

Kern River Watersheds - Upper and South Fork

Increasing fire protection and recovery of the Kern River Valley

Inyo, Kern and Tulare Counties; State Senate District 18, State Assembly Districts 32, 34

DESERT MOUNTAIN RC&D COUNCIL



The Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Watershed Coordinator focused on addressing the negative impacts of wildfires on the Kern River Watershed. The Coordinator planned and developed numerous projects to protect ecosystem health and public safety. The Coordinator worked closely with the Sequoia National Forest staff to plan activities on an ongoing basis. Together they worked on projects to protect water quality and promote sustainable forest management.

The Watershed Coordinator conducted a water quality study to determine where E-coli bacteria were present in the Upper Kern River areas. The findings showed that bacteria levels were very high in areas where sanitary and trash services were not available nearby. The study convinced the US Forest Service to install barriers and signage to keep campsites away from the water's edge.

The Coordinator worked on post-fire ecosystem recovery projects, coordinating 60 volunteers in the collection of over 300 pounds of acorns, and hosted several native plant sales. Viable acorns were planted in burn areas, including the 16,000 acre Bull Fire and Manter burn areas. The Coordinator also conducted three irrigation efficiency workshops to help educate the community about the importance of water conservation and fire protection.

For more information visit the Desert Mountain RC&D Council website at <http://desertmountainrcandd.org>.



- Planted 1.5 miles of trail with native vegetation in the Canebrake Wildlife Preserve
- Organized 50 volunteers to collect 55 pounds of pinyon pine tree seeds to revegetate several acres in watershed restoration sites
- Provided watershed education/information booths at 26 public events. Interacted with thousands of stakeholders and valley visitors
- Participated in the development of the National Geographic Sierra Nevada Geotourism Map Guide
- Participated in public meetings to address natural resource concerns about the 20,000 acre Lion Fire in the Golden Trout Wilderness Area
- Worked with CalIPC to complete an inventory of invasive weeds in the Kern Valley region

“Local youth are becoming invested in the preservation of the wetlands, forests and restoration project areas they are involved in. They are making a difference in the environment.”

- Robert Robinson, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: US Forest Service • Bureau of Land Management • USDA NRCS • Kern County • Tulare County • Inyo County • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Alliance • Kern County Water Agency • CA Rural Water Association • CA Water Company • Owens Valley Career Development Center • Nuui Cunni Indian Cultural Center • Kern River Valley Revitalization • Kern Valley Indian Council • National Geographic Society • Kern Valley Fire Safe Council • Eastern Kern County RCD • Tehachapi RCD • Southern Sierra IRWMP • Kern IRWMP • Inyo Mono IRWMP • Kern River Preserve • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Kernville Chamber of Commerce • Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce • Kennedy Meadows Property Owners Association • Lake Isabella Property Owners Association • Oasis Garden Club • Southern California Edison Company • many program volunteers