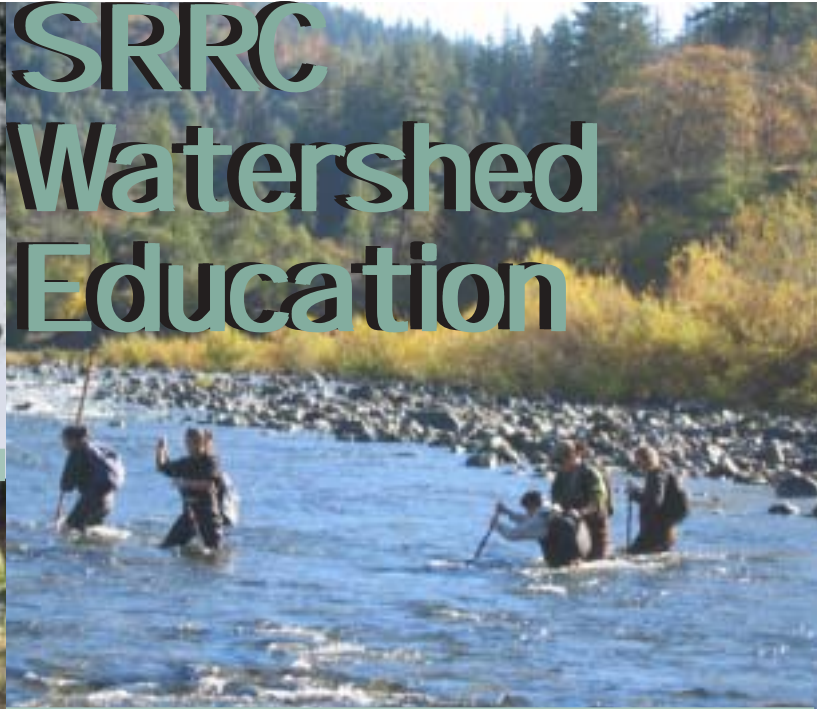
\* Outreach: The Restoration Council has educated and involved over 250 different people from local and surrounding communities through 178 fisheries volunteer activities, training, or workshops. These include, but are not limited to, the above mentioned activities. SRRC's fisheries program has also produced outreach and educational training materials including: The Salmon River Fish I.D. and Snorkel Survey training video; the Spring Chinook limiting factors analysis; the fisheries brochure; a Juvenile Fish I.D. presentation; webpage and articles published in six newspapers.

Support For our program: *The SRRC fisheries program, which continues to grow every year, has received funding from 4 different private, state and federal sources including: CA Dept F&G SB271 Salmon Restoration Grants Program, USFWS Klamath Fisheries Restoration Task Force, USFWS Klamath Flow Study and the Cantara Trust.*

The fish and the people of the Salmon River sincerely appreciate the investment made to our community and resources by the support given to our projects. The people here at SRRC would like to personally thank the funders and volunteers that every year are contributing towards a better future for the Salmon, and the people of the Salmon River.

*Nat Pennington*

# SRRC Watershed Education



The SRRC's Watershed Education Program has grown steadily ever since it began. This year the program was boosted by the help of AmeriCorps Watershed Steward Project members and also by an assistant educator. The program is prepared to retain this larger staff size so that it can better serve the community. In addition, the program is prepared to offer more field trips and technical instruction to students, and long term research projects for students as more funding becomes available.



We continually seek to build upon the already strong alliance with the education programs of the Karuk Tribe of California, AmeriCorps, MKWC and the River Schools. The SRRC has been helping to implement a Watershed Education Program in local school curriculum since 1994. Our current program integrates specialists, students, teachers, parents and community members in engaging, hands on activities.

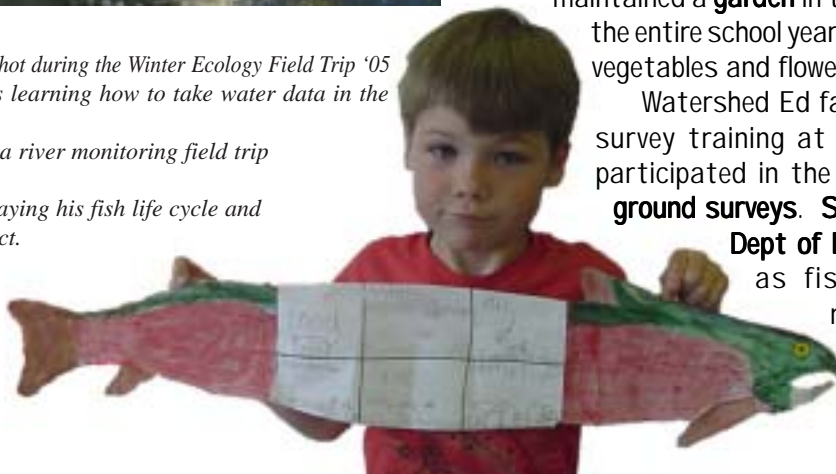
During the 2003-2004 school year, we managed to go on **14 field trips** to study geology, water quality, fisheries, botany, and more. **Over 23 in-class lessons** and activities were facilitated!! We maintained a **garden** in the Junction School greenhouse for the entire school year. We harvested salad mix, numerous vegetables and flowers from it.

*photos-top, Group shot during the Winter Ecology Field Trip '05  
middle, School kids learning how to take water data in the field.*

*bottom, Rafting on a river monitoring field trip*













*right, Student displaying his fish life cycle and identification project.*

Watershed Ed facilitated a successful fall chinook survey training at Oak Bottom, and of course we participated in the annual cooperative **fall spawning ground surveys**. **Students received awards from CA Dept of Fish & Game**, for excellent service as fisheries technicians. Students maintained three Hobo temperature monitoring sites, and **contributed the data to the KRIS database**, which is used by managers.

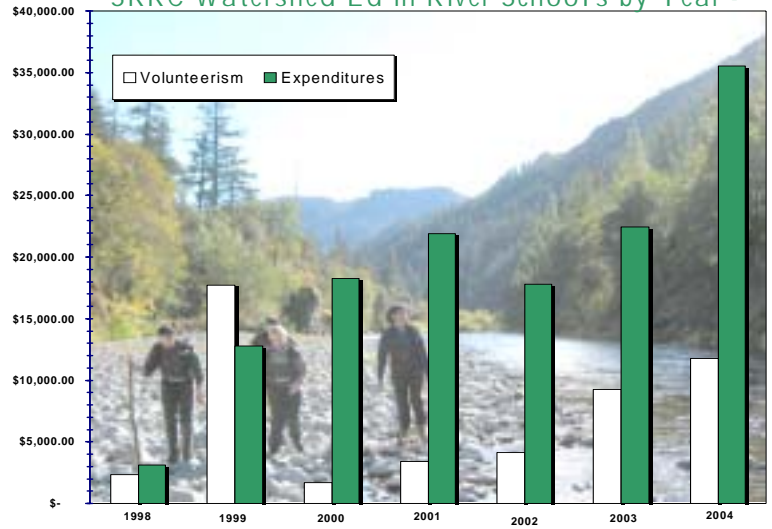




# SRRRC Watershed Ed Accomplishments

-  Volunteer hours contributed: 2,100
-  Average yearly school field trips: 10
-  Total project cost including inkind so far: \$300,000
-  Secured \$145,000 in grant monies
-  Water Quality Monitoring
-  12 years of education for Salmon River schools and community
-  Chinook Carcass & Redd Surveys
-  Annual Watershed Fair
-  Salmonid Aquarium Incubator
-  Macroinvertebrate Assessment
-  Watershed Journals
-  Archiving History Project

SRRC Watershed Ed in River Schools by Year -



right, Macroinvertebrate study on the Salmon River, 1994

Some local students, now adults, are working in watershed restoration fields.



Tools of the trade in the Watershed Monitoring Program; Bug catching net, Lap top computer, HOB0 temp monitoring devise and its casing, data sheets, a fish hooking/ measuring/ walking stick and kids willing to learn like these from Forks Elementary.

Students learned three methods of native plant propagation. And, in the Fall of '04, both schools went on **natural history river floats**, on which we saw bald eagles, a mink, a beaver dam, kingfishers, osprey, blue heron, and salmon. Also, during the **winter ecology field trip** students studied



snow melt in our watershed, learned about mountains of the world, and studied avalanche physics.

We are looking forward to a great spring and a lot more Watershed Education!! Thanks to all of the volunteers, teachers, parents, funders and especially students who make the program such a success!

Tera Palmer

# Fire Planning and Fuel Reduction

## on the Salmon River by the SRRC and the Salmon River Fire Safe Council

The SRRC realized early on that management activities such as suppressing all fires, have actually increased the risk 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. It includes; detailed fire safe plans for communities and neighborhoods, a subbasin wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan, education about Fire Safe landscaping and building materials, and prioritized fuel reduction. We have also held many

events including Fire Awareness Week, Volunteer Fuels Reduction workdays, Fuels Loading Assessment workshops and Fire Safety Training.

Starting in 1994, the SRRC started 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, the SR FSC has received four grants 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.



above, (1)BEFORE, (2)1 YEAR AFTER FUEL TREATMENT and (3)5 YEARS LATER - Fuel reduction techniques include hand piling, pullback and lop and scatter. After fuels are piled, burning and chipping are used to remove the material. The objective is to break up the continuity of fuels on the ground to reduce the fuel ladder. By leaving canopy cover in these areas, regrowth of flammable brush species is limited.



left, Initial fire planning for the Rainbow Mine (a private parcel) with Salmon River Restoration Council staff, Agency personnel and the landowner



right, Chipper in action during the fuel reduction at the oldest Catholic Church in California, in Sawyers Bar.

**One prescription we have developed is for Emergency Access Routes 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 firefighting equipment, and traffic turn-outs. We have developed an Assessment and Implementation Plan for which we are seeking funding.**



The SRRC has been designing and completing fuel reduction projects on the Salmon River since 1995. In order to include more stakeholders in the decision process, the SRRC initiated, facilitates and administrates the Salmon River Fire Safe Council.

**The SR 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.”*

## Since our first SR FSC meeting, a lot has been accomplished!

- **Completing Salmon River Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
- **Identification of Tanker Fill Sites: Mapping and signing them**
- **Providing Uniform Address Signs for residential emergency response along roads**
- **Identifying and Mapping Helispots for emergency response**
- Developing Wildland Urban Interface Areas Map
- Developing a Fuels Reduction Prescription Policy
- Developed proposals for CBWP O1 Planning/Fuel Reduction Grant, Forks of Salmon Planning/Fuel Reduction Grant, and Cecilville Planning /Fuel Reduction Grant
- Developed proposals for Forks of Salmon Hydrant System Grant
- Developed Fire Prevention Posters with the help of the Forks School Students
- Identify Fire Safe Vegetation and appropriate building materials
- Identify Emergency Access Routes for treatment

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

Through the FSC we have been working on a Salmon River Wildfire Protection Plan. This Plan addresses private properties and 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 idea is for the Salmon River to have a Wildfire Protection Plan in place to define conditions and priorities and allowing us to have a better chance for receiving money through HFRA funding. The safety buffer we are currently considering for WUI areas is 200-300 feet and 1/4 mile around municipal watersheds.

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, 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.

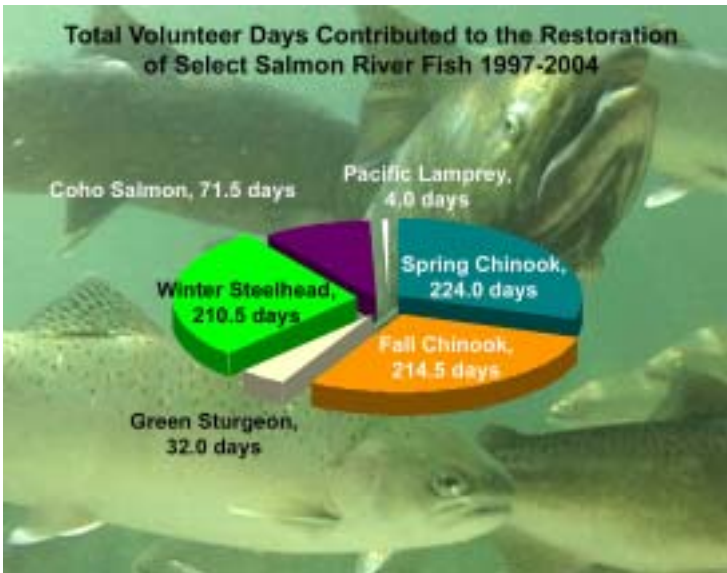
*Jim Villeponteaux*

## Summary of the USFS Salmon River Fuels program

A little over a decade ago, the Salmon River Fuels program started implementing the current fuels reduction program. Beginning primarily with the reintroduction of fire using prescribed underburning techniques, it has grown to include a wide range of options such as thinning, piling, chipping and mastication. The program has evolved from fire hazard reduction as the primary objective to now include the protection of life and private property, habitat improvement, and a more holistic approach to ecosystem protection, health and restoration. It has also become more of a collaborative process that includes and encourages other agencies, groups and individuals to participate in the planning and implementation.

The District Fuels Reduction program has been actively working toward these goals. In the last ten years we have completed over 17,500 acres of fuels reduction/restoration work on National Forest lands. The district currently has an additional 8,800 acres that are planted and ready for treatment. These figures are what the Fire/Fuels shop has completed and does not include treatment done by other departments or fuels treatment on private lands within the district.

*Michael Journey, District Fire Management Officer*



### Salmon River Restoration Strategy (SRRC/USFS '02)

The Salmon River has been identified as a high priority anadromous fisheries resource to protect and restore by the Northwest Forest Plan (USFS 1994a), and Klamath River Basin Assessment (USFS 1997a). It's part of a network of Key Watersheds that serve as refugia for at-risk salmon and steelhead stocks in the Pacific Northwest.

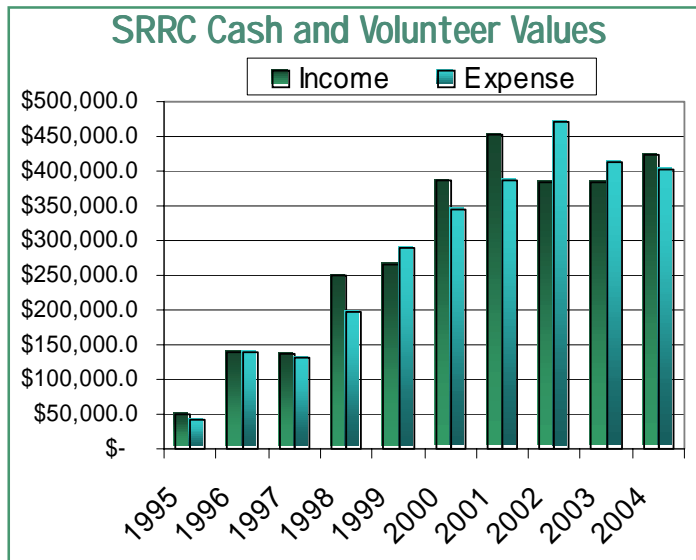
The Salmon River is unique among watersheds in CA in that it retains viable runs of anadromous salmonid species that have disappeared from much of their historic range. These values highlight the importance of a systematic restoration strategy that secures and maintains the watershed integrity of the Salmon River and its tributaries. Cooperators have accelerated rehabilitation of watershed conditions in high priority drainages.

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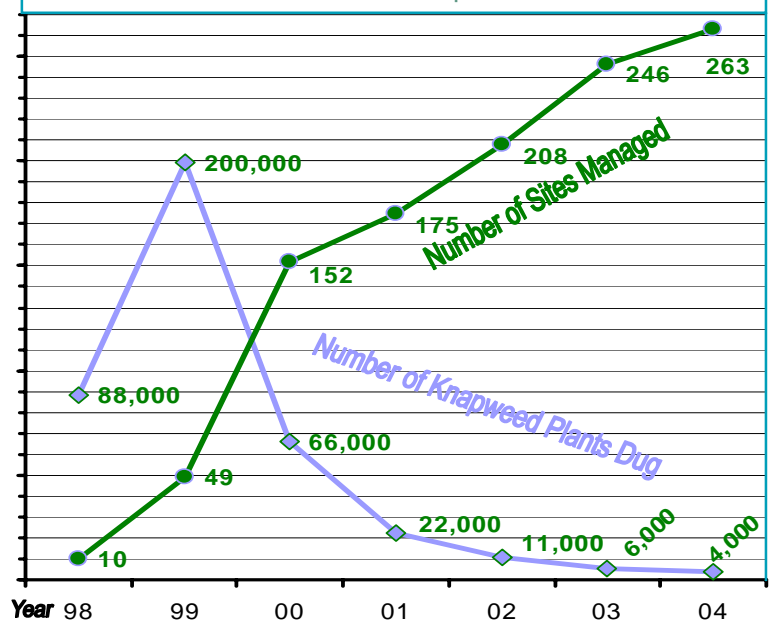
Our approach has focused on restoring the biological, geologic and hydrologic processes which ultimately shape the quality of aquatic habitat. Building on information gathered through watershed analysis, road access and travel management plans, community input, and other administrative investigations, we have created and are implementing the Salmon River Restoration Strategy (Strategy) and related Action Plan. It focuses on reduction of upslope hazards in drainages retaining high quality aquatic habitat and intact native fish communities.

This approach embraces the philosophy that the protection of healthy watersheds and initiating preventative actions provides the most cost-effective path to meeting anadromous fish recovery goals. Multi-year restoration objectives, and recommendations on target watershed conditions continue to be achieved. Implementation of the Action Plan has resulted in conditions, which now make the Subbasin less vulnerable to the adverse effects of future floods, severe wildfire, invasive species, and other potential threats.

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Cooperative Noxious Weeds Program results for knapweed



photos right and above right - The beautiful Salmon River and a few of the noxious weed diggers protecting it.



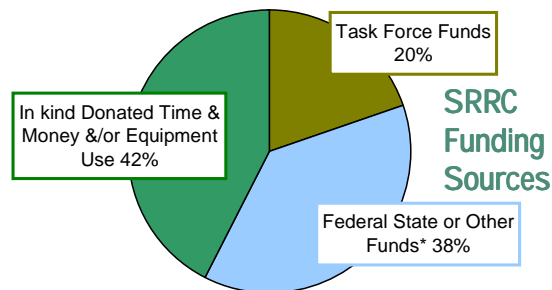
INTERVIEW  
SRRCS  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
SALMON  
RIVER

The Klamath River Fisheries Restoration Task Force (1986 Klamath Act) has embraced the need for comprehensive subbasin restoration planning with identified goals, priorities, and actions in order to efficiently apply funds to watershed rehabilitation efforts.

**Subbasin Planning provides a basis for evaluating proposed projects submitted to the Task Force for funding consideration. It can be used to focus watershed restoration activities sponsored through other funding sources in order to accelerate and complement desired outcomes.**

Salmon River Fuel Reduction Grants & Accomplishments over the Last 10 years					
Grant	Funder	Amount	Acres	Plans	Parcels
JITW Part 1 (Also included erosion control and tree planting)	USFWS	\$50,000.00	47.75		13
JITW Part 2	USFWS	\$42,000.00			
JITW 97	USFWS	\$32,293.00	53.5		11
JITW 98	USFWS	\$29,575.00	38.33		23
JITW 2001	USFWS	\$39,052.00	72.0		9
CBWP 2001	BLM	\$42,009.00	52.75	3	3
JITW 2002	USFWS	\$58,577.00	40.0		5
TF 2002 FR	USFWS	\$47,736.00	14.75		7
SB RAC 2003	USFS	\$27,600.00	18.5	1	
CBWP 2003 Forks	BLM	\$34,738.00	28.5	1	6
CBWP 2004 Cecilville (Crew is working now)	BLM	\$34,738.00		1	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$438,318.00</b>	<b>368.08</b>		<b>80</b>

Through guidance in our Strategy and with the commitment of our Cooperators, we've identified current watershed conditions and assessment needs, identified the intensity of watershed restoration necessary to meet target conditions, targeted geographic areas with the potential to provide the most subbasin benefits, focused limited funding on high priority restoration needs, and promoted education, cooperation and mutual support among subbasin stakeholders.



Besides showing historical changes from hydraulic mining on the Salmon River, this photo from the History CD also lets you see the vegetation growth patterns on the mountainsides. Photo courtesy Siskiyou Co. Museum



**History CD Project and the Ongoing Collection of Area History**

Through a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation we began accumulating over 1000 historical images from the Salmon River area. 500 images are part of a multimedia CD cataloging the past and present histories of the area through stories, video interviews, maps as well as photos. If you would like to add your historical photographs, maps, documents, etc. to the archives, or to acquire a History CD, please visit [www.srrc.org](http://www.srrc.org) or call us.



Water Monitoring Grants Received					
YEAR	Funded By:	PROJECT	DESCRIPTIONS	Federal, State or Other Funds	In kind Donated Time & Money
1993	USF&WS Klamath Task Force	Macro invertebrate Study	Forks of Salmon School participated in a macroinvertebrate and temperature program within the Salmon River watershed	\$7,513	
1998	USF&WS/EPA	KRIS - 319 (h) Phase IV	Support for watershed/fisheries assessment, training and monitoring efforts coordinated by the SRRC	\$20,422	
1999	USF&WS/EPA	KRIS - 319 (h) Phase V	Support for assessment, training and monitoring efforts coordinated by the SRRC	\$22,750	\$19,720
2003	USFS/Regional Water Board	Temperature Monitoring	Gathering water temperature info which will be used to develop the Total Maximum Daily Load	\$12,981	\$27,503
2004-2006	CDFG	Watershed Monitoring	Gathering water temperature data	\$12,000	\$11,117

*"A small but growing stakeholder group is cooperating with state and federal agencies and tribal interests in the Salmon River basin. High priority has been placed on monitoring of salmon and steelhead runs, improvements in riparian habitat, management of fuels, and assessment and rehabilitation of logging roads (Elder et al. 2002). Given proper funding and agency participation, these efforts may be sufficient to improve conditions for coho and other salmon and steelhead in the watershed."*

# SALMON RIVER COOPERATIVE NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM -

- ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS !

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & FUNDERS  
FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE

Upon realizing that noxious weeds can cause great harm to the natural balance of native species in the Salmon River hampering the recovery of the anadromous fisheries, the SRRC and its partners (USFS, Siskiyou Co. Dept. of Agriculture, Karuk Tribe, and others) started the Salmon River Cooperative Noxious Weed Program.

The SRRC and its partners began holding regular noxious weed Workshops and Workdays in 1994. Initially our focus was on Scotch & Spanish Broom and Marlahan Mustard. In '94, SRRC volunteers joined local USFS Fire Crews in removing Broom on 4 sites on public & private lands. Since then, the SRRC and its cooperators expanded Broom control throughout the Salmon River. Annual monitoring of treatment identifies about half of the populations were eliminated at the 35 known sites.

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.



*left, Juvenile Spotted Knapweed plant found at the Kelly Bar site.*

*right, SRRC has started a campaign to eradicate Italian Thistle in downtown Forks of Salmon.*

Thanks to all the diggers who have been working the sites over and keeping small populations from spreading. This year we'll be expanding our programmatic approach to weeds like Italian Thistle, White Top, Tree of Heaven, Marlahan Mustard and more. ***By instituting our 13 step program we can eradicate these weeds.***



*Volunteers digging knapweed on the river bars with their custom made tools.*

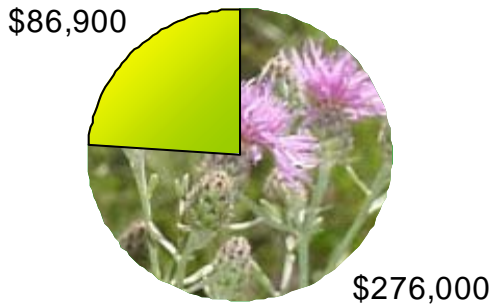
Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed were first discovered by the Forest Service on the Salmon River in 1997, with concentrated populations in the Kelly Bar vicinity on the No. Fork Salmon River. Both species are rated "Class A" species, which mandates eradication as described in county and state health codes. Local land managers promoted the status quo management approach, which was to apply several different herbicides for at least five years. In response, the local community launched one of the most effective noxious weed efforts known in the region, significantly reducing or eliminating knapweed plant concentrations in over 250 sites.

Extensive planning, inventory, tracking, monitoring, and coordination have resulted in an overall plant reduction of more than 90% throughout the watershed. Prompted largely by the intensive management of the knapweed species, the SRRC with its partners developed the **Salmon River Cooperative Noxious Weed Program (CNWP)** that includes a 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.





## CNWP Funding Breakdown



*Pat O'Connor and Linus Darling bagging knapweed flowerheads*

Since 1994 the SRRC, with its volunteers, have contributed 18,000 hours managing Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed.

In 2003 there were 14 seeded Spotted Knapweed Plants found by USFS Monitoring Personnel . In 2004 there were 0 found.

Through this Program new local jobs are being created

In 2005 the SRRC will continue to hold weekly volunteer & paid Workdays and other events. Training sessions are also available. Let us know if you're interested in coming, need help in managing Noxious Weeds, or have found any new sites or species.

As Pat O'Connor says, "I admire the knapweed; it's only doing everything it can to stay on the Salmon River, just like me." That hasn't stopped him from taking a highly active role in its eradication. As groundwork coordinator in 2003-2004, Pat helped make sure that all known sites were cleared of knapweed plants. His intrepid spirit has helped find far-flung unknown sites as well.

USFS monitoring crews failed to find a single seeded plant in '04, making the program totally compliant with the high expectations of the original monitoring criteria. "Everybody deserves a big hand. Without everybody involved, we never could have done this. It's a community effort," says Pat.

### Summary of Results of the Salmon River Cooperative Noxious Weed Program

Noxious Weed Species	Spotted & Diffuse Knapweed	Scotch & Spanish Broom	Marlahan Mustard or Dyer's Woad	Malta Star Thistle	White-top	Italian Thistle	Meadow Knapweed	Tree of Heaven	Yellow Star Thistle
Year Mgt. Began	1997	1994	1994	1998	2001	2000	2000	2002	1997
# of Sites Managed/ Total # of Sites	262/ 262 CIN	35/ 35 CIN	>100/ >200 NLAIW	25/ >40 NLAIW	7/ 7 CIN	7/ 7 CIN	2/ 2 CIN	9/ 9 CIN	30/ >200 NLAIW
# of Sites Eliminated	109	17	>30	10	3	2	2	2	15
% Reduction in Sites Managed	> 90% *	>60% -	>60% * estimate	>60% - estimate	>60% - estimate	> 40 - estimate	100% *	> 30 % - estimate	> 60 % - estimate

CIN=Continued Inventory Needed NLAIW=Needs Large Amount of Inventory Work (\*)=Funded (-)=Unfunded

Key Funders- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, US Forest Service, Siskiyou RAC, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, CA Dept. of Fish & Game, and CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture

# Roads Assessment and Prioritized Restoration

The total number of roads that were mapped and assessed:

County roads	95.1
Private roads	25.5
State roads (Hwy 96)	0.38
<b>USFS roads (All)</b>	<b>763.</b> <i>(Includes 38.08 mls of decommissioned roads)</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>883.98 miles of roads in our watershed</b>

This information is being used by the USFS to prioritize road restoration and maintenance.

\* In the Lower South Fork road restoration project, 30.3 miles of roads have been decommissioned, and another 30.3 miles have been storm proofed.

\* In the Upper South Fork Summerville project, 24.9 miles have been storm proofed, and 16.6 miles have been decommissioned.

Many of the once thriving fisheries streams in the west are being choked out due to huge additions of sediment. The Salmon River Restoration Council, in cooperation with local landowners and residents, tribes, agencies, private specialists, and others has developed a multifaceted approach to understand and help manage the roads of the Salmon River.

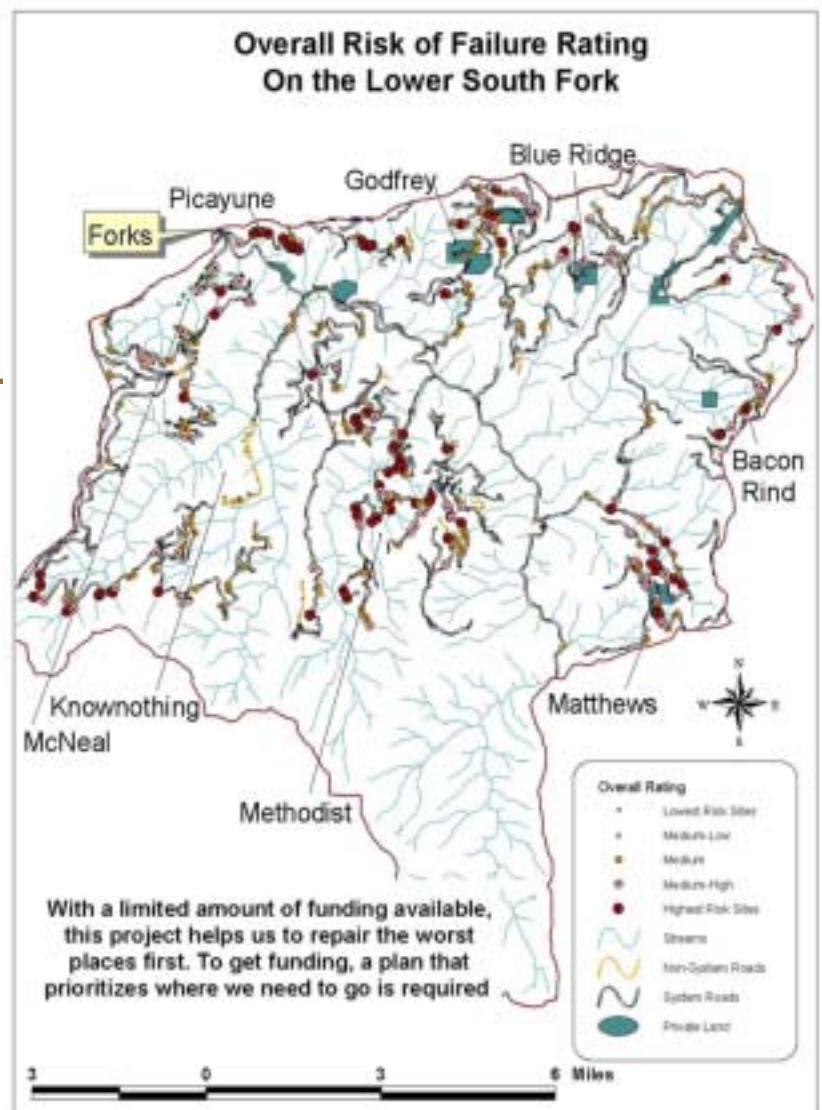
We've completed a sediment source assessment of all of the federal and many of the private roads in the Salmon River.

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. Six jobs were created assessing all crossings, cross drains, ditches and in between sites (landslides, gullies and other erosional features), as well as GPS mapping all the roads in the watershed.

The information collected (along with other data) allowed for an overall ranking to be made and collected on maps such as the one below, created by the SRRC.



GPS mapping crew at work on lower North Fork roads left to right-Don Elder USFS, Robert Will and Sue Mauer of SRRC.



Comprehensive roads and fuels treatments, applied subbasin wide, are estimated to cost \$48 million, emphasizing the critical need to employ a priority base strategy for future restoration investments.





*Before, During and After the Merrill Creek Fish Passage work*

Merrill Creek culvert was a major fish passage barrier. In 2002, the Siskiyou County Roads Dept. received a grant from CA Dept of Fish & Game to replace the culvert there with a bridge. This cooperative effort made over one mile of habitat available for the Spring & Fall Chinook and the 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 help stabilize the new creek bank.

Other fish barriers locations on our county road include Kelly Gulch, Whites Gulch, and at Hotelling Gulch. The County Roads Department has a grant to replace the culvert at Kelly Gulch with a bridge. This work will be completed this summer (2005) or next.

The SRRC has put in a proposal to remove two dams up Whites Gulch. This project will be in cooperation with the USFS, CA Dept of Fish & Game and the landowner. The environmental compliance completed by the Forest Service will also cover the culvert on the county road near the mouth. The culvert will also be replaced with a bridge (a future grant).

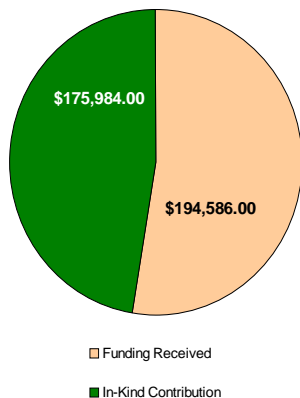


*left, Neighbors fixing the road surface along the Godfrey Road*

The **Driver's That Care Program** is a hands-on maintenance program performed by citizens. Salmon River Roads Program community members have provided low level maintenance on the roads they travel on a daily basis. The SRRC also holds volunteer restoration and training workdays as part of its **Neighborhood Stewardship Program**. In the years 1993 - 2005 the SRRC had 37 events, supplied 36 paid person days and 127 volunteer person days of roads related work other than sediment source assessments.

### Roads Sediment Source Assessment Funding

We are in the process of applying for a grant to continue the 2000-2002 Roads Assessment Project on private property. If funded, the SRRC would assess, prioritize and estimate the cost to upgrade to reduce sediment delivery to waterways.



*1999 Roads Workshop attendees - SRRC Project Leaders, Community members, USFS geologists, Siskiyou County Road Crew and the Pacific Watershed Association members.*

# Monitoring the Salmon River



*Lyra Cressey and Irie Swift taking flow data in the field*

The Klamath River Fisheries Task Force has identified **high water temperatures** and **excessive sediment production** as the key limiting factors for the anadromous fisheries (highlighting Spring Chinook) resource in the Salmon River subbasin (*Klamath River Basin Fisheries Restoration Plan, 1991; Salmon River Subbasin Restoration Strategy, 2002*).

In 1987, several community members began monitoring temperature in the Salmon River using maximum/minimum thermometers. This community driven concern about water quality gave rise to the Salmon River Cooperative Monitoring Program, which the SRRRC began coordinating in 1996. The program began as a close association between the SRRRC and the three river schools, who adopted responsibility for several hobo temps. The SRRRC provided the technical oversight and data compilation for the program. In the years since, the program has expanded both in its number of cooperators and its focus.



*Community volunteer taking flow measurements at Black Bear Creek*

Currently the Salmon River temperature monitoring program is a cooperative effort involving SRRRC 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 (NCRWQCB). Training is offered for community members wishing to participate in this program. We have between 5-10 citizen monitors each year. Approximately 50 Hobo temps (electronic temperature recording devices that store months of data) are maintained throughout the watershed in the summer months. The temperature monitoring program provides data to the Klamath River Information System (KRIS), agencies, tribes, and the TMDL process.

The NCRWQCB, SRRRC, Karuk Tribe, and local schools have been cooperating to develop a flow monitoring program for the past four years. This project includes training for community members to learn operation of flow meters, and calculation of stream discharge. Flow measurements are conducted once a month from June through September, during the low-water season, and provide important data on the volume of water in the river and its tributaries. In 2004, 21 sites were monitored for flow. The flow monitoring program focuses on tributaries, which contribute crucial cold water to the Salmon River during the summer months.

*below, A Hobo device and its casing*



The goals of the Monitoring Program include;

- 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 TMDL process,



In 2004, SRRC and the Karuk Tribe began cooperation on a Thermal Refugia Assessment of the Salmon River. The purpose of the project is to locate, inventory and characterize all thermal refugia sites in the Salmon River Mainstem, South Fork and North Fork. The data gathered will help to:

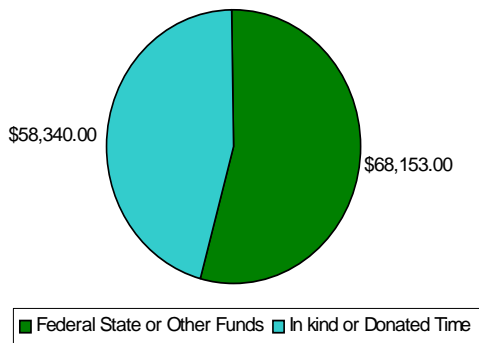
- Determine life stage and species usage at Salmon River thermal refugia site
- Establish baseline relationship between Mainstem Water Temperature and Fish Usage at primary sites on the Salmon River
- Characterize habitat quality and complexity of each site
- Determine extent and area of refugia sites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



right, A measuring tape across the river guides where to read the flow levels on a meter.



Salmon River Monitoring Funding



The Salmon River Subbasin Restoration Strategy identifies that a long term monitoring plan should be developed for the Salmon River. The SRRC and its cooperators have initiated this action.

**Over 800,000 temperature data points have been collected on the Salmon River since 1997.**

Approximately 120 hours (15 person days) a year are spent by the SRRC monitoring temperature, and 100 hours (12.5 person days) are spent monitoring flow.

Number of HOBO Temps on the Salmon River				
Year	SRRC	USFS	River Schools	Karuk Tribe
1994			4	
1995			14	
1996	16		17	
1997	17		11	
1998	33	5	1	
1999	33	14	9	
2000	37	12	9	
2001	20	9	7	
2002	42	9	5	2
2003	37	10	3	6
2004	36	11	3	6

The Monitoring Project has largely been supported by local residents and community volunteers, with one or two paid staff for program coordination. Funding for the program has been received from Klamath Fisheries Task Force, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and CA Dept of Fish & Game. CA Dept of Fish & Game is currently funding the temperature monitoring component of the program. Future funding will be needed to continue the important work of gathering baseline temperature and flow data for the Salmon River, as well as for expanding the program to include other types of monitoring.

- Lyra Cressey



## Junker Removal & River Clean-up

Picking up trash and litter has been happening as long as people have been leaving it behind. One of the motivations for starting up the SRRC was to help mining claim residents clean up when they were forced to move. Since the early 1990's community members have gotten together to walk, float in tubes or rafts, or drive to pick up trash. For the last 3 years, trash clean-up days have been coordinated with Coastal Cleanup Day and sponsored by the CA Coastal Commission.

**Since 1997, over 500 volunteer hours, 60 pickup loads of trash and 21 tons of debris (including a 20 ton bridge by Les Harling and crew) have been documented.**

Ongoing participation by knapweeders, water monitors, fish counters, Forest Service fire crews, county sponsored Adopt-A-Hwy, and ongoing diligence by concerned citizens have helped keep the Salmon River Watershed cleaner and safer.

The SRRC and the Karuk Tribe sponsored a Recycling & Toxic Workshop in 2000 focusing on household systems, recycling, and toxin alternatives and disposal. The SRRC continues to distribute info from the Watershed Center in the form of pamphlets, videos, books and current recycling opportunities. The Karuk Tribe is providing a regular recycling pickup on the Salmon River.

In March 2004, SRRC received a grant recommended by Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee and from the US Forest Service to inventory abandoned and/or unwanted vehicles, large appliances and scrap metal on public and private property in the Salmon River drainage.

Over the past year eighty-two private properties on the Salmon River have been visited. More than 347 junkers, 261 large appliances, and 205 pickup loads of scrap have been inventoried for removal. Phase 1 of the grant also requires

lining up the crusher, towers, and crusher sites. There will be five sites from Finley Camp to Cecilville, and transportation assistance may be available for those who need it.

The most interesting aspect of the project has been inventorying public land. So far about sixty sites have been cataloged. Forest Service personnel, fish counters, knapweeders, locals and old timers, have been helping locate sites of interest. Poking around old mining claims, homesteads, and dump sites, or scrambling down banks on little used or even county roads, has turned up 22 vehicles, over 60 large appliances, and several dumpster loads of metal.

Most of the old cabin sites were mining related. They vary from remote log cabins or stick frame shacks, surrounded by old growth trees, where one can imagine a crusty old miner or two scratched out a living, to homesteads with only a fireplace still standing, gardens, old fruit trees and southern exposure – enough niceties for raising a family.







This project avoids historical artifacts. Most are safe beyond decommissioned or blown-out roads or too far from the road to reach with equipment. The old Packard, Merritt-O'Keefe or Maytag over the bank, the stamp mill and old generator, will be there for another generation of hikers or amateur historians to rediscover and wonder about who owned them, and what their lives were like.

*Robert Will*



above, Scrap metal in the Watershed destined to be crushed and hauled out in the Junker Project Phase 2

right, River Clean Up Day volunteers outfitted with bags from the CA Coastal Commission



below, Some trash picked up along the River during a River Clean-up Day



## The Garbage Dive

A Salmon River Clean-up Experience



*view from 1999 garbage dive*

Meet at Forks of Salmon Community Club

Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:50 sharp

Walk & Raft the River, Remove the Junk & Keep it Clean

Bring: river shoes, lunch, drinking water, and dish

For afternoon potluck at the Community Club

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

For more info, contact:  
Salmon River Restoration Council  
Sawyer Bar, CA 96027  
530-462-4665 [src@pcnshut](mailto:src@pcnshut)

Let's get our garbage to the landfill, not the ocean!!!

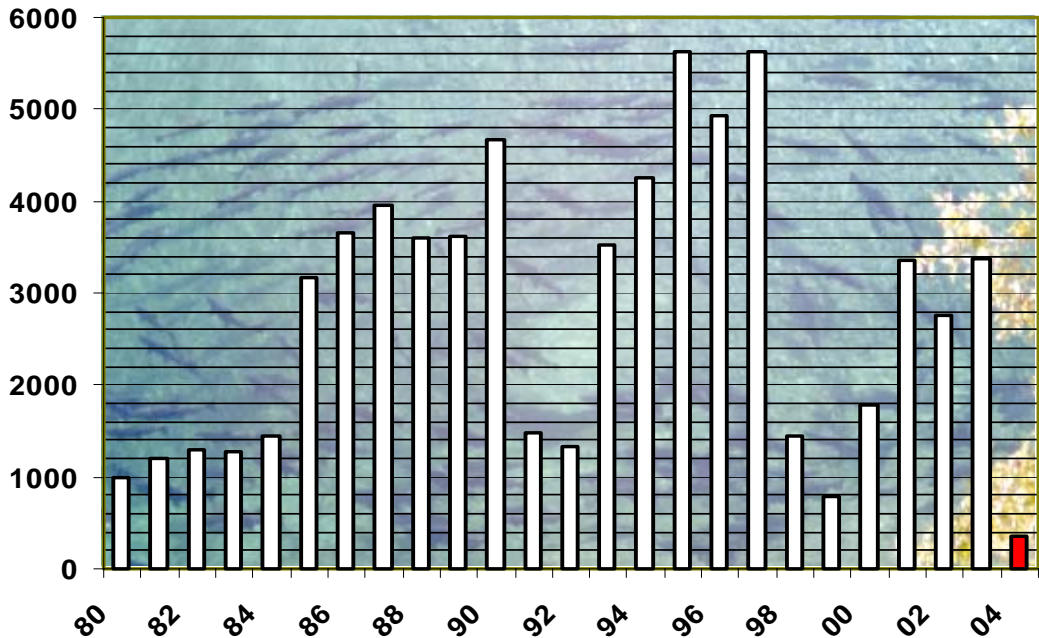
Since 1995, the SRRRC and the Forks of Salmon Community Club, have organized yearly River and Road Clean Up Days. Special attention is given to Adopt-A-Hwy reaches, non designated camping areas, river access roads and trails, and swimming holes.

The poster above advertises a day long event focusing on the river corridor. The trash was picked up at the end of the day in trucks and hauled to the dump.

The SRRRC is now coordinating with the CA Coastal Commission and the USFS to hold annual River Clean Up Days in September.

# Salmon River Fall Chinook Totals

1980-2004



Sad but true -2004 saw record low returns of fall run Chinook in many of the Klamath basin's large tributaries like the Salmon, Scott, and Shasta Rivers. Recent adult and juvenile salmon die offs in the Klamath River, like the 2002 Fish Kill, are increasing attention on effects of fish diseases in Klamath salmon. Several fish diseases that are present in the Klamath flourish in heightened temperatures and lowered flows.

**Bad news - Lowest run on record**

In 2004 juvenile fish monitoring in the Klamath mainstem found up to 80% infection from the lethal disease C. Shasta. One question we're asking is, "How many of our juvenile salmon dies each year from diseases and poor conditions in the Klamath River?" Hopefully through continued funding for programs like our fish traps and weak stocks assessments, we may be able to provide some answers.

*- Nat Pennington, SRRC Fisheries Coordinator*

Salmon River Restoration Council  
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 Sawyers Bar, CA 96027

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