



Summer 2008

Vol. XVII No. 3

Fuels Reduction--A "HOT" Topic This Summer

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) continues to work on strategic fire safe projects in Trinity County in the midst of the major fire event started by a lightning storm on only the second day of summer. These fires continue to affect much of California. The District has been successful in applying for, and obtaining, grants for high priority projects through the California Fire Safe Council, which distributes funds from the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. These priorities are set by the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and by the encouragement of landowners for help from the District.

The District had two projects approved recently for funding through the statewide Fire Safe Council. The East Weaver Community Fuels Reduction project is designed to help create a buffer on private lands contiguous to a planned wildlife habitat improvement burn on Forest Service lands between East Weaver Road and Musser Hill. The Douglas City Strategic Fuels Reduction project is for work with landowners along several roads in the Douglas City area.

These new projects build on work the District has already completed. For example, 148 acres were treated in a pair of fuels reduction projects done earlier this year along Oregon Street and in the Grass Valley Creek Watershed with funds from the BLM. Smokey the Bear visited our crew while they were working to reduce fuel loading in a high priority area. With the onset of an extreme fire season, fuels reduction is needed more than ever and Smokey's visit serves as a reminder that you need to keep defensible space around your home!

The RCD is currently working on the Down River Community Fuels Reduction project on private lands, and the Salyer/Hawkins Bar Fuels Reduction project on adjacent USFS lands. Our Community Chipping Project is well underway and is designed to give landowners an alternative to burning or hauling woody material to the transfer station. A chipping request form can be obtained from the District's office by calling 623-6004 or from our website, www.trcrd.net.

The District realizes that good planning is the key to meeting our County's fire safe strategies, and our staff is working with the Trinity County Fire Safe Council to assist the County's Long Range Planning staff develop an update to the County's General Plan with regards to wildland fire in the Safety Element of the General Plan. The District encourages everyone to take a look at the draft Plan when it becomes available and provide comments to the General Plan Advisory Committee.



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Watershed Restoration Projects

The District recently completed two watershed restoration projects on Bureau of Land Management lands that will reduce the sediment delivery to the Trinity River. Conrad Gulch located near Junction City off of Canyon Creek Road had partially blown out crossings removed to keep more sediment from eroding from an unmaintained 2.3 mile segment of road. During a storm event in early 1997, two 36" culverts on Conrad Gulch Road plugged with debris causing in one instance the creek to run down and away from natural stream crossing (a diversion) and off slope; this resulted in about 1500 cubic yards of sediment to be delivered to Conrad Gulch, then Canyon Creek and finally to the Trinity River. At the other site the pipe plugged and washed out the entire road crossing with about 600 cubic yards of sediment. Four culverts were removed during this project and over 1,700 cubic yards of sediment was excavated from stream crossings. All excavated stream crossings were seeded and mulched and Big Leaf Maple trees were planted.



Conrad Gulch Before



Conrad Gulch After

Another project was to upgrade a severely eroding Union Hill Road between Weaverville and Douglas City that provides access to the Trinity River near Steel Bridge (across the river from the Steel Bridge campground). This old historic road is accessed from Union Hill Road near Weaverville. Union Hill Road is located 1.4 miles north of Douglas City along Highway 299, north of the Trinity River. The first 0.43 mile of the Union Hill to Trinity River at Steel Bridge road crosses SPI land. After crossing the BLM boundary the road steepens to an average road grade of 7% until Mile 1.16 where the road grade flattens along the river. There are several sharp, steep hairpin turns on this road and trailers and vehicles larger than a 10-yard dump truck are not advised.

None of the stream, spring and swale crossings on the road have culverts. Stormwater flows down the road in several locations, causing deep long-running gullying of the road surface. Since these gullies generally deposit into a watercourse, by correcting these active diversions with strategically placed road drainage improvements, sediment delivery to the Trinity River will be greatly reduced. The project included installing rocked rolling dips to disperse road surface runoff, grading, and rock surfacing to fill in existing gullies, and creating drainage for a spring that resulted in significant erosion along the roadway.



TRRP Staff News



Jennifer Faler, Implementation Branch Chief

Jennifer Faler joined our office March 31, 2008, and replaces Ed Solbos as the Implementation Branch Chief. Jennifer has 16 years of practical and academic experience in environmental restoration work. Prior to joining the Program, Jennifer worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency, helping small communities complete water and wastewater infrastructure projects. She also has experience with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, and the Department of Defense.

David Bandrowski was recently hired to replace Joe Riess and joined the office on May 11. He comes to the Program from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, bringing with him specialized civil engineering expertise on a variety of river projects, both in Michigan and overseas in Central/South America. David has worked as a Civil Engineer with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the past 10 years, overseeing the design and implementation of several river restoration and stabilization projects.



David Bandrowski, Project Engineer

Natural Resources Conservation Service News

New District Conservationist

In May 2008 Tiffany Riess was selected as the new District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Weaverville Field Office. Tiffany started her career with NRCS six years ago when she moved to Trinity County to take her former position as the Soil Conservationist. "It has been an honor to serve Trinity County and I am excited about the new opportunities ahead to resolve landowner's natural resource concerns in my new role."

Tiffany received her Bachelor of Science degree in Crop and Soil Environmental Science with a minor in Botany from Virginia Tech in May 2000. In college she participated in the National Student Exchange with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo which brought her to California. At Cal Poly, Tiffany worked on the Morro Bay Non-Point Source Pollution Study determining the impacts of cattle on water quality. Upon graduation she moved to South Lake Tahoe where she worked on native plant restoration, erosion control and watershed planning with the California Tahoe Conservancy, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.



Tiffany enjoys the recreational activities Trinity County provides. Since her arrival in Trinity she has enjoyed white water kayaking, back country snowboarding, mountain biking, and hiking with her dogs.

New Soil Conservationist

While attending college, Jenna Brazil was involved in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) with NRCS. She was employed as a Range Management Specialist Trainee in the Eureka Field Office since October, 2006. Prior to her involvement with the program, she attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for three years where she majored in Animal Science and minored in Rangeland Resources. She then received her Bachelor of Science degree in May, 2008 in Rangeland Resource Science from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. In June 2008, she was offered a position with NRCS in the Weaverville Field Office as a Soil Conservationist, which she willingly accepted. Aside from assisting landowners with protecting their natural resources, she enjoys hunting, fishing, and being outdoors and she feels privileged to be working in an area that can offer her all of the above.

Soil Conservation Technician

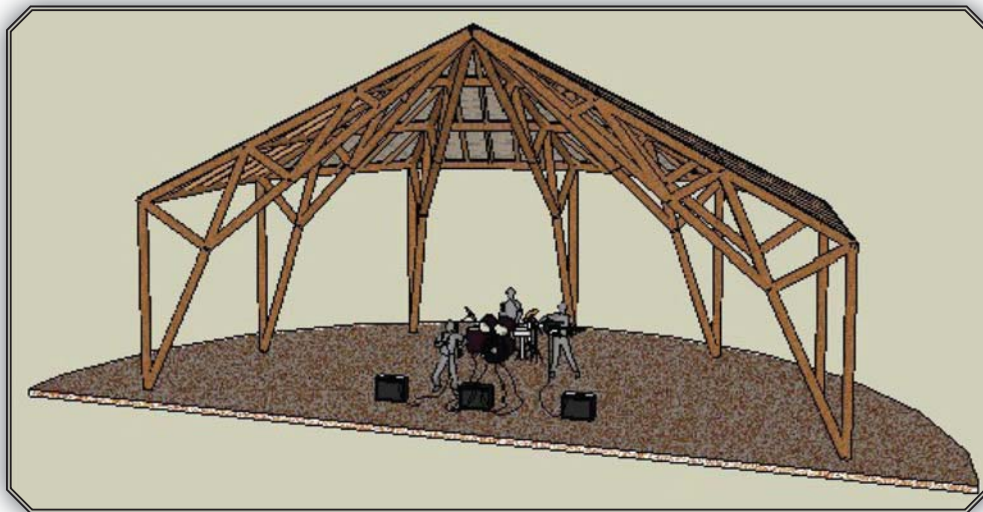
Katie Tenneson will be a senior at Trinity High this coming fall, and is currently in her second summer as a Soil Conservation Technician at the NRCS in Weaverville. Katie originally began this internship last summer after she won the California State RCD speak-off competition in Santa-Rosa. Upon graduating Trinity High she plans to attend Shasta College for 2 years for general education, and then transfer to Chico State to get her degree, all while hopefully working in the district NRCS offices within the counties. After graduating college Katie hopes to continue working in the Natural Resources field and eventually return home to Weaverville. Katie feels very privileged to have been given this opportunity to work in the county she grew up in and where she spends most of her time hunting, fishing, and for the past nine years raising and selling livestock for the Trinity County Fair which will help defray her upcoming college expenses.

Other NRCS staff in the Weaverville District Office include John Tiedeman, Engineer, Tim Viel, Fisheries Biologist, and Judy Carter, Administration.

NRCS offers Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts that provide incentive payments and cost-share to implement conservation practices. Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. Eligible management practices include forest health, fuels reduction and post fire restoration as well as irrigation and grazing management and practices in order to benefit water quality and quantity. Applications are due in November for 2009 projects. If you are interested in applying for EQIP funds to implement conservation practices please contact Tiffany at 530-623-3991 ext. 109.

Biomass Project

Lee Fong Park Bandshell Utilizes Local Materials



Trinity County RCD and the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council are working together under a grant from the US Forest Service to promote Biomass Utilization in Trinity County. Currently the two organizations are working to build a demonstration project at Lee Fong Park, which will include a pole structure to cover part of the stage of the amphitheater. The project, which will begin construction this summer, will use Douglas fir poles which have been processed in Hayfork by The Watershed Research and Training Center. The poles came from fuels reduction projects within Trinity County and are from undersize timber that previously had been thought of as having no value. This project will demonstrate one possible application of smaller trees. Additional funding for this project has been obtained from the McConnell Fund of the Shasta Regional Community Foundation.

The Young Family Ranch ~ New Site of Summer Day Camp

The annual Weaverville Summer Day Camp has a new location, beginning this year, thanks to the board of trustees of the Young Family Ranch. The day camp was held at the historic three-acre ranch on Oregon Street in Weaverville. The first weekly session began on July 7 and as you can see from these photos, everyone had a great time at camp.



The ranch property was in the Young family since 1898 and maintains many of the characteristics of a typical Trinity County farm from the last century. In addition to the Young farmhouse the sprawling grounds contain a large barn dating to the 1800s and numerous outbuildings surrounded by fruit trees, vegetable gardens, berry patches and pasture – enhancing the summer camp experience.

Trustees of the Young Family Ranch recently entered into an agreement with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District under which the district will maintain the ranch and its buildings, manage the day-to-day operations of the property and coordinate programs and other activities at the homestead which benefit the community. Young Family Ranch, Inc. is a non-profit entity that works in partnership with the Trinity Trust and the Humboldt Area Foundation to ensure long-term benefit to the residents of Trinity County.

The 2008 Weaverville Summer Day Camp is just one of the public-benefit uses at the Young Family Ranch. The 4-H Youth Development Program is using some farm facilities for project animals, giving summer campers the chance to learn about raising lambs and turkeys from 4-H members. Campers also have had lessons at the farm's pumpkin patch and learned about the importance of bee pollination from the cluster of beehives kept on the ranch. University of California Cooperative Extension relocated its Nutrition Education Program office to the ranch and Ingra Smith, the UCCE Youth Program Representative worked at camp.

For more information on the Young Family Ranch, contact the Trinity County Resource Conservation District at 623-6004.



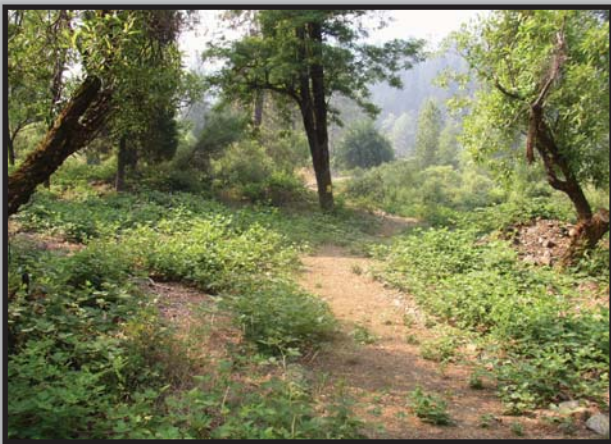


Local Goat Herd called into Action

The District has been using a herd of goats to help control thickets of Himalayan blackberry that have overgrown large areas along Weaver Creek west of Weaverville. The District contracted with rancher Rob Augusta of the Douglas City area to put some of his Boer meat goats to the task of grazing young blackberry shoots in a two-acre demonstration area in Weaverville Community Forest. The purpose was to learn how effective they could be in helping Trinity County landowners control this invasive non-native species as an alternative to chemical herbicides.

The demonstration area is along a new segment of Weaver Basin Trail between Mill Street and the Industrial Park. A crew from the Trinity River Conservation Camp built the mile-long trail in May by cutting away huge blackberry thickets to clear a route. The blackberries immediately began re-sprouting with renewed vigor, as expected, and a herd of 32 goats were brought in for two weeks in early July to browse back the carpet of new shoots. They will return for a few more meals of young blackberry leaves in late summer or early fall. According to Augusta, allowing goats to munch and trample blackberry vines in two or three repeat visits over several months can deplete and ultimately kill the plants.

The approach appears to be effective. "These goats have been incredible, I think they should be a follow-up treatment on almost every fuels reduction project we do" said John Condon, the District's Project Coordinator. The trail construction and goat demonstration project were funded by the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Fund with proceeds from hazard trees that were sold to Trinity River Mill in 2006. Additional support for the blackberry control project came from Caltrans. For additional information on this innovative approach to invasive plant control, called "prescribed herbivory," contact Mark Dowdle at the District's office (530) 623-6004 or mdowdle@tcrd.net.





UC Cooperative Extension 2008 Forestry Workshops

Funding provided by CALFIRE's Forest Stewardship Program

Every year the University of California offers workshops and education events focused on the general themes of forest ecology and land stewardship. This year, two different types of workshops are planned. Here are some that will be of interest to landowners in Trinity County.



The first is a lecture series called Recognizing and Managing Healthy Forest Ecosystems on various topics of current interest that will be presented in collaboration with Shasta College. The lectures will be presented by scientists and experts who are familiar with the natural and social ecology of Northern California between August 20 and October 22, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shasta College's University and Health Sciences Campus Community Room, Downtown Mall, 1400 Market Street, Redding, CA. There is a \$5 registration fee per session or \$10 if registration is not received 7 days prior to each lecture. You may choose as many lectures as you would like since each will be self-contained.

Lecture A- August 20, Elements of Forest Sustainability

Lecture B- August 27, Wildfire and Forest Health, Carl Skinner

Lecture C- September 3, Watersheds, Water and Endangered Fish

Lecture D- September 10, Natural Resource Economics

Lecture E- September 24, Wildlife and Wildlife Management

Lecture F- October 1, Climate Benefits of Forest Management

Lecture G- October 22, Community-based Natural Resource Management

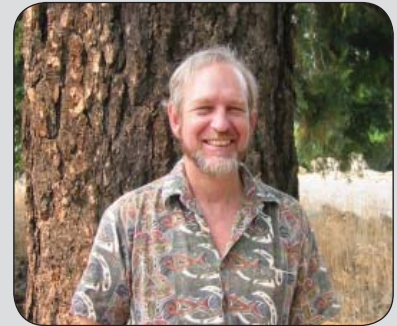
The second is a One Day Forest Road Risk Assessment and Management Workshop for Trinity County that will be held in Weaverville on September 13, 2008, from 9:00 am til 4:00 pm. This is a follow-up to the very successful Forest Landowners Workshop held last November. This year's workshop will include an afternoon out in the woods with the experts looking at examples of forest roads. The morning session's speakers will provide information about forest road fundamentals, design suggestions, stream crossings, funding for retrofits and why roads fail. This is an opportunity to learn about your property and to ask professional resource managers and specialists questions. There is a \$15 registration fee for this one-day workshop. \$20 if not received 7 days prior to the workshop. Fee includes materials, lunch and snacks.

To read about the lecture series go to our website at www.tcrd.net and you can register for these workshops at <http://groups.ucanr.org/Forest> or contact Sherry Cooper, slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu, 530-224-4902.

District Manager's Corner

Pat Frost

The most recent issue of the Conservation Almanac was our Annual Report – a look back at 2007. This Summer 2008 Conservation Almanac is a look forward as we tell you about some exciting projects now underway. We welcome new colleagues at the Trinity River Restoration Program and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Tiffany Riess has stepped into a leadership role as NRCS District Conservationist. I know they will build on the fine work of their predecessors and bring new ideas to the work we all do together.



We also have some exciting new partnerships. I recently had the opportunity to visit our 2008 Summer Day Camp on the Young Family Ranch, a historic farmstead in Weaverville. This beautiful setting vibrates with the energy of children having fun under the guidance of counselors, AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards members and volunteer activity leaders. The location was made possible by our partnership with the Young Family Ranch, Inc. and builds on the groundwork by Gail Goodyear, who researched the history of the Ranch and provided creative strategies for using the ranch to benefit the community. It also builds on work done by Meg and Jim Wilson while they were overseeing the ranch. A key partner at the Young Family Ranch is the University of California Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program. Tamila Medinnus (Adult Programs) and Ingra Smith (Youth Programs) now have their offices at the ranch house. Just



think of all of the possibilities that combining their expertise and the ranch's vegetable gardens, berries, grapes and fruit trees will provide us in the way of workshops and training opportunities.

The District also is helping Hodge Management provide programs to campground visitors this summer. Steve and Jeanne Hodge have been managing U.S. Forest Service campgrounds along Trinity and Lewiston Lakes for over 20 years. The District is assisting with public education by offering weekly campfire programs at Tannery and Hayward Flat Campgrounds. We kicked off the camping season June 21 with a "Children in Forest Day" at Tannery Campground. Nothing inspires me more than the wide-eyed expression on a child's face when they discover something new in nature.

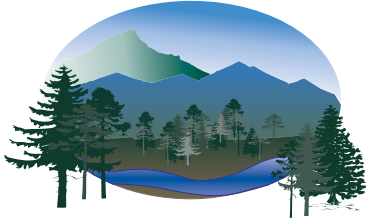
Mark Your Calendars Now!

The Annual Trinity County Salmon & Heritage Fruit Festival October 11, 2008

*Cider Pressing, Games, Fun, Food, Music and Much More!
On the Meadow at Highland Arts Center, Main Street, Weaverville*



Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093



Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

TCRCD Office

Number One
Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
FAX 623-6006
E-mail: info@tcrd.net
Internet: www.tcrd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district whose board of directors volunteer their time.

The TCRCD Vision

TCRCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economic diversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

The TCRCD Mission

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation programs.

**TCRCD Board of Directors are
Mike Rourke, Rose Owens, Patrick Truman,
Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.**

The RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work. The RCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The RCD provides information on the following topics:

- **Forest Land Productivity**
- **Watershed Improvement**
- **Water Supply and Storage**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Erosion/Sediment Control**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
- **Soil and Plant Types**
- **Fuels Reduction**

This issue of the *Conservation Almanac* is funded in part by grants from the Trinity River Restoration Program, Bureau of Land Management, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Fire Safe Council, U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Young Family Ranch, Inc..

