

Trinity River Watershed

Improving fish habitat and reducing wildfire threats in Upper Trinity River Watershed

Humboldt, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 1



TRINITY COUNTY RCD

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked to support ongoing activities of numerous local conservation efforts in order to protect and restore the Upper Trinity Watershed. Work included projects to improve water quality, to reduce risks of catastrophic wild fires, to reduce the spread of invasive weeds, and to improve forest health.

Prescribed fire is a cost-effective tool for managing forest health. The “Browns Project” is one phase of a larger fuel hazard reduction strategy developed in partnership with several local organizations. The Coordinator worked with the U.S. Forest Service to complete plans for the Browns Project which included timber stand improvement, sediment reduction, and comprehensive water monitoring.

The Coordinator also initiated a Classroom Aquarium Education Program which allowed students to observe the hatching of native salmon and to learn about their critical habitat requirements. The Coordinator led a volunteer revegetation and invasive plant removal workday in conjunction with the release of fish hatchlings into the Trinity River. After the release, the Coordinator conducted “Creek Watch” stream monitoring activities, utilizing a corps of citizen-scientist volunteers to regularly monitor stream conditions.

For more information visit the Trinity County RCD website at <http://www.tcrd.net>

“The Watershed Coordinator provided a critical education and outreach element to watershed restoration awareness.”
- Alex Cousins, District Manager,
Trinity County RCD

- Developed a 200-acre tree thinning plan for the Mining District Fuels Reduction Project
- Worked with BLM to develop a long-term Stewardship Agreement for the 16,000 acre Grass Valley Creek Watershed
- Created a quarterly Conservation Almanac and an annual 24-page “Be Prepared for Wildfire” newspaper insert which was distributed throughout the community
- Collected LiDAR data and aerial photography for 30,000+ acres, encompassing the entire Weaver Creek Watershed and parts of Indian Creek Watershed
- Facilitated the Environmental Science Education Camp for 44 6th grade students
- Initiated a schoolyard wetlands project that led to a successful grant to promote a wetlands restoration service learning program for schools in the region

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Watershed Research and Training Center • The Nature Conservancy’s Fire Learning Network • Trinity River Hatchery • CAL FIRE • US Forest Service • Bureau of Reclamation • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • OHV Commission • Trinity Trust • McConnell Foundation • FEMA • US EPA • Trinity County • US Department of Agriculture • Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee • NOAA • CA State Parks • CalRecycle • Trinity County Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Council • Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council • Bureau of Land Management • California Fire Safe Council