



Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C)

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E- NEWSLETTER

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TRINITY COUNTY REORGANIZATION MOVES 5C PROGRAM: In April 2008, the County reorganized several departments including moving the 5C Program from the Planning Department to the newly created Natural Resources and Long Range Planning Department. The move changed our mailing address to:

P.O. Box 1445
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Our phone number is (530) 623-1458

Extensions:

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Sandra Pérez – 3405

Christine Jordan – 3408

5C TO BECOME PART OF THE NORTHWEST CALIFORNIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION: The Trinity County Board of Supervisors and the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) voted on October 3, 2008 to transfer the 5C Program administration and staff to the RC&D.

The move reduces the costs of employee benefits and overhead expenses that the Program has incurred under Trinity County and will result in a higher yield of 5C's grant funding for on-the-ground project planning and implementation. The actual transfer will not occur until a line of credit can be established, the RC&D Personnel Manual is updated, an office space is rented for 5C staff, and a few other details are finalized. We will obtain new email addresses at the time of the transfer under our website domain www.5counties.org. They would be the first name initial and last name (e.g. mlancaster@5counties.org). We will notify everyone when those e-mail accounts are activated and also when we have a new mailing address and phone number.

COUNTIES AND RC&D MOA: A revised, companion 5C MOA between all five counties and the RC&D has been drafted as a starting point to affirm the new relationship between the Council and the Counties. Neither the Counties nor the Council have reviewed the 5C MOA to date. The revised version is based on the 5C Board's revisions of the existing 5C MOA between the counties. It incorporates aspects of the RC&D's *5 Year and Current Year Action Plan's* goals and objectives.

ROADS MANUAL 4(D) LIMIT 10 CERTIFICATION BY NMFS: In July 2007 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) initiated the 5C's Road Maintenance Manual incidental take coverage under the Federal Endangered Species Act - Section 4(d) Limit 10. The Limit 10 should work well for county projects in most instances. It will take a few projects for everyone to figure this out, so please let Mark know when you are working on a maintenance project that could involve NMFS.

In the summer of 2008 we learned that Caltrans District 1 (Eureka/Arcata) would not use the Limit 10 for NEPA and ESA review for federally funded FHWA projects. Based on that information we worked with NMFS to issue Project Memos to Caltrans stating the reasoning why a full biological assessment is not needed in some instances. The memo will reference the Limit 10, the completed NEPA document on the Manual, and the Manual BMPs. Unfortunately the Limit 10 cannot be utilized in areas where coho salmon are listed as endangered. This demonstrates once again why it is beneficial to avoid an endangered listing.

CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM MOU: On April 17th, 2007 5C Board Chairman Michael Delbar (Mendocino) signed the State Fish Passage Forum MOU on behalf of the 5C Program. Additional State and Federal agencies, and other entities, are in the process of signing the MOU.

BRIDGE TRANSFERS: In July 2008, the Siskiyou County Public Works Department replaced a bridge over Canyon Creek (tributary to the Scott River). The new bridge increased span length and weight capacity, as well as floodplain capacity.



Loading the 55' railcar bridge from the Trinity County yard for transport to the Siskiyou County yard for painting & upgrading



Old, deteriorated bridge on Boulder Creek Road on Canyon Creek to be replaced



Construction of gabion abutment



"New" bridge installed

Trinity County has also entered into an MOA with Del Norte County to transfer two additional railcar bridges that the 5C Program received from the Bureau of Reclamation under the Trinity River Bridge Replacement Project. Unfortunately, delays in encapsulating the bridge paint have slowed the transfer of the bridges to Del Norte County.

2007 & 2008 MIGRATION BARRIER REMOVAL PROJECTS: In 2007, three migration barrier removal projects were completed including Rocky Gulch, Warren Creek (both in Humboldt County) and Little Browns Creek (Trinity County).

Little Browns Creek, while a migration barrier removal project, also represented the largest stream restoration project to date completed by the 5C. The project included re-establishing 300 feet of

upstream channel utilizing a roughened channel design, bioengineered streambanks and large wood placement in the channel. The project area was also planted with native riparian and conifer species and various grasses.

Little Browns Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project (Trinity County)



Crossing outlet in 2000



Bridge & portion of upstream channel, May 2008

Rocky Gulch Migration Barrier Removal Project (Humboldt County)



4-foot diameter culvert in 1999



Bottomless arch installed in 2007

There are 5 additional barrier removal projects scheduled or currently in construction including:

- Grassy Creek in Humboldt County – In progress
- North and South Fork Caspar Creeks in Mendocino County (CDF Project developed cooperatively w/ 5C) – In progress
- Horse Creek in Siskiyou County – Completed (see below)
- Hall City Creek in Trinity County – Scheduled for October construction

Horse Creek Barrier Migration Barrier Removal Project (Siskiyou County)



The 6-foot diameter culvert barrier in 2005



Full passage/stream simulation design

This project's design and geotechnical work was funded by Siskiyou County and the CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) through the 5C program grant that includes an engineering line item for salmonid habitat and water quality improvement projects. 5C staff also assisted Siskiyou County with obtaining the implementation funding from FEMA and the CDFG Klamath River FRGP.



Whites Gulch Dam Removal: On October 1st, the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC), in cooperation with NOAA Open Rivers and CDFG, removed the first of two dams located on Whites Gulch, a tributary to the North Fork Salmon River. The second dam will be removed later this month. The dam removal projects are located upstream of the Whites Gulch Road crossing, a Siskiyou County road culvert that is also a barrier to steelhead, coho and Spring-chinook salmon. The County plans to replace the culvert in 2009 with a bridge. This project is just one example of how State and Federal agencies cooperatively work with the counties and other watershed groups to restore salmonid habitat and improve water quality.

BARRIER AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION DESIGN PROGRAM: The Coastal Conservancy awarded the 5C Program \$400,000 in grant funding in 2003 and an additional \$270,178 in 2005 for migration barrier removal design of priority stream crossings. The funding was utilized on twenty-six county, private, and public agency projects within the 5C Program area. The grant funded anywhere from 25% to 90% of each project's design costs; including but not limited to the permitting, geotechnical work and structural engineering. Out of those twenty-six projects, twelve have been constructed to date and an additional six are planned for construction in 2009 and 2010. The engineering funding provided through the CDFG FRGP to the 5C program is also utilized for designing components of County projects, including urban stream restoration and bioengineering that all enhance salmonid habitat and improve water quality. In both grants, the Counties provide(ed) the remainder of design funding as in-kind match to the project. The 5C Program is able to provide survey technicians, biological and botanical resources consulting, permit development, and other assistance to the individual Counties as needed.

ROAD DRAINAGE AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: Six road drainage/sediment reduction projects are being constructed in Trinity County and in the Trinity River watershed. The Indian Creek Road Sediment Reduction Project was completed by Trinity County Department of Transportation (TCDoT) in August and was funded by the Trinity River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program, the CDFG FRGP and TCDoT. A larger project, the Trinity Drinking Water Source Sediment Reduction Project, is well underway. It targets five Trinity County roads: Browns Mountain Road (completed), China Gulch Road (in planning phase), Lewiston-Turnpike Road (completed), Roundy Road (partially completed), and Trinity Dam Boulevard (currently under contract). The treatment sites on these roads, when inventoried using DIRT (Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments) in prior years, were estimated to deliver ~77,000 yd³ of sediment from chronic and episodic (large flood) events to tributaries of the Trinity River and drinking water sources. Proposition 40, TCDoT and the Trinity River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program are the funding partners for this project.

There have been several previous sediment reduction projects completed: 5 in Trinity County and 2 in Mendocino County. Humboldt County has also completed a few projects with the Mattole Restoration Council. We have been told that there are other non-5C related projects or improvements, but we have only limited information to document these activities. We would appreciate any relevant information or updates.



A rotted culvert removed on Indian Creek Road



New culvert with armored inlet & outlet



24" stream crossing culvert inlet on Browns Mountain Road prior to upgrade – June 2008



Same Site with 48" culvert installed & critical dip (below) – Sept 2008

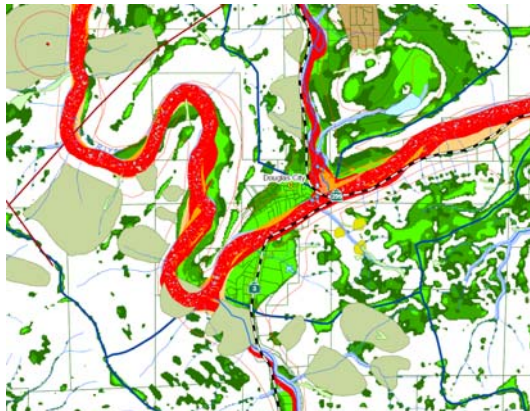


SCOTT AND SALMON RIVER DIRT INVENTORY: The DIRT inventories in the Scott and Salmon River watersheds were completed in March 2008. A copy of the final report is available by contacting Sandra Pérez. I want to express my thanks to Carolyn Rourke, our lead technician; her tireless efforts and commendable work ethic are what make the DIRT inventories work. Carolyn officially retired from Trinity County at the end of July, but we plan to bring her back to the Program when we are with the RC&D.



WATER & FISHERIES RELATED LAND USE PLANNING AND GIS:

The 5C staff has worked with a consultant to develop GIS layers to assist in analysis of water resource related planning. The GIS layers and other factors will be used in developing a watershed and water resource analysis for Trinity County. The GIS data set and general water resources approach has been demonstrated to all of the counties planning department staff. Once the analysis is complete, results will be summarized and made available to planners.



A sample of GIS layers used in water resource planning

CARBON AND FISH?: I have attached a link to a story regarding AB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals as well as a summary from the CA Licensed Forester's Association newsletter on the subject. I believe there are numerous opportunities to utilize the 5C Program's restoration work in relation to meeting AB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and to document the relationship between the goals and the Program work. As we pursue wetlands enhancement, migration barrier removal, urban stream renewal, bioengineering techniques, and land use incentives we are not only meeting the fisheries and water quality objectives, but are contributing to meeting GHG goals. We, the 5C staff, will examine our work and how we can assist counties and landowners to meet development, fisheries, water quality and carbon goals. It remains our goal to tap all of the potential benefits of our fisheries work to show how non-regulatory actions can address local and regional TMDLs, species listing, stormwater discharge and now GHG reduction. Please take a few minutes to review the story in the Redding Record-Searchlight in the following link:

http://www.redding.com/news/2008/sep/18/city-grapples-new-emissions-law/?partner=yahoo_headlines.

The following is from the CA Licensed Foresters Association September Newsletter:

"A report to the Air Resources Board (ARB) on California forest sector compliance with AB 32 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals was approved by the BOF after lengthy discussion and public comment. The report is posted at http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board/board_policies.asp, and was prepared in response to the ARB's July request for assistance with forest sector scoping. Identified as key needs are fuels reduction and biomass utilization.

Forestry is unique in that it is the only sector quantified as a carbon sink instead of a source. The ARB estimates that the forest sector, even taking into account the growing emissions from decomposing paper and wood products stored in California landfills, sequesters an annual net CO2 equivalent of 5 million metric tons....

Recognizing information gaps and the evolving nature of the AB 32 process, the document calls for the establishment of a Special Committee on Climate Change that will work with the BOF's Research and Science Committee to address priority items. Environmentalists questioned the scientific efficacy of forest fuel treatments in reducing GHG emissions. Peter Miller, Natural Resource Defense

Council, said that the report's endorsement of fuel treatments is "unproven at best." Miller described the report as a "missed opportunity."

Bruce McLaughlin, California Municipal Utilities Association, offered a contrasting view. He said that CMUA is committed to achieving Renewable Portfolio Standard goals, and supports fuel reduction and biomass utilization. After discussion, the BOF approved the scoping report by a unanimous vote."

TRAINING & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: The 5C Program continues its long history of trying new techniques and experimentation in finding effective methods to implement conservation. In the past, wetlands construction, urban stream habitat elements, and road outsloping/rolling dip designs were utilized to better understand how those treatments could be used on a larger scale. Within the past two years, two bioengineering test sites have been developed. These experiments resulted in the design and implementation of a large bioengineering component on the Little Browns Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project.



Upper Left: Road crews from each county install a short segment of bioengineering bank stabilization on a steep, undercut section of Sidney Gulch in Weaverville. Upper Right: Siskiyou County Public Works staff modifies the design in their segment.

Below Left: A portion of the site washed out the first winter (2007) in part due to the lack of rock veins that were not installed (my fault). Below Right: A portion of the effort that worked.



The above bioengineering test site construction was conducted as part of the 2007 'Roads, Water Quality and Salmon' workshop that 5C hosts for the Counties with CDFG FRGP grant funds. A Roads Workshop is not planned for 2008, but one is planned for Fall 2009. It is the intention to hold the workshop in another County as it has consistently been held in Trinity since the Program started.

OTHER BIOENGINEERING PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Upper Left: Little Browns Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project. Within the 300-foot length of the upstream re-constructed roughened channel, approximately 150 feet of channel bank area was stabilized using the willow brushmattress and fascine technique. This bioengineering treatment was used in lieu of the traditional boulder riprap to stabilize the banks.

Upper Right and Below: An eroding bluff on the Mad River is threatening houses and County/private roads in the McKinleyville area. The County is utilizing a bioengineering component for the Mad River Bluffs stabilization project.

