

An underwater photograph of a river. On the left, a large, dark, craggy rock formation dominates the foreground. The water is clear and greenish-blue, with sunlight filtering through from the top right, creating a shimmering effect. Numerous chinook salmon are visible, swimming in the water and resting on the rocky riverbed. The fish are silvery with a hint of blue on their sides. The overall scene is serene and natural.

SALMON RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

Photo of Salmon River's chinook salmon by Michael Bravo

Dear SRRC Supporters and Friends,

Looking back on 2010 is a bittersweet thing for us all at the Restoration Council. We ache at the memory of the friends who have passed and think with pride of the hurdles we've successfully cleared. We've accomplished a lot of great work, while confronting many new challenges. It's been a year of transitions. Such times often lead us to evolve and grow in ways we never expected. I'm confident that the Restoration Council will begin this New Year with the strength and commitment to take on fresh projects while maintaining the great work we've done in the past.

With our Community Restoration Program serving as a foundation for all of our projects, we strive to achieve our mission to protect anadromous fish and develop a sustainable restoration economy on the Salmon River. This work is made possible through the incredible insight and commitment of our staff, Board of Directors, community members, and other partners. Your interest, financial contributions and volunteerism have played an essential role in supporting our efforts. We appreciate you letting us know that we are on the right path for protecting and restoring our treasured watershed.

There were a number of notable events and accomplishments in our work this past year, which are summarized and highlighted in this Annual Report.

We couldn't do it all without you. Thanks so much for your participation,

Lyra Cressey, Associate Director



STAFF

Lyra Cressey, Associate Director and Monitoring Coordinator
Petey Brucker, Klamath Coordinator and Noxious Weed Coordinator
Kathy McBroom, Office Manager
Brenda Hurlimann, Bookkeeper
Les Harling, Bookkeeper through 2010
Shannon Monroe, Bookkeeper through 2010
Sarah Hugdahl, Program Assistant and Outreach
Tom Hotaling, Fisheries Coordinator
Robert Will, Fuels Reduction Staff and GPS Technician
Lorelei Holzem, Watershed Education Coordinator
Mitzi Rants, Watershed Education Coordinator through 2010
Timothy (Lino) Darling, Noxious Weeds Crew Coordinator
Jason Clarke, Computer Assistance through 2010
Bonnie Bennett and Isaac Baker, AmeriCorps
Michael Kein & Bill House, AmeriCorps through 2010

In memory of Christi Hadley



CREWS

Daniel Adams
Steve Adams
Aaron Coleman
Robert Cousineau Jr.
Eric Cousineau
Kyle Cousineau
Robert W. Cousineau
Kevin Dunbar
Laurissa Gough

BOARD

Steve Gunther
Jessica Hanscom
Daniel Hendrickson
Michael Hill
Mike Kerrick
Scott Kingery
Brent Martin
Wyatt McBroom
Melanie McPherson
Daniel Miranda
Katie Reinhart
Steve Robinson
Joe Stoltz
Irie Swift
Chastity Thom
Bob Webster

Petey Brucker, President
Toz Soto, Vice President
Kathy McBroom, Secretary/Treasurer
Will Harling
Scott Harding
Ron Reed
Sharon Hoppas
Ben Beaver
Creek Hanauer



SRRC Fuels Crew cutting and stacking to slow a forest fire's ability to spread on private land near you!

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2010

- Implemented over 100 acres of prioritized fuels reduction around Salmon River homes and neighborhoods to help fire safe our community
- Hosted the Salmon River Spring Chinook Population Dives and coordinated many other fisheries monitoring and restoration activities
- Controlled 20 species of prioritized invasive plants on over 500 sites, with over 90% reduction of spotted knapweed, Italian thistle & other species
- Completed restoration work for sediment reduction on numerous private roads in the Salmon River Watershed
- Continued to participate in the implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement



*left, Assigning crews to river reaches on the morning of the Spring Dive.
photo by Stormy Staats, Klamath-Salmon Media Collaborative*



*below, Fish counter's view of the salmon and steelhead in the Salmon River last August.
photo by Michael Bravo*



One of the noxious weeds the SRRC crews go after is Italian Thistle. Along with smaller patches found in the lower elevations, crews have to go to steep upslope areas to dig and mulch this weed.

SRRC PROGRAM UPDATES FOR 2010



FISHERIES Winter Steelhead surveys took place late winter 2010, and focused on restoration effectiveness at tributaries which had undergone barrier removal or creek mouth enhancement work. SRRC operated Juvenile Outmigration Traps (screw traps) on the Salmon River and Klamath (Big Bar) 2 days a week from Apr-Nov in cooperation with the Karuk Tribe. Due to high flows in July, the annual Salmon River Spring Chinook/Summer Steelhead Population Dive was postponed until August. There was a great turnout of volunteers and the final count for 80 miles of Salmon River habitat was 1,275 spring Chinook and 295 summer steelhead. Much better than average! Juvenile Coho were surveyed in rearing habitat and observed migrating through the screw traps this summer. As part of ongoing fish passage improvement efforts, the mouths of creeks providing important fish habitat got an overhaul - small barriers removed, step pools created, and the benefit of cold water maximized. Now both juvenile and adult fish can utilize the habitat more effectively. This fall saw the annual Spring and Fall Chinook Spawning and Redd surveys in full swing, with many cooperators out combing the river for salmon carcasses. The early fall rains made the flows too high to get out on some days, but the crews took to boats and walked tributaries to get the data they needed. This year's fisheries work was funded by the Karuk Tribe, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Strong Foundation.

top left, Salmon River springer by M.Bravo



FIRE, FUELS AND FORESTRY The SRRC fuels program made a big transition this year, and ran its fuels crew in-house, rather than contracting the work out. We completed 115 acres of fuels reduction this year, creating shaded fuel breaks, fire-safe residences and safer emergency access routes. We hired two crews - one worked on the South Fork and one on North Fork. The Salmon River Fire Safe Council (FSC) has continued to coordinate the Community Fire Liaison Program to work directly with incident management teams during wild fire events. The purpose of the team is to provide accurate local information to fire managers, and to provide the community with up to date fire news. Luckily however, we were spared any major wildfires in 2010. We continue to be engaged in planning and commenting on USFS forestry management projects in the Salmon. The SRRC and FSC work with stakeholders to develop an approach toward forestry management that can improve forest health by developing projects that better prepare private and public lands for wildfires. They meet the last Wed. of the month at the Forks Community Club and the public is encouraged to attend. This year's work was funded by the USFS/Grants Clearinghouse and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. *left, Sawyer at work removing fuels on private land. The smaller material will be stacked for burning.*



WATERSHED EDUCATION Students at Forks of Salmon and Junction Elementary Schools learned a lot about their watershed over the course of the year. They did a unit on water quality, learning how to take dissolved oxygen and flow measurements. They raised salmon and trout in their classroom aquariums, and released them into the Klamath River. This fall, they participated in the annual Fall Chinook spawning surveys. They also learned map orientation and survey techniques, plant taxonomy, herpetology and ornithology. Students shared their work in watershed education with the community at the annual Watershed Fair in May. The watershed education program is funded this year by CDFG. *left, While studying life forms in the river; students found macroinvertebrates under every rock. A kick net was also employed to collect samples which they took back to the classroom for further study and to learn good data collecting techniques.*

NOXIOUS WEEDS In the spring of 2010 the Noxious Weed Program did some intensive management of Italian Thistle around Forks of Salmon, an area which is in recovery from the 2008 wildfires. In the aftermath of the 2006 and 2008 fires, SRRC has put a new focus on monitoring and eliminating prioritized weed species in areas where fires and their management occurred. This year we continued to increase our efforts to control 20 priority species on approximately 550 sites. The crew made progress in removing populations of Marlahan Mustard, focusing on fire areas, trailheads, tanker fill sites and river access. As always this effort is made more effective by our "Drivers that Care" campaign. Many thanks to community members who stop to notice, report, and pull/dig these weeds while driving the roads. And finally, the summer was spent combing river bars, decommissioned roads, and private lands for knapweed plants, an effort that has been so successful over the years that they are getting hard to find. SRRC's knapweed monitoring and removal has long kept the USFS from having to spray toxic herbicides to control this "Class A" weed. The Noxious Weed program was well funded in 2010, with support from the Siskiyou Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Siskiyou County RAC. *right, Italian Thistle dug in a burned upslope area is piled for mulching.*



RIPARIAN RESTORATION The SRRC continues to bring stakeholders together to develop a program to implement the Salmon River TMDL. The goal is to reduce water temperatures in the Salmon River for fish, prioritizing the most beneficial areas and developing restoration activities. The priority reaches for restoration have been identified as the No. Fork from Redbank to Sawyers, South Fork from Indian Crossing to Negro Creek, and South Fork from East Fork Campground to So. Fork Trailhead. We will be working on site designs this winter. Once the designs have been completed, we will begin looking for funding to implement restoration. This work has been funded by the Bella Vista Foundation. *right, Coho like the shaded cooler reaches. Can you spot them in this photo from the North Fork?*



ROADS Our Private Roads Sediment Risk Reduction project got wrapped up this fall. Larry Mace, out of Orleans, was hired as contractor for the project and was trained by Pacific Watershed Associates on proper road building techniques. He completed work at Godfrey and Harris Ranch, Taylor Creek and Finley Camp this season. In addition to the private roads project, we continue to coordinate the Neighborhood Road Stewardship Program, which encourages residents to perform light maintenance activities on public and private roads leading to private property, as well as monitoring and reporting problems before they get bigger. The private roads project was funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. *right, Rock fill and straw mulch was the last step in replacing an undersized culvert with a bridge on private land in Finley Camp.*



WATER MONITORING The SRRC and community volunteers monitored water and air temperatures at approximately 50 sites this past summer. In addition to our long term sites, we had a contract with the US Forest Service to help them collect temperature data throughout the watershed for their new Klamath National Forest Monitoring Plan. The SRRC has also continued to participate in the Klamath Basin Water Monitoring Coordination Group to develop a long term monitoring plan for the Klamath and its tributaries, which includes the Salmon River. *right, Water temperature recording devices such as this one are deployed on the river in early summer through fall.*



Commemorating Villeponteaux's legacy from an article by Mike Slizewski, [Siskiyou Daily News](#)

A ceremony at the entrance to Oak Valley Acres south of Yreka was held to dedicate a shaded fuel break project sign honoring the memory of Jim Villeponteaux, the Salmon River resident who passed away before he could see the completion of one of his pet projects.

Villeponteaux spearheaded the effort to establish fire safe councils in Siskiyou County, and he was so driven by the campaign that this county now has more local fire safe councils - 21 - than any other California county, save San Bernardino.

"...the success of the county's fire safe council movement was a result of "the foundation he laid down when he started with the Salmon River Fire Safe Council and the Salmon River Restoration Council."

The legacy Villeponteaux left will carry on in the success of projects such as the shaded fuel break work in Oak Valley.



NEWS FROM THE WATERSHED CENTER

Last February, SRRC staff and Board held a two day facilitated strategic planning retreat. We used the retreat to examine our organizational structure and decision making processes. One of the outcomes of the retreat was that due to the loss of our program manager and technical director Jim Villeponteaux last year, and our inability to find a suitable candidate for Executive Director, Lyra Cressey took on the position of Associate Director.

The year also saw several staff leave us. Les Harling, long time staff accountant for SRRC, finally took his well deserved retirement. His bookkeeping partner, Christi Hadley, who lit up our lives with her smile, died in an accident on the Salmon River Road several months later. Shannon Monroe, who also worked in bookkeeping, decided to move on as well. This fall, we hired a new bookkeeper to help fill the gap they left, Brenda Hurlimann from Callahan.

In October we hired Lorelei Holzem to take over from Mitzi Rants coordinating the Watershed Education program. Two new Americorps members, Bonnie Bennett and Isaac Baker began work in October, replacing outgoing members Bill House and Michael Kein.

We just got \$5,400 in funding from the Shasta Regional Community Foundation to upgrade to a new Trimble GPS unit. This will allow us to continue to collect high quality map data on all of our restoration projects.

Board member Scott Harding finally had a chance to re-vamp our SRRC email system this fall. He transferred everything over from our antiquated and problematic system, to a Google Education account, which is more user friendly.

Financial support for the Watershed Center is always tenuous, but we received a couple of small general support grants from private foundations in 2010, in addition to our primary organizational support from the USFWS. Our membership and fund raising drives were quite successful this year and contributed much appreciated funds to the operation of the Watershed Center.

Overall, the Watershed Center continues to serve us well, and we really appreciate having such a wonderful work space.

THE SALMON RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL'S MISSION IS TO... assess, protect, restore and maintain the Salmon River ecosystems with the active participation of the local community, focusing on restoration of the anadromous fisheries resources and the development of a sustainable economy. We provide assistance and education to the general public and cooperating agencies by facilitating communication and cooperation between the local communities, managing agencies, Native American Tribes, and other stakeholders.

FINANCIAL REPORT	
PROFIT AND LOSS JANUARY–DECEMBER 2010	
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Campaign Memberships	\$5,510.00
Co-op Agreement Income	\$38,326.48
Volunteer Contribution	\$84,532.95
Donations	\$6,526.00
Government Grants	\$373,022.96
Foundation Grants	\$24,300.00
Other income	\$8,621.48
Total Income	\$540,839.87
Expense	
Contract Labor	\$160,662.17
Payroll Expense	\$147,442.99
Other Benefits	\$20,891.51
Payroll Taxes	\$46,476.35
Program Expense of Volunteerism	\$84,532.95
Travel and Entertainment	\$15,988.68
Supplies	\$14,405.38
Rent, Utilities, Phone	\$5,657.98
Printing and Postage	\$5,792.14
Insurance	\$3,367.54
Other Expenses	\$8,159.75
Total Expense	\$513,366.59
Net Ordinary Income	\$27,473.59

THANK YOU...

...TO OUR 2010 MEMBERS, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS & FUNDERS!

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, CA Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, Karuk Tribe, Grants Clearinghouse, Strong Foundation, Firedoll Foundation, Norcross Foundation, Dancing Tides Foundation, Trees Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Siskiyou Department of Agriculture, Siskiyou County RAC, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Shasta Regional Community Foundation

AND 2010 MEMBERS:

SPRING CHINOOK – LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Cora Villeponteaux
Danny Hagans, PWA
Frank Colver
Les Harling
Robert Gale & Family
Peter Stiehler & Kate Chatfield
Jon Grunbaum

GREEN STURGEON MEMBERS

George Martin & Sharon Hoppas
Creek & Betty Anne Hanauer

COHO MEMBERS

Richard Roggia
Denise & Bob Bearding
Mary E. Strote
Robert Sonnenburg
Peter & Kristy Sturges
Lynn Halpern
Barbara Rohr & Michael Korejko
Robert & Sara Rohde
Bob-o & Kathleen Jaschke-Schultze
Foster Boone
Steve Durham
Millie Brucker
Bill & Patsy Marcy
Jim & Suzanne Jennings
Jennifer Sowerwine & Tom Carlson
Donna & David Brucker
Ken & Theresa Harris

FALL CHINOOK MEMBERS

Jennifer Silveira & Don Flickinger
Susanne Cardiff
Anni & Kit Robinson
Barry Snyder
Nick & Marilyn Letsos
Jay Anderson
Scott Quinn
Dieter King
Amber & Andy Getz
Anita & Alan Boucher
Donna England
Jared Strote
Robert Lieber & Cheryl Taubenfield
Daniel Grunbaum
Carl & Marie Flarity
Chris Walton
Will & Ade Harling
Greg King
Jill Pizzuto
Jim Ferrara
Erica Moeller
Sarah Colvig
Clarence Hagmeier

WINTER STEELHEAD MEMBERS

Sharon Goods
Dean & Karen Davis
Max & Nena Creasy
Ralph Del Pino
Ward & Rose Gandy
Malcolm & Sue Terence
Fran Forim
Neal Latt & Karen Pawlyk
Corinna Cohen & Mark Robbi
Pat & Joe Dougherty
Alan Sr. & Clara Crockett
Ron & Janet Harding
Alan Steinbach
Steve Robinson
Edna Watson

AND THANK YOU TO THE DONORS

Regina Blackstone Ratto
Paula Bristol
Aaron & Cori Gilroy
Anne Berry
Shirley Hugdahl
Tom Stokesberry



All contributions whether in memory of our loved ones and family, signing up for the SRRC membership, sending us a check, or volunteering your services to the SRRC and the Salmon River are greatly appreciated. Your commitment is essential to our well being, as we move through these amazing times of great challenge which energize commitment on the Salmon River.

