

Yuba Watershed

Protecting salmon and water quality of the Yuba River Basin

Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 1



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

Historic and present day mining activities have heavily degraded water quality in the Yuba River Basin. The South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) utilized their Watershed Coordinator to develop the initial foundation for a citizen-engaged watershed assessment of the Yuba River.

The Watershed Coordinator completed a community-based watershed assessment called "The 21st Century Assessment of the Yuba River Watershed." The assessment provides SYRCL, landowners, and public agencies in the region with a scientific framework to support watershed improvement activities. The assessment also provides a foundation for the "Watershed Guilds" project. This pilot project will include citizen-based watershed assessments for three tributary-scale watersheds within the Yuba River Watershed and will outline watershed-specific conservation activities and prioritize habitat restoration improvements.

The Coordinator also improved on existing river monitoring programs and developed a means of communicating data to stakeholders. Projects developed by the Coordinator included sensitive and invasive species monitoring, flow monitoring, and the creation of a "Watershed Atlas" of GIS-generated watershed attributes and maps for ten Yuba River tributaries.

For more information visit the SYRCL website at <http://www.yubariver.org>



- Developed the Yuba River Watershed Information System (<http://www.yubashed.org>) to provide public access to river monitoring data and management plans
- Established 42 water quality monitoring stations, which now provide data once each month between March-October
- Trained 112 volunteers for the monitoring program
- Implemented over 10 restoration work days involving over 1,900 volunteers
- Removed 10,000 pounds of litter from the Yuba River
- Secured \$150,000 to support technical rehabilitation planning for 10,000 acres of gravel piles, remnant of historic mining known as "The Yuba Goldfields"

"Watershed coordination activities have strengthened the organizational and scientific basis for ongoing work of stewardship in the Yuba River watershed as prioritized by citizens and resource agencies."

- Gary Reedy, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: American Rivers • Bella Vista Foundation • Bureau of Land Management • Cosumnes, America, Bear, Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management • California Department of Fish and Wildlife • California Department of Water Resources • California Department of Parks and Recreation • Caltrans • Lower Yuba River Technical Working Group • Nevada County FireSafe Council • Nevada County Land Trust • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Sierra Streams Institute • US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest • Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe • US Fish & Wildlife Service - Anadromous Fish Restoration Program • Western Aggregates, LLC • Yuba Accord River Management Team • Yuba County Water Agency • Yuba-Bear Watershed Council