# Trinity County Resource Conservation District **Conservation Almanac & Annual Report**

**Trinity County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter** 

Spring 2022 Vol. XXXI No.1

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

The Spring edition of the Conservation Almanac is the annual report of all Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) project accomplishments in the previous calendar year.









@TrinityCountyRCD **@FireSafeTrinity @TrinityRiverCA** 





As a Special District of the State, and a selfgoverning local government agency, TCRCD enters into grants and agreements to accomplish a variety of natural resource projects in Trinity County.

TCRCD relies solely on these grants and agreements for funding its work and receives no tax-based revenues. The following charts represent expenditures by department, and funding by agency, for the 2021 calendar year. We value all grantors, partners and members of the public that support our natural resource work. Thank you!

## 2021 Expenditures & Revenues



**Federal State** State Water Resources Control Board Coastal Conservancy CALFIRE Department of Conservatic CalReycle **United States Forest Service** CARCD State of California -Wildlife Conservation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Caltrans **Trinity River Restoration Program Bureau of Land Management Private** Local Young Family Ranch **National Fish and** Wildlife Foundation Fee for Service -Private Landowner Watershed Research **Frinity County** and Training Center NACD California Pacific Gas and Electric Fire Safe Council Federal State Local **Private** 56.81% 28.91% 8.69% 5.59%

## 2021 Revenues

### **Riverview Beautification Project and Riparian Planting in Hayfork**

TCRCD supported the non-profit Hayfork Transition in their work to restore a property in Hayfork at 541 Riverview Road, the old pig farm. The vision for this property is to create a community center for education, collaboration, and community gardening. In 2021, TCRCD organized a clean-up effort to clear trash, abandoned vehicles, and structures from the property funded by CalRecycle. Fencing was then installed around the entire property to prevent future dumping, which was delayed due to the Monument Fire, but was completed in October.



A western redbud, recently planted in the riparian corridor on Hayfork Creek

### **Temperature and Flow Monitoring**

In 2021, four seasonal flow sites were installed by the Watershed Program to monitor streamflow from May through October. Two sites on West Weaver Creek monitored streamflow following the West Weaver Restoration Project, completed in 2020. The other two sites, on Stuart Fork and Coffee Creek, monitored streamflow for the Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment and Management Plan. TCRCD also assists the Shasta-Trinity National Forest with temperature monitoring of Trinity River tributaries. Twenty four temperature probes were deployed throughout the Trinity River Management Unit while The Watershed Research and Training Center did the complementary work in the South Fork Management Unit.



Installing a flow monitoring site on Coffee Creek

In late 2021, our Revegetation Program began to work closely with The Watershed Research and Training Center to plant nearly 1,000 native trees and shrubs in four plots. Flowering species such as Klamath plum (*Prunus subcordata*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*), showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), and western goldenrod (*Solidago elongata*) were carefully selected for climate and soil type suitability as well as pollinator support. In addition, fast-growing species like ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) were selected along with their slower growing friends, Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), and western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*).

There will also be a conifer belt and an oak woodland situated on the southern bank and historic flood plain. This work will be completed in 2022. The Riverview planting complements continuing collaboration between TCRCD and the Watershed Research and Training Center to coordinate and plan riparian habitat restoration projects located adjacent to Hayfork Creek. Restoring vegetation to these banks will create habitat for wildlife and eventually offer shade to cool critical spawning habitat areas for fish along tributaries to the South Fork Trinity River watershed.

### Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment and Management Plan

In 2021, our Watershed Program began re-examining current natural resource concerns in the Upper Trinity River watershed and its subwatersheds with the goal of creating restoration recommendations to promote water security and wildfire resilience. The Department of Conservation has funded to complete watershed assessments and project identification for the Trinity, Shasta, and Oroville lake tributaries. The outcome will be a comprehensive Upper Trinity Restoration Assessment and Management Plan to guide project implementation in the coming years. Nicole Eastman, a GrizzlyCorps fellow, took the lead conducting research, completing field work, and driving the development of Beaver Dam Analogues in the Trinity River Basin.



East Fork Coffee Creek where it meets Coffee Creek, one of the target streams in the Upper Trinity Watershed

## **Restoration with Native Plants**

### **Revegetation of Caltrans Projects**

Our Revegetation Program continued implementation on existing Caltrans Project sites including Big French Creek Slide, Collins Bar Curve Improvement, and Slate Creek Slip Out Emergency Repair projects.

During spring months, common roadside noxious weeds such as yellow star thistle, Italian thistle, bull thistle and sweet clover were removed from all planting areas. Removal of the weeds decreases competition for water and nutrients, benefitting the trees that were planted for restoration of the site in previous years. We continued to complete seasonal irrigation twice per month, from mid-May through mid-October, via drip irrigation systems.



TCRCD plantings on the Collins Bar Curve Improvement Project

In 2021, our conservation technicians worked long days traveling Downriver to two large sites in Burnt Ranch and three moderate sites in Big Bar, until August-- when Monument Fire activity closed State Route 299.

The plantings near the Big Flat Slide along the Trinity River came within several feet of the fire. In other areas, plantings were protected by nearby streams and others were bordered by roads. All of our plantings were miraculously spared; however, trees on sites in Burnt Ranch showed evidence of more than normal animal browsing and the irrigation lines were bitten in several places. We speculate that this area may have been used as refuge for displaced wildlife during and after the Monument fire. Despite the fires, plant vigor in the fall for most sites was surpassing success criteria--typically 75-85% of plants exhibiting above-average vigor. The lapse in watering at the driest time of year will still affect the lifelong vigor of the young trees.

Additional plantings, late season watering, irrigation system repairs, and installation of larger herbivory protection cages were required at the Big French Creek project sites impacted by wildfire. Our conservation technicians also conducted new plantings at Collins Bar in order to increase vegetation density. This increase in deciduous species is important in creating habitat for the threatened Trinity bristle snail, whose range falls within the project's location.



Threatened clustered lady's slipper, Cypripedium fasciculatum

Plantings on the Big French Creek slide project in Big Bar

### **OFF-Highway Vehicle Recreation Restoration**

The Gemmill road decommissioning project, funded through California Department of Parks and Recreation: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, was completed in December of 2021. Our Revegetation Program served two roles: survey, document, and prevent the disturbance of rare, threatened, or endangered plants from road decommissioning activities, and to eradicate and prevent the spread of noxious weeds from equipment. During the 2021 field season, the Revegetation Program staff continued surveys on and adjacent to roads within the project area. A population of threatened clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) was observed, documented, and marked for complete avoidance during active road decommissioning work. Noxious weed species detected included bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*). Species treated included yellow star thistle, dyer's woad, bull thistle, and woolly mullein. Species removal was prioritized based on species characteristics, the severity of infestations, and population location. Noxious weeds often require treatment over multiple years, which was the case for various populations within the prescription plan.

### Native Plant Nursery

TCRCD's native plant nursery, located at the Young Family Ranch in Weaverville, propagates local native plant genetics. Locally sourced plant materials stand a better chance at survival in our specific climate and have proven to out-perform purchased nursery stock from out of the area. While our program staff have historically propagated seed and are still collecting and growing small lots of trees, grasses, shrubs, and forbs from seed, in 2021 our technicians were also trained to harvest and "strike" dormant hardwood cuttings in December. Revegetation staff learned to identify species during dormancy such as creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), California hazeInut (*Corylus cornuta*) and California roses

(*Rosa californica*). Hardwood cuttings take several months to grow roots, with specific temperature and humidity requirements being necessary for success. As always, staff and volunteers are trained to follow Best Management Practices to avoid spreading the exotic pathogen Phytophthora ramorum, the cause of sudden oak death. When taking plant materials, donor specimens are first examined for signs of disease. Only the healthiest branches are selected and then carefully handled with sterile blades and kept away from forest floors. Our strict practices reflect our goal of keeping Trinity County's flora as healthy as possible. The Native Plant Nursery receives funding from Caltrans and the Young Family Ranch.



The TCRCD Native Plant Nursery, located at the Young Family Ranch



### Plant and Seed Exchange

The Annual Plant and Seed Exchange returned in 2021 for its 12th year at the Young Family Ranch. Over 65 community members of all ages attended to share plants, seeds, and cuttings with others free of charge. The event was held with Covid 19 specific modifications to ensure public safety.

Hundreds of plants were given away at the 13th annual Plant and Seed Exchange

### **NRCS Conservation Planning**

TCRCD received funding for a Conservation Planner to work as an affiliate with the Weaverville Office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Molly Breitmun joined the TCRCD staff in this position in November of 2021. The Conservation Planner works with landowners to prepare them for eligibility and application to NRCS cost-share programs, like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program. Molly worked with the Moon Lee Ditch Association and the Young Family Ranch to develop a proposal for an EQIP project to improve water security and conservation along the Moon Lee Ditch. This ditch provides water to the Weaverville Cemetery and the Young Family Ranch as well as private parcels tied to local families residing in close proximity to the ditch in the 1900s. This position was funded by National Association of Conservation Districts.



Water running along the Moon Lee Ditch above the Young Family Ranch

### Trinity County Fire Safe Council

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council (FSC) seeks to improve cooperation and coordination in all aspects of wildfire management in Trinity County. TCRCD coordinates the Trinity County FSC with funding from California Fire Safe Council and CALFIRE. In 2021, Trinity County FSC completed the 2020 Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), held monthly meetings, and worked to improve their base funding. The CWPP along with the Web Mapping Application can be viewed at the Trinity County FSC website. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council is coordinated out of the Watershed Program which collaborates with other departments to build funding packages to encompass many components of wildfire prevention, education, and landscape management. The Trinity County FSC meets every 4th Thursday at 1pm. See firesafetrinity.org for more details.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

In 2021, TCRCD staff continued and expanded our efforts to reduce hazardous fuels and foster wildfire-resilient ecosystems and communities. Our Forest Health program increased capacity by growing from two to three crews. Crews cut, pruned, chipped, piled, and burned excess fuels in and around Weaverville, Lewiston, Junction City, Douglas City, Trinity Center, Covington Mill, and Salyer. Most fuels work focused on strategic fuel breaks along roads and in neighborhoods within the Wildland-Urban Interface. We also offered free community chipping to landowners throughout Trinity County. Fuels reduction work increases the safety of Trinity County residents by protecting homes, other structures, and by making roads safer for evacuation and emergency personnel in the case of a wildfire. On a landscape scale, this work protects wildlife habitat, soils, and waterways from the negative effects of catastrophic wildfire. It also decreases competition and water stress in forests, and increases the ability of trees to experience wildfire without severe mortality. The best way for landowners to protect their own homes is to establish and maintain their 100-ft defensible space with an emphasis on the 3-5ft non-combustible zone adjacent to structures. It is more likely for a home to survive a wildfire if it has defensible space and has home hardening improvements, then if it has home hardening improvements and no defensible space.

Funding partners for hazardous fuel reduction projects included the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Coastal Conservancy, California Fire Safe Council, State Water Resources Control Board, Trinity Public Utilities District, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (as part of the California Climate Investments Program), Pacific Gas and Electric, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Watershed Research and Training Center, and local landowners. TCRCD was awarded two multi-million-dollar fuels reduction grants from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through the California Climate Investments Program for work on public and private land, which will enable additional capacity growth into 2022 and beyond.



Before (top) and after (bottom) roadside fuels reduction in Weaverville

Before (top) and after (bottom) fuels reduction in Lee Fong Park in Weaverville

## Wildfire Recovery

### Carr Fire Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation

In 2021, in agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, our Revegetation Program conducted noxious weed surveys in the footprint of the 2018 Carr Fire. These surveys occurred along roadsides, dozer lines, and adjacent areas in Lewiston and the Grass Valley Creek watershed. After wildfire, landscapes are vulnerable to the colonization and proliferation of noxious weeds. With the destruction of native species, noxious weeds are able to spread quickly as they generally possess the biological characteristics to outcompete natives for resources. Many of these species are introduced via firefighting equipment, which disturbs the land and provides the weeds an ideal opportunity to colonize an area. Species detected within the 2018 Carr Fire surveyed areas include bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea* 



View of a dozer line from the 2018 Carr Fire

*solstitialis*), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*). Species removed included populations of Scotch broom and yellow star thistle.

### August Complex Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

In 2021, TCRCD implemented Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) projects related to the August Complex Fire on both the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests road systems. BAER work identifies and prioritizes immediate mitigation projects to address safety hazards and threats to property, resources, and cultural sites immediately following a wildfire before future storms lead to subsequent damage. TCRCD received contracts to complete restoration and road improvement projects in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed above Forest Glen and in the Mad River Watershed above Ruth Lake. BAER roads restoration work includes improvements to stream crossings, road drainage and road surface; cleaning out culvert inlets; filling-in and stabilizing burnt out stump holes and failure features; construction or restoration of critical and rolling dips; and repairing and replacing damaged signs. In early October, we also decommissioned a section of road in the Wilson Creek watershed near Wildwood. A total of 92 miles of road improvements were completed on both forests and approximately a half of mile was decommissioned by our roads program.



Before, during and after the road decommissioning project in the Wilson Creek Watershed near Wildwood.



This stream crossing experienced high severity burn with many large trees near the culvert inlet. Trees were moved using an excavator and the existing culvert was reshaped to increase flow capacity and reduce plugging potential.

## Public Education with Youth & Adults

Our Education and Outreach program at the TCRCD is a leader in providing environmental education opportunities in Trinity County, with the goal of fostering greater appreciation for the outdoors and local natural resources. The bulk of our Education and Outreach programming is funded by the Trinity River Restoration Program to facilitate greater understanding and appreciation of our Trinity River watershed. Our program includes public events, engagement with students, production and distribution of educational videos and printed materials, and facilitation of Weaverville Summer Day Camp. Highlights from 2021 include:

### Youth in Sustainable Forestry Field Trips

TCRCD was awarded funding through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to collaboratively plan and lead field trips for high school students in the Weaverville Community Forest. Collaborative planning took place in 2021 with members of the Nor Rel Muk Wintu Tribe and Sierra Pacific Industries to build curriculum and field workbooks targeting topics such as sustainable forestry; fire and fuels; watershed stewardship; and cultural and medicinal plants. The field trips were planned for the spring of 2022.

### Weaverville Summer Day Camp

Held at the historic Young Family Ranch for three weeks in July, Weaverville Summer Day Camp (WSDC) provides accessible, safe, and fun outdoor summer experience for Trinity County youth ages 6-12. In 2021, 60 kids attended WSDC for at least one week, participating in activities themed around outdoor education, team building, community, artistic expression, and exploration. Campers had the opportunity to raft the Trinity River, hike in the Weaverville Community Forest, explore local swimming holes, and swim at the Lowden Park Pool. Thank you to all of our 2021 donors, volunteers, presenters, and participants for making the 2021 WSDC a success!



Campers and counselors show off their newly made tie-dye at Weaverville Summer Day Camp

## **Educational Materials**



## Public Evel



Public Raft Trip

28 people attended the public raft trip on the Trinity River to learn about river restoration.

## Virtual Science Symposium

5 virtual Brownbag Sessions were held for scientists and partners to discuss recent scientific findings related to restoration on the Trinity River.



## **Engagement with Students**



🥪 Salmon-related Lessons

Staff led a series of lessons with Lewiston and Douglas City schools focusing on salmon life history and anatomy.

## Virtual Career Days

Staff participated in two virtual STEM career fairs with high school students from several North State counties.



Staff led an environmental education field day for

Trinity Center Elementary School on Swift Creek.

## Planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

### 2021-2028 Strategic Plan

2021 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) with the completion and adoption of the 2021-2028 Strategic Plan Update. Four objectives were identified that will help to guide management of the WCF for the benefit and enjoyment of the community, including: collaborative decision making; responsible forest management; consistent education and engagement opportunities; and accessible community and cultural use. This plan was developed in 2020 and 2021 by the WCF steering committee through a collaborative process including community members and representatives from federal, state, local, and tribal organizations. The effort was led by Kathleen M., a GrizzlyCorps member serving at TCRCD and funded by the Bureau of Land Management.



### Planning and Environmental Compliance

TCRCD and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) collaborated on the planning and environmental compliance work for an oak woodland restoration and proposed timber harvest project within the WCF. Through funding provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board, TCRCD and the BLM enlisted the services of SHN Engineers to complete the environmental compliance for fuel reduction on approximately 200 acres of oak woodland and conifer thinning in the Little Browns Creek Drainage. This project was managed collaboratively between our Forest Health and Watershed programs.

Our Forest Health department completed rapid assessments at the request of BLM to identify additional projects, which led to the completion of a forest inventory, identifying a potential timber harvest in the Oregon Mountain area. To continue development of the potential harvest plan, Bethany, GrizzlyCorps Fellow, conducted stand exams on the WCF. This work expanded to assisting the US Forest Service with planning and inspection for pre-commercial thinning and reforestation projects

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

In 2021, our Geographic Information System (GIS) Department provided data management, cartographic layout, and analysis services to RCD staff, public and private partners throughout Trinity & neighboring Counties. This year, new updates were applied to the Trinity County Parcel Viewer. Users can now search for parcels using the newest Assessors APN format, and by address. From April 2021- to April 2022, the Parcel Viewer was viewed 20,693 times. In 2021, nearly 100 parcel lot line adjustments & modifications were completed. The Trinity County Department of Transportation funded work for the development and hosting of the Trinity County GIS Data Portal, where up-to-date boundaries, recreation, transportation, parcel, and public infrastructure data are now freely available for download and use. The data download site has received just over 900



site visits since its inception in December 2021.

Other GIS services provided to County and private partners include data exports, ArcGIS software support, address verifications, damaged structure assessment & wildfire evacuations data support, cartographic map layout, geographic analysis, and Trinity County GIS base map data library updates.

In 2021, the GIS Department also provided support to county partners and RCD Program managers in support of fuels reduction projects, the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and the Weaver Basin Trail System. Community partners include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), CALFIRE, and the Trinity County Fire Safe Council.

CWPP Web Mapping Application can be found on firesafetrinity.org



### **Trinity River Restoration Program 2021 Summary**

The long-term goals of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) are to restore the form and function of the Trinity River; restore and sustain natural production of anadromous fish populations in the Trinity River to pre-dam levels; and to facilitate full participation by dependent tribal, commercial, and sport fisheries through enhanced harvest opportunities. In 2021, TRRP continued to pursue the long-term goals of the program through a series of interrelated efforts in the basin. TRRP collaborates with TCRCD through a cooperative funding agreement to help broaden watershed stewardship and expand opportunities for local engagement and participation.

### Highlights of TRRP's efforts in 2021 include:

- Construction of the Chapman B channel rehabilitation project on the Trinity River between Douglas City and Junction City to enhance in-channel and off-channel salmonid habitat.
- Evaluation of opportunities to adaptively manage flow releases to better mimic the natural hydrology of the Trinity River. In 2021, an interagency team completed a comprehensive environmental analysis of a framework to shift a portion of the Trinity River restoration flows from Lewiston Dam to the winter period (Dec 15 – April 15).
- Completion of low-flow gravel augmentation immediately below Lewiston Dam to improve bed conditions in a high-use spawning area. This is the first time TRRP has supplemented spawning gravels to the "hatchery reach" since 2007.



Figure 1. Looking upstream to Lewiston Dam after adding spawning gravels to the hatchery reach

### **Gravel Augmentation near the Trinity River Hatchery**

High flows from Lewiston Dam scour spawning gravels from the riverbed over time, and the dam prevents new gravels from replenishing the river from upstream. It is important therefore to replenish spawning gravels so salmon can construct redds (nests) to incubate their eggs. Because Lewiston Dam blocks salmon from moving further upstream, many returning salmon spawn directly below the dam in the section of river adjacent to the hatchery each year, known as the "hatchery reach."

The "hatchery reach" was last augmented in 2007 and was long overdue to be replenished with spawning gravels. Loads of fish rock (typically 3/8" to 4" in size) were hauled and stockpiled to the hatchery reach beginning in July, and placement activities were concluded the week of July 26. In total, approximately 5,500 yds<sup>3</sup> of spawning gravel was placed at the hatchery reach. TRRP monitored turbidity during placement activities and furnished the turbidity data to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at the conclusion of the effort.

### **Evaluating Winter Flows**

With the signing of the Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD) in 2000, annual flows were allocated to the Trinity River based on the water year type. Since the implementation of the ROD, variable flow releases (aka restoration releases) have occurred after the water year is determined in mid-April. These variable spring releases typically extend to early summer before returning to baseflow conditions and then remain at baseflow until the following April when a new water year is determined.



Implementing variable flows in the Trinity River results in cold water releases from Lewiston Dam that are out of sync from when the pre-dam Trinity River would have naturally received seasonal peak flows. Undammed tributaries to the Trinity River naturally flow higher during winter storm events, and as high elevation snowpack melts in the spring. The asynchrony between flow management and the natural variability of pre-dam flows has cascading impacts on the river's form and ecology.

Of particular concern was the mounting body of scientific evidence that the timing of the cold water releases was detrimental to juvenile salmonids rearing in the Trinity River. Cold water suppresses metabolism and growth of juveniles, and spring releases from Lewiston Dam begin too late to inundate important nursery habitats on floodplains and side channels where juveniles can thrive.

Throughout 2021, an interagency team of biologists from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, and Bureau of Reclamation developed and analyzed a framework

### Table 1. Trinity River ROD volumes shifted under the developed winter flow framework

Water Year Type	ROD Water Volume (af)	ROD Volume Shifted to Winter Period under Proposed Action (af)	Percent ROD Volume Shifted from Summer to Winter under Proposed Action
Critically Dry	369,000	60,000	16%
Dry	453,000	80,000	18%
Normal	647,000	120,000	19%
Wet	701,000	180,000	26%
Extremely Wet	815,000	220,000	27%

to shift a portion of the ROD spring release volume to the winter period (Table 1). Public outreach to explain the winter flow framework and solicit feedback occurred concurrent with the environmental analysis. The interagency team conducted public scoping (May 18 – June 18), drafted a white paper to provide a scientific rationale to the new flow action, and held a public meeting (October 5) during the September 17 – October 21 public review period. Nearly 100 comments were received during the scoping and public review period that were used to inform the management approach.

The winter flow report will be finalized in 2022. Flow Workgroup will advance the findings of the report to the Interdisciplinary Team, with the hope that the Trinity Management Council will approve the winter flow framework beginning December 15, 2022.

### **Chapman B Channel Rehabilitation Project**

TRRP completed the first phase of channel rehabilitation to Chapman Ranch in 2019, pivoted to Dutch Creek in 2020, then returned to Chapman Ranch for Phase B – the second and final phase, in 2021. Rehabilitation efforts for Phase B included a forced meander and alcove to the river channel and the creation of an extensive side channel with adjacent floodplain lowering

on river left (Figure 2). The project's footprint included public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service as well as private landholdings.

Site activities were suspended at Chapman Ranch on August 2 due to the advancement of the Monument Fire. The closure was not lifted until six weeks later, on September 13. It seemed like a miracle to many in the TRRP office that the Yurok Tribe and Hoopa Valley Tribe construction crews were still able to complete the rehabilitation project as designed before the in-channel work period ended on October 15. The National Marines Fishery Service does not allow TRRP to conduct in-channel work after October 15 to protect returning adult salmon during the fall spawning period.

Hats off to the Yurok and Hoopa construction crews for buttoning up the rehabilitation site! It was much preferred to complete the design instead of having the project sit half-completed throughout the rainy winter months.



Figure 2. One of the three inlets constructed for the new side channel on river left at Chapman Ranch

**Trinity County RCD** P.O. Box 1450 Weaverville, CA 96093

#### **Trinity County RCD Board Meetings**

Third Wednesday 5:30 PM Open to the Public

#### **Trinity County RCD Office**

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### The Trinity County RCD of Directors

Greg Lowden, Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Josh Brown, Kent Collard, and Mike Rourke.

Kelly Sheen, District Manager

### Full Time Staff Members

Mana Walters - Orants Manager Joan Caldwell - Fiscal Manager Rebekah Wolfinbarger - Office Manager Amelia Fleitz – Watershed Program Manager Maya Williams - Education and Outreach Project Coordinator Denise Wesley - GIS Manager Erik Flickwir - Systems Administrator, Mechanic, & Graphic Design Cynthia Tarwater - Road-related Sediment Reduction Program Manager Chris Cole – Forest Health Program Manager Dave Johnson - Forest Health Project Coordinator Annie Barbeau – Revegetation Program Manager Kaety Howard – Revegetation Project Coordinator

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is aspecial district set up under state law to carry out conservationwork and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district led by a volunteer board of directors.

### The Trinity County RCD Vision

The Trinity County RCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economicdiversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

### **Fuels Crew**

Jeff Eads Danny Wells Josh Scott Kirk Wolfinbarge James Marzolla Shawlea Railton Garett Chapman Roman Woods Corben Page Joey Moore Jeremiah Weiss

### **Revegetation Crew**

### GrizzlyCorps Fellows

In 2021, TCRCD graduated its first GrizzlyCorps AmeriCorps Fellows, Kathleen M., who led the effort to update the Weaverville Community Forest 2021-2028 Strategic Plan Update. GrizzlyCorps is an AmeriCorps program operated by UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment that sends recent college graduates into rural communities across California to promote regenerative agri-food systems and forest and fire resilience. In September of 2021, TCRCD took on two new GrizzlyCorps fellows, Nicole Eastman in the Watershed Program and Bethany Llewellyn in the Forest Health Program.

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