



Winter 2005

Weaverville Community Forest

Vol. XIV No.1

Last May, about 50 folks gathered at the Weaverville Congregational Church meeting room to discuss the possibility of acquiring and managing about 1000 acres of land managed Bureau of Land Management in the Weaverville basin. The community meeting was the latest in a series of efforts to persuade BLM to work with the local community in managing these lands for community goals and interests. The Trinity Resource Conservation and Development Council sponsored the meeting, with help from the RCD. Also in attendance were two employees of BLM, as well as county supervisors and planning staff.

A professional facilitator helped the group to establish goals, identify issues and conflicts, and evaluate possible ownership and management options. There was general consensus on pursuing community-based management of these forest lands, including viewshed protection, fuels reduction, timber management, wildlife habitat improvement (including fisheries), firewood collection, enhancing recreational and educational opportunities.



The new BLM Field Manager, Steve Anderson, suggested that the RCD work with BLM to implement a Stewardship Contract for management of the 1000 acres to meet community and resource management goals. Stewardship Contracting is a new tool for federal land managers, and provides the following:

- High level of cooperation and collaboration between BLM and the community
- Land restoration and enhancement opportunities
- Long-term agreements up to 10 years
- Project-level, multi-party monitoring and annual reports to congress

Stewardship projects are designed to meet one or more land management goals that address local and community needs. These goals may include:

- Road and trail maintenance for improved water quality and recreation
- Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values
- Setting prescribed fires to improve composition, structure, condition, and health of stands or to improve wildlife habitat
- Removing vegetation, or other activities, to promote healthy forest stands, reduce fire hazards or achieve other land management objectives
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds and reestablishing native plant species

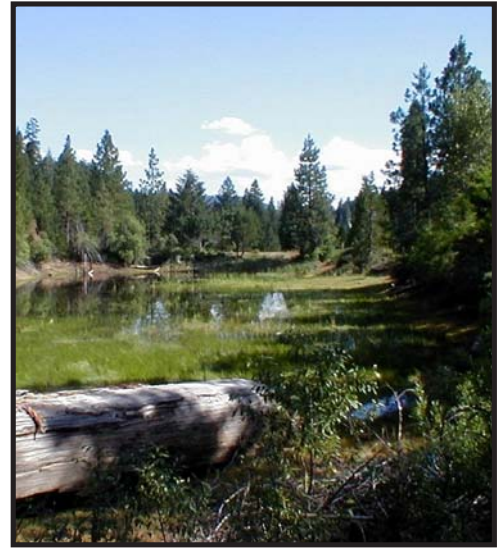
The Weaverville community has shown a strong interest in these lands for over five years, and local collaboration has been very high. The community has been clear about how they would like BLM to manage and restore these lands. **Cont. Page 2-**

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Upper Trinity River Watershed Monitoring Plan

The Upper Trinity River Watershed mostly has been ignored in terms of analyzing sediment sources that would impact beneficial uses of these waters, including water supply, recreation and salmon habitat downstream of the dams. However, at least three big storms in the past 30 years (Dec 1964, Jan 1974, and Jan 1997) have resulted in high levels of turbid (muddy) water being released into, and from, Trinity Lake with potentially significant impacts on fish, recreation and water supplies. This part of the Trinity River can no longer be dismissed. It seems likely that watershed restoration activities also need to be implemented in the upper watershed where opportunities present themselves.



A monitoring plan for looking at the Upper Trinity River watershed recently has been developed. It cannot tell us everything about the streams that flow into Trinity Lake, but it can give us some idea of what happens when we get heavy rains or those more spectacular “rain on snow” events like 1997. Collecting information from some of the streams will give us a snapshot of the amount of water, and the amount and types of sediment that travel down these streams into Trinity Lake. This information will help provide a baseline to evaluate long-term trends throughout the watershed. The District has worked closely with land managers, especially the USFS and BLM, in other parts of the Trinity River watershed, like Grass Valley Creek and the South Fork of the Trinity River, to take these kinds of “snapshots” and use them to design and implement projects that reduce the movement of soils (erosion) into streams during heavy rains.

Some of the types of information that will be gathered over the next year will be stream flow; the amount of water in streams related to the amount of rainfall during a storm, sediment loads; the amount of finer soils that get carried downstream during those same storms, changes in the shapes of stream channels and the deltas that form at the mouths of streams, and reviewing recent aerial photographs to map landslides.

This type of monitoring only provides a piece of the picture, though. The first-hand knowledge of people living and working in the watershed is very important, too. That is why the District sent out a landowner survey in January. We want to tap your observations and mine your understanding of the streams and forests that you live with, whether it is all year long or just for a week or two in the summer. Later this year, we’ll also invite folks to sit down and share their thoughts. So keep an eye out for details on these up-coming workshops.

(Continued from Pg. 1)

This vision now can be integrated into a multi-year stewardship agreement that will lay out a work plan with specific projects for the next couple of years and longer-term restoration and management goals. “It’s all about building a strong link between the people of Weaverville and the natural resources that brought them here in the first place,” commented Pat Frost at a follow-up meeting on November 9th. “Ultimately, I see our school children participating in this land stewardship through our Conservation Legacy Program and creating a link to future generations of our community.”

To find out more about the **Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship** project, visit the District’s website at www.tcrd.net

Trinity River Restoration Program Welcomes New Employees

By: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director, Trinity River Restoration Program

In the last newsletter, along with an update of recent events, we featured two new civil engineers in our Implementation Branch, Joe Riess and Denise Wiltse. This issue I would like to introduce you to four other new (and not so new) employees. Three of them, (Rod, Nina, and Scott) are in our Modeling and Analysis Branch, while the fourth (Priscilla) works in Program Administration.

Scott Crawford joined the TRRP staff in April of 2004 as our Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Contracts Specialist. Scott, a former employee of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in Northern Virginia, worked as a commodities business specialist and energy manager for his former agency. Mr. Crawford also gained private sector experience working as a marketing manager for a software firm in San Diego. A California native, Scott earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of San Diego and a master's degree in cultural anthropology from San Diego State University. Mr. Crawford's unique background and business and industry experience will aid river restoration efforts by helping to expand and improve its financial assistance program.



New TRRP employees: Priscilla Henson, Rod Wittler, Scott Crawford, and Nina Hemphill

Priscilla Henson is our Budget Technician. Priscilla joined our staff in May of 2004 after spending a majority of her prior employment with the non-profit and private sectors. Her most recent experience with Adopt-A-Watershed, located in Hayfork, focused on financial accounting, budget, and grant administration, skills which she will share with the Trinity River Restoration Program. A native to Trinity County, Priscilla is looking forward to expanding her knowledge of the Trinity River.

Rod Wittler has been on temporary assignment as the Program's Acting Modeling and Analysis Branch Chief since last September from Reclamation's Denver Technical Service Center. Dr. Wittler's experience with the Program dates back to the mid-1990s when he became involved with the Flow Evaluation eventually as one of the co-authors of the

Report. He recently accepted our offer to fill this Branch Chief position on a permanent basis. Up until this assignment, Rod has worked as a Research Hydraulic Engineer in the Water Resources Research Laboratory of the Technical Service Center. Dr. Wittler has 20 years of general and research engineering

experience in hydraulic models, river mechanics, flow measurement, sediment analysis, and river restoration. Dr. Wittler holds Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Colorado State University.

Nina Hemphill, Fishery Biologist, is our newest employee. Nina joined our staff on January 10, 2005. Dr. Hemphill received her PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1989 in aquatic biology. She is a community, population and ecosystem ecologist, and has over 20 years of fisheries experience. This has included work in Southern California, Kentucky, and migratory fishes in Puerto Rico. For over 10 years she has been involved in conservation of fish populations. She is relocating with her family from the Atlanta, Georgia region, and is very happy to be working on salmon restoration challenges of the Trinity River.

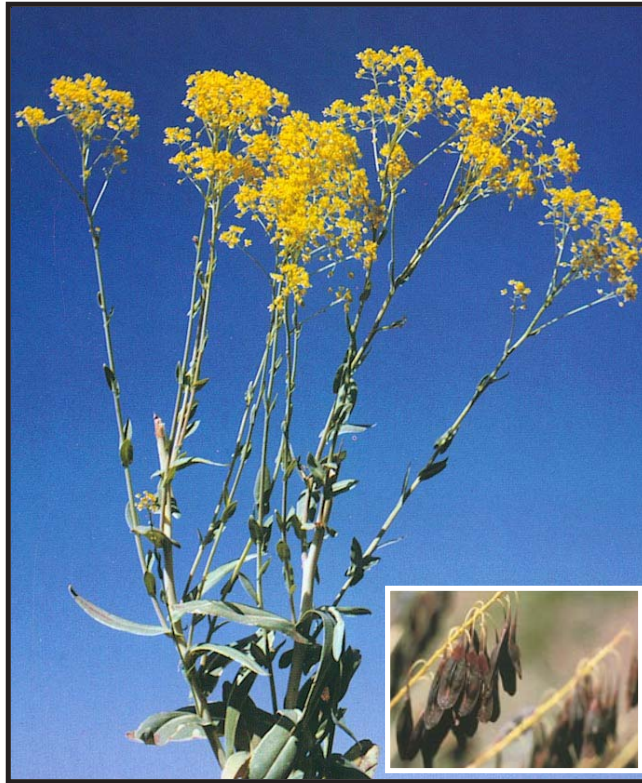
"Woad Rage"

There are many definitions of what constitutes a weed: a plant out of place, an unwanted plant, a plant growing in a place not wanted by humans. Then there are the most dangerous weeds of all; species capable of altering ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling, intensity and frequency of fire, hydrological cycles, soil chemistry, etc. Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) is a weed species designated for control in Trinity County because of its ability to alter the surrounding soil chemistry (allelopathic) making it difficult for native species to survive and reproduce.

Alleopathy can affect many aspects of plant ecology including occurrence, growth, plant succession, dominance, diversity, and plant productivity. Different plant parts, including flowers, leaves, leaf litter, stems, bark and roots can have allelopathic activity that vary over a growing season.

Understanding the effects of allelopathy on native plant populations and on a particularly sensitive plant *Shasta chaenactis* (*Chaenactis suffrutescens*) the **Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative (TCWMC)** has targeted this species for control. Where can this species be found? It is found along Hwy. 3 North, Hwy. 299 west of Weaverville and in our **own yards**.

This plant starts out as a low-lying rosette. Winter chilling is necessary for the plants to bolt to produce bright four-petaled yellow flowers.



Average stem growth during the bolting stage has been measured at a rate of 4 inches per week. Flowering is seen as early as April, with seeds maturing in June or July. Dyer's woad produces a tap root 3-5 feet long. This member of the mustard family produces an average of 350-500 seeds per plant, with some plants producing well over 10,000 seeds in one year. Early recognition and immediate treatment are the most economically efficient means of controlling Dyer's woad. Control by hand pulling is most effective during the plants first growing season when it is in the rosette stage and the taproot is not developed. Removing only the top growth will not kill a plant with a well developed root system, because of its ability to form shoots from the portion of root left in the ground. The

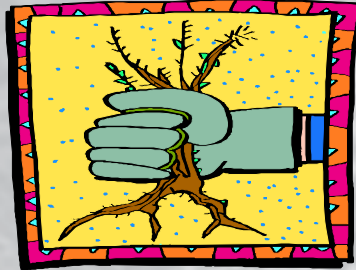
"rage" against woad is a difficult one, because of its many tactics for invading disturbed areas. Woad be onto you and me if we don't stop this invasive species. Woad you help us?

How can you help protect our native plant communities? The District, as a member of the Weed Management Cooperative, is asking you to help us identify leading pioneer infestations. Weed species that have been identified for control include: Hoary Cress/whiteweed, Dalmatian toadflax, Diffuse knapweed, Perennial peppergrass,

Tree-of-Heaven and Yellow star thistle. If you have observed any of the above mentioned species, please fill out the following form. You can fax, mail or drop off the form at the Trinity County Resource Conservation District office. If we are diligent in our efforts, we will successfully maintain plant diversity and balanced ecosystem for the enjoyment and perpetuation of future generations.



We Need YOU to Help US Identify and Stop Small Pioneer Infestations of Weeds Before They Become So Large They Are Beyond OUR Control.



If you would like to participate in a weed control workshop please return this form to our office. You can also be of great assistance to the RCD by filling out the form below allowing us to update the Trinity County Weed Database.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Noxious Weed

Location

Hoary Cress/whitetop _____

Dalmatian toadflax _____

Diffuse Knapweed _____

Spotted Knapweed _____

Dyer's Woad _____

Himalayan blackberry _____

Klamathweed _____

Scotch broom _____

Perennial peppergrass _____

Tree-of-Heaven _____

Yellow star thistle _____

Please send this form to: Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093
Fax: 530-623-6006

Thank you for helping us in the protection of our native plant communities!

Down River Fuels Reduction

The RCD began implementing the Salyer / Hawkins Bar Community Protection Fuels Project in the fall of 2004. Funding comes from the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, Six Rivers National Forest and the US Forest Service's Community Protection Program. This project will create a shaded fuel break along the river corridor near the subdivision of Suzy Q on public lands and defensible space around homes on private lands.

This project will benefit the communities in the Down River portion of Trinity County, which is an area of high fire risk. The TCRCD has been working in several North Lake, Mid-Trinity, and South Fork communities, and this project will begin to address high priority fuels reduction projects in Salyer and Hawkins Bar, as identified in the Trinity County Fire Management Plan completed by the Trinity County Fire Safe Council in 2002. These communities are identified as "Communities at Risk".

The partnership provided through the cooperation of the TCRCD, the Volunteer Fire Departments, US Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Trinity County Fire Safe Council make this project both feasible and cost effective. Project partners agree that keeping up the momentum of our strategic planning and project implementation is tremendously important.

In January, residents along South Fork Road met at the Salyer Volunteer Fire Hall to discuss risks, hazards and possible solutions to reduce the severe fire hazard situation in their neighborhood.

South Fork Road is 9.2

miles of very narrow road with flammable material growing right up to the road, especially along Forest Service property. It gets a lot of traffic in the summer months for South Fork Trinity River access. Access to water sources in the event of a fire is also a critical concern.

CDF has indicated that with the situation as it now stands, they would not be able to safely send fire engines into this area in the event of a wildfire as the risk is too great.

The meeting was designed to educate residents regarding fire safety, protection, defensible space, and the efforts of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in communities throughout the county. Ingrid Landis-Davis and JoSan Metz from Trinity Pines were there to share the success they have had in their community implementing fuels reduction projects on both public and private lands.



Existing Fuels Condition on South Fork Road

RCD Board Members Receive Honors



RCD Board Chairman, **Mike Rourke**, was awarded an honorary American Farmer Degree by the national Future Farmers of America. This is the highest award given to adults in the nationwide program. He received the award at the national FFA convention held in Louisville, Kentucky. Mike has taught agriculture for 26 years, 21 of those at Trinity High School.



Board Director, **Patrick Truman** was elected President of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at their Annual Meeting held in San Luis Obispo. With 103 Resource Conservation Districts in California, CARCD serves its member Districts by linking federal and state resource agencies to locally led conservation throughout the State and by participating in legislative affairs. Patrick is an associate realtor at Trinity River Realty.

Featured Employee
Laura Murphy



The RCD is happy to introduce a new member of our team! Laura Murphy is the new AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project Member placed at the RCD office in Weaverville. She began working with us in October, and has already become involved with several exciting community projects. Laura spends a large amount of time in the classroom teaching all grades of Trinity County students about our local natural resources, especially salmonids. She has also become involved with developing a school curriculum for implementing a county-wide recycling program.

Laura graduated from the University of California, Riverside in June, 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. She eagerly anticipates beginning a graduate degree at UC Davis in Soils and Biogeochemistry after her placement with the RCD ends. She is very interested in sustainable land-use practices, and intends to focus on agricultural soils management. She feels that the experience she is gaining at the RCD regarding landowner resource conservation issues is invaluable to her future career goals.

Laura enjoys bicycling, swimming, dancing, hiking, gardening and all manner of crafts. She is greatly looking forward to longer and warmer days in Trinity County which she will fill with all these outdoor pursuits. The natural beauty of Trinity County reminds Laura of the landscapes of Montana and New Zealand, and she is very happy to have the opportunity to work in such a beautiful natural setting.

District Manager's Corner
Pat Frost



New Year's is a time of resolutions. We join a gym or promise ourselves we'll pass on the pie after dinner. It also is a time of hope and expectations for the coming year.

I draw great hope from the people around me, and this year I have high expectations for the District. I see a lot of energy and enthusiasm for conservation. The Weaverville Community Forest is one of these hopeful projects. I see a strong bond forming between people in Weaverville and the managers at BLM to give the community a say in managing the land and water around them. We have had a good response to our landowner survey for the Upper Trinity River Project, and I expect to have many more people give us their two cents worth by sending in their surveys so that they can get some free wildflower seed and we can learn from their experience. Working with children always gives me hope. The enthusiasm and artistic skills of our Salmon Poster winners tells me that we can expect great things from them in the future. The District is guided by a Board of Directors. I have been very fortunate to have five individuals, who bring a wide range of experience and expectations to the table every month. You only have to look on page 6 to see why I am resolved to have the best year ever for the District – Mike Rourke and Patrick Truman lead by doing and by being leaders in conservation.

So join us at the District by resolving to get involved in a conservation project this year, whether it is fighting noxious weeds in your neighborhood, clearing brush from around your house or just spending a little time getting to know the creek near your home.



Salmon Poster Contest Winners

Sixth grade students from Weaverville Elementary School were invited to design salmon posters as part of the Bar 717 Environmental Education Camp last fall. Posters were displayed at the Annual Salmon Festival and judges from the Trinity County Arts Council, The Trinity River Restoration Program and the RCD selected the winning art work. These pieces will be used to promote the Annual Salmon Festival to be held in October. The artwork can be viewed on our website at www.tcrd.net

First Place: Nicholas Adrian
Second Place: Kayla Lopez

Honorable Mention:
Emme Feeser, Lian Lancaster, Emy Tkach, Brianna Swansen, Jacque Gier

Survey Sent to Upper Trinity River Watershed Landowners

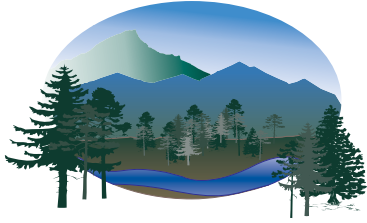
A hearty thanks to all the landowners who have received the watershed survey and returned them so quickly. We appreciate the great response we are getting, but some have been returned without a name which means we may miss a few of you when we send the packet of wildflower seeds as promised. If you have returned the survey, but have not received your seed packet by mid-spring, please give us a call.

WANTED

The RCD is looking for the donation of a small tandem axle trailer or the old style single stall horse trailer with tandem axles that would be suitable for mounting a 300 gallon water tank for use in the fuels reduction project. Anyone who has one sitting out in the back 40, rusting away and buried in weeds that would like to see it put back to good use can give John a call at 623-6004.



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 non-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**

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