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
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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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 Villepontexaux 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 revamp 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.

Financial Report
Profit and Loss January–December 2010

Ordinary Income/Expense

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<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Campaign Memberships</td>
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<td>Co-op Agreement Income</td>
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<td>Volunteer Contribution</td>
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Expense

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**Net Ordinary Income** $27,473.59
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
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Robert & Sara Rohde
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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

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.