



Pandemic and Place

Flatten the Curve

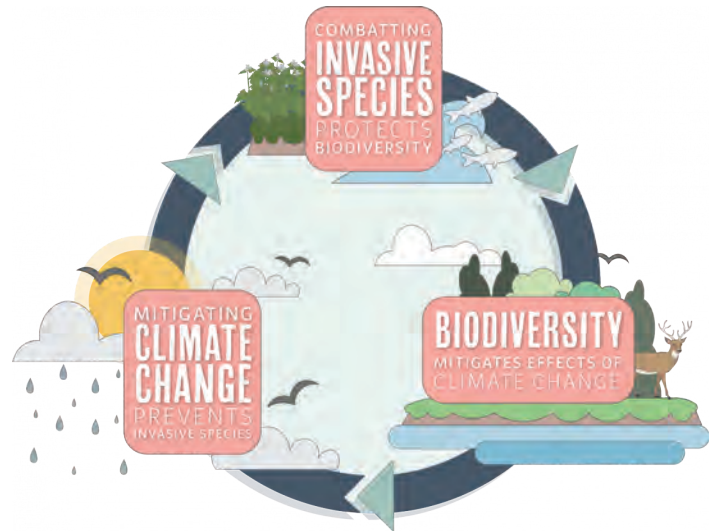
By Tanya Chapple

COVID-19 has made it much easier to talk about the invasive species growth curve. We've become experts in the graphs, watching the exponential rise taper off and rise again. We can apply our experience with coronavirus to our understanding of other invasive lifeforms.

The coronavirus is of course a virus, spreading very rapidly through humans, and is obviously very different than invasive plants, animals, or pathogens. However, the curves are similar, as well as the intervention methods taken at different growth stages.

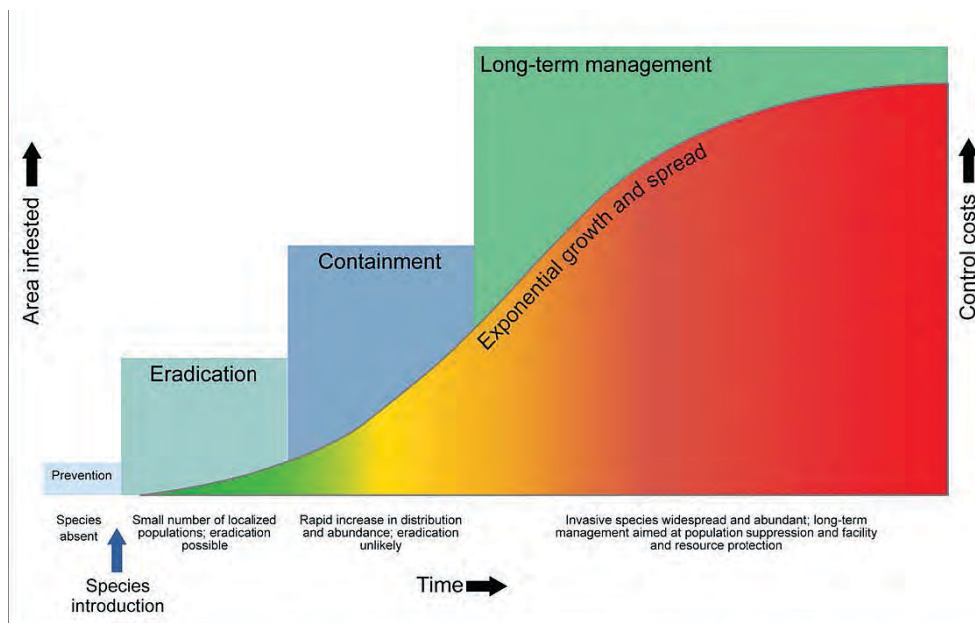
Let's look at the invasion curve (see graphic below): The curve shows the different management actions (prevention, eradication, containment, long-term management) appropriate for different stages of infestation. The curve shows that the costs (financial, ecological, etc.) increase over time. This curve does not show results from effective action at various stages which bring the curve back down, limiting harmful effects, or costs, over time.

Prevention is the most important. If the species never arrives, we never have to deal with it. Prevention action is a lot of



Infographic by Invasive Species Centre www.invasivespeciescentre.ca

cleaning: washing hands, cleaning mud out of boots or vehicle crevices, weed washes, boat washes for aquatic invasive species. Prevention can also be wearing a mask, or wearing clothes that seeds don't stick to. Prevention work is public education to increase understanding of potential risks, helping people to habitualize simple actions to protect themselves, their communities, and loved places.



Sources: National Invasive Species Council; U.S. Department of Agriculture; National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Rodgers, L. South Florida Water Management District; Department of Primary Industries, State of Victoria, Australia; and GAO. | GAO-16-49

Eradication is next. This is the stage where the species is present, but at low levels, the prospect of getting it to be gone forever is feasible. In the world of invasive plants, we talk about early detection and rapid response, the idea being that you really need to catch the plants early to be most effective, before they are obviously obnoxious.

For a virus, eradication, containment and long term management seem fused. With coronavirus we've experienced

Letter from MKWC Director Luna Latimer

We are Strong!

There is so much strength in our Klamath communities. Without belaboring the obvious, 2020 has been a difficult year. We've faced a pandemic, devastating wildfires, abysmal fish returns, suffocating smoke, and an increasingly polarized nation. Yet, we persevere. I've always loved the Ernest Hemingway quote that "the world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places." My son broke his collarbone this year and once it healed, the spot where it broke was larger and stronger than ever. The Slater fire broke the fabric of our existence, and the healing will take longer than a collarbone, but many will be stronger—including our community solidarity. #HappyCampStrong

Our communities exemplify grit. Grit, a term defined by Angela Duckworth as passion and perseverance for long-term and meaningful goals, is that thing that keeps us going in spite of and because of any obstacles—because we believe in our vision for the future. One of the most amazing examples of this perseverance is the Karuk people's resolve to practice their rights to burn. It is gratifying to see the importance of Indigenous-led land management recognized internationally through media coverage. We are honored to assist with efforts to restore fire to the Klamath Mountains. We are thankful for the small role that MKWC gets to play in the future of the Klamath Watershed. We are proud that our partnership helps with our on-the-ground restoration efforts that you will read about in this edition of our annual newsletter. This year there were many projects that showcase these amazing partnerships and the tenacity of our vision for a better future. Years of planning have gone into these projects, and despite a pandemic and wildfire, we were able to implement some of them as planned. Local contractor ABC Logging started mechanical restoration (aka logging) in the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRPP) Somes Project area in cooperation with Lomakatsi Restoration Project, U.S. Forest Service, and Karuk Tribe. The Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Forest Service, and MKWC restored a floodplain at Aikens Creek (story page 18). In an effort to support and mentor the next generation of watershed stewards and after years of pitches to higher education institutions around the region, for the first time ever, the summer youth interns from MKWC and the Karuk Tribe earned college credit from Humboldt State University for their internship hours (story page 13). All of these projects faced obstacles, both bureaucratic and physical, but were no match for our grit.

We are grateful to all of the amazing MKWC employees that help make this happen. At the time of writing, MKWC employs 54 people and has contractual relationships with 36 independent contractors as well as many small businesses in our local area. It is good to know that one of our original



Luna Latimer and family

goals when founding MKWC, to promote community vitality and strengthen our local economy through meaningful restoration work, is stronger than ever in spite of the obstacles thrown in our path.

New Associate Director

We are happy to announce that Carol Earnest has filled the position of Associate Director for MKWC. In this role, Carol assists MKWC's Program Directors with project management and program development. Though she is taking on a new role here at MKWC, she still oversees the Community and Stewardship Program—managing our youth programs and community relations. Carol has been instrumental in helping MKWC during the COVID-19 pandemic by developing new policies to keep us safe and operational. Carol brings to the job over six years of experience developing and implementing hands-on watershed restoration and monitoring projects with community and youth involvement and a Bachelor's degree



Carol Earnest

in Environmental Science from Colorado College. She spends her free time exploring the beautiful Klamath Mountains with her husband and dog, bird watching, gardening, and cooking. These interests continue to inspire her appreciation of the natural world, and her passion for protecting and restoring our natural ecosystems.

social restrictions, contact tracing, and quarantines as containment, and a race to develop a vaccine as long term management. Containment and long term management both lead to eradication. For species that spread slower these management stages may be more distinct, though still connected.

At the Mid Klamath Watershed Council we work to manage invasive plants using early detection and rapid response to eradicate small, new locations. We also work in the prevention stage, ensuring that our restoration projects are not introducing or exacerbating problem plants, and offering community events to increase public awareness of invasive species issues. We rarely work on the larger cost issues like attempting to contain larger locations of noticeable problem plants because the financial cost is high and the ability to gain a lasting result is low.

Managing invasive plants is expensive. The California Invasive Plants Council cited the cost to California at \$82 billion

annually. It is so expensive that the extreme cost is often cited as a reason to manage for them—the earlier we address the problem, the less it will cost. The real cost of invasive plants lie in biodiversity loss. Diverse plant communities support diversity of other life, a diversity that is difficult or impossible to replace. The invasive species cycles are positive feedback loops of negative consequences. But the loops can be broken, or at least softened before locked into an infinite spiral. By understanding the interaction of environmental stressors—climate change, invasive species, and biodiversity—and understanding the invasion curve, we have power to reduce harm and gain balance.

We have seen with coronavirus the vulnerability of our systems, and the concerted global effort and cost it takes to attempt to mend these systems and protect people. We can receive lessons from the trials of 2020, messages of unity and listening to diverse voices—scientists, victims, plants, pathogens—and apply them to other problems that seem insurmountable.

PANDEMIC BINGO 2020

Grew a Garden	Saw a Comet or Meteor Shower	Swam in the River	Shopped at a Local Store	Spent Quality Time with your Family
Volunteered	Got Firewood	Participated in Online Learning (including homeschool)	Donated to a Fire Recovery Effort	Swam in a Lake or Creek
Hiked in a Wilderness Area	Read to a Child	Free Space	Took Pictures of the Beautiful Klamath	Canned, Dried or Froze Food for Later
Learned a new technology (like Zoom)	Cooked a Delicious Meal	Fire Safed Your Home or Helped a Friend	Rode a Bike	Hunted, Fished or Gathered Food
Called an Elder to say Hello	Made a Bouquet of Flowers	Shared Food	Saw a baby animal or bird	Gazed at the Stars at Night

Trial by Fire—the 2020 Happy Camp Slater Fire

By Dean Davis

The morning of September 8, 2020 started out warm and breezy, blowing from the southeast. I noticed this as I finished up moving our two rainbird sprinklers, one in the garden and one in the pasture. We were down from the three that we run 24 hours a day due to low creek flow this year

Since we moved to our land in 1979, we were able to accomplish substantial fuels reduction across the property. We were able to retain our fire insurance following inspection by our insurance company several years ago. We had purchased the original policy right as the 1987 fires took off, and procured it while fires burned all across the district, forest, and western states. My experience as a “casual” firefighter in the Forest Service provided some hands-on knowledge, and I served during that episode as an initial attack local crewmember, an engine crewmember, and a medical unit guide for the National Guard medics assigned to our complex. Local road knowledge is valuable when responders are not familiar with the area and visibility is near zero.

About 15 years ago, we began to formally address our mid-slope heavily forested homestead fuels, and developed a fire plan to systematically reduce the hazards, realizing that in a major event we would likely be on our own. We prioritized our work to protect our home, animals, and property improvements, recognizing the expected behavior of a slope and fuel driven fire on our landscape. We gained experience concerning prevailing winds, and their daily expected patterns and behavior. Abundant water was a key element of our plan, and we made diligent and concerted efforts to maintain a generous “green zone” surrounding our home. It was a challenging task to keep the 100’ circles evenly cycling across our developed areas, but we were able to keep it all green, growing, productive, and mowed where appropriate. We built a ½ mile long 2” waterline, following the old ditch that was dug when the land was homesteaded in the 1920s. The gravity flow produced 65 pounds of pressure and an enormous quantity of water for our domestic use and irrigation. Over the years, CalFire inspections were consistently favorable, and they were impressed with our work.

Around 8:00 in the morning, we got a call from Karen’s sister in Mount Shasta. She had seen a Facebook post that a fire start had been seen on Thompson Ridge, where the last Happy Camp district lookout is located. She said it was estimated to be about a tenth of an acre, burning near the major power lines that went over the ridge toward Thompson Creek and upriver. Just to be safe, I decided to drive down the hill to the valley bottom where I could get a better look. From there I could immediately see that the fire was closer to 10-15 acres, putting



Slater Fire at 11am on Sept. 8th coming off Slater Butte towards Happy Camp. Photo by Will Harling

up a large column of smoke and laying toward the northwest moving simultaneously up the ridge and down the slope, heading both our way and toward the homes along Indian Creek Road. I returned to our house as quickly as possible to warn Karen of the situation and prepare to defend our home.

We had often thought of this possibility of a wildfire, and knew that our land had been completely burned in an early season fire in 1955. The old house survived that fire, and now served as our hay storage barn. The older trees on our land were small when the place was homesteaded, and the even-aged 100’ tall forest stand all along the road to our place dated from the cone crop that followed the fire event, so we knew a slope or wind-driven fire would present a serious challenge considering the uniform fuel density.

Karen began loading the car with our important files and papers. The sky was getting very dark, and we could already smell the smoke, and the wind was becoming very strong and erratic. I switched the rainbirds to the close garden setups, and turned on the rooftop rainbird valve in the attic, which put water over the entire structure. I assembled my fire tools in the green grass outside the house, and got my hardhat, fire shirt, gloves, and fire shelter on. I filled two backpack pumps, got some more hoses together, fueled my chainsaw, and staged more fuel and tractor diesel nearby. I moved the tractor to the green grass near the front steps, and staged my Toyota truck, Honda Civic, large riding lawnmower, and tracked Polaris UTV in the watered, short-grass pasture evenly spaced from each other as far from the trees as possible.

It was clear that the fire was approaching, as leaves and ash were appearing on the wind. A Forest Service fire prevention tech showed up, and looked terrified. He told us to evacuate



The Slater Fire burns through the town of Happy Camp, CA, on the night of September 8, 2020. Ignited by arcing powerlines near Slater Butte in a 50mph east wind, the fire burned over 90,000 acres in a 24 hour period, and consumed more than 200 homes along Indian Creek.

Photo by Will Harling

immediately, and that the main road down Indian Creek was impassible and we would have to go up the creek to Cave Junction to escape. I told him I was staying to defend, and he left after just a few minutes. The roar of the fire was deafening, the sky was black with an eerie red glow so I told Karen to go. She loaded up our two dogs and our cat and was crying as she drove up the driveway, toward the firefront. I was hoping she was going in time to get out and that I would see her again. It turned out that she barely made it, and was driving next to fire at the top of our driveway. She almost came back, but continued down the mountain and made it to the lower road. During this time, large trees began breaking and falling in the hurricane-force wind that had developed. The sound was incredible...branches and tree limbs were flying everywhere. Karen met others down the road fleeing the fire, and made it to Cave Junction by driving over the crest of the Siskiyou.

I returned to our home, and watched as the water pressure suddenly dropped. Since the fire approached from uphill, the

line had either burned or been crushed by falling trees. Within minutes a river of embers flowed across our land, screaming through the woods and initiating fires everywhere. I watched as our generator shed, next to our woodpile, caught fire. Our 3' diameter ancient cherry tree split apart in two, and the hollow center caught fire in seconds. Our old cabin, which had become a grain and tool storage shed, was also igniting. I saw the chicken coop, old barn, and upper llama barn all catch fire simultaneously. I grabbed a McCloud fire tool, put on a backpack pump, and started circling the house to watch for fire starts.

On the second or third circle around, I saw a tiny fire start on the tile roof of the tower top, near one of the four miniature dormers. As I ran around to the front porch and door, I noticed the vines on the north side were on fire. I pulled as much down as I could, dragging them into the yard, stomping out the bases and spraying some water on spots I couldn't pull away. I then raced to the top of the tower, four floors up in the air.



Dean Davis built and designed his family's home in the Indian Creek watershed.

Photos this page by Dean Davis

When I popped the hatch, the tower top room smelled like smoke and burning rubber. All the fire alarms in the house were going off at once, but the howl of the conflagration almost drowned their sound out. I pushed out the sheet rock piece that sealed the dormer window opening (I had not made two of the four windows yet), and hung outside as far as I could, 40' in the air, and tried to spray water on the valley that was on fire. It was not effective, and I couldn't hang out any farther, and I could tell that the fire was intensifying. I knew at that moment that I couldn't save our home.

I ran down the stairs as fast as I could, turned toward the tower room on the first floor, and pulled our computer from its wires to save documents and photos that were stored on it. As I ran back through the kitchen and dining room toward the front door, I saw that the two windows had already broken from the radiant heat and flames were entering the room. The propane tank outside was venting like a flamethrower, and I thought it would explode at any moment. I dropped the computer in the grass, slipped out of the backpack pump, and tried to start my tractor which was horribly close to the fully-involved firewood pile and burning propane. The seat was soft, the dash was melting, and as I turned the key I pushed down on the clutch pedal, and it was melted and wouldn't work. The whole area was hot as hell, so I grabbed the McCloud and the Mac and ran for the cars parked in the meadow.

My father, who passed in 2010, left me his Honda and it had a great air conditioner, so I got inside. I ran it a little to cool down the interior, but was afraid it might catch fire running so turned it off after a bit. The meadow, which was always to be our safety zone, was short and well-watered, but so

much material was blown from the trees that small fires were starting all around me, although none of them carried very far. I watched as the home we designed and built and raised our three girls in burned to the ground. Tiles shed from the roof like dragon scales, tumbling and crashing to the ground. Flames howled from the windows, and our home's demise was astonishingly fast, flat on the ground in less than an hour. At one point the radiant heat was so severe that I thought the windshield would melt even though I was more than 100' away and downhill, so I backed up to the cedar trees behind me until the house partially crumbled and presented less heat. I saw our llama, Honu, laying in his dust-rolling spot through the woods, and he survived without being burned, as did the two injured and caged chickens in the garden area. The main flock of 35 chickens all died in the fire.

I stayed in the car for about 3 hours, knowing I couldn't escape the property with all the downed trees, worrying the whole time that a second fire run would occur, coming in the crowns from below as we always expected. I was prepared to exit the car, get in the open, rake the ground, dig a face-hole, and get inside my fire shelter as a last-gasp effort to survive, but was fearful that there would be no oxygen to breathe from the super-heated air. Thank God the crown fire never came,

continued on page 11



The Davis's house after it burned in under an hour.

Reckoning with Fire in the Klamath Mountains and the West

By Will Harling

“Indian know, and bye-un-bye White Man say he know too, but Indian say, WHITE MAN YOU KNOW TOO LATE.” Klamath River Jack, May 27, 1916, in correspondence with U.S. Forest Service Ranger Jim Casey.

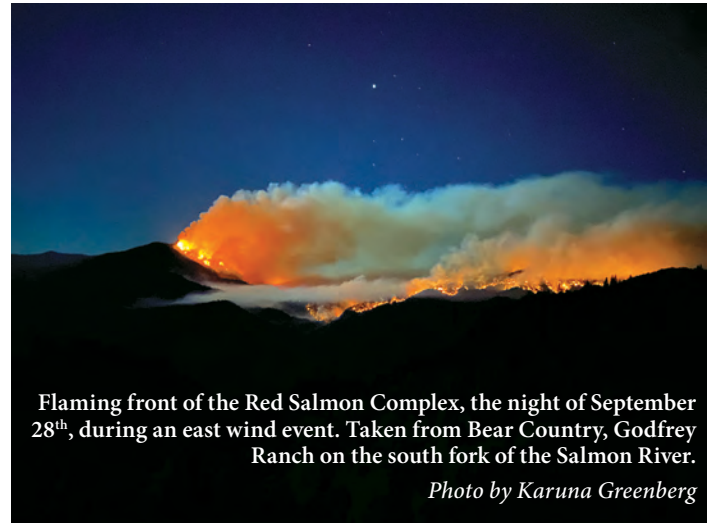
Sometimes it feels too late. Like the boulder has rolled so far down the mountain we cannot push it up again. We have been walking in the wrong direction for a long time, since the Spaniards and then my European ancestors used state and federal laws to ban the natural and cultural process of fire. In 1911, playing off the Great Fires of 1910, the first Chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, used this disaster to both establish the National Forest system from under the lumber baron’s feet, and outlaw fire use. In places like Florida where Pinchot’s Dixie Crusaders went to convince the South fire was bad, they were soon sent packing. Everyone there already knew 10 years without fire in the productive Florida rough, and you had a ticking time bomb ready to explode.

“It is time for us to finally reckon with the truth of fire in the Klamath Mountains and in the West. Our only choice is to live with frequent fire on this landscape.”

Here in the West, it took longer for fuels to reach that explosive state. It didn’t hurt the fledging Forest Service in their efforts to stamp out all fires that we happened to be in one of the wettest centuries in the last 5,000 years. But in the 1970’s we began to switch from cooler wetter years on average to warmer and drier years. My first memories are of a night burnout during the ’77 Hog Fire behind the cabin at the bottom of



The Red Salmon Complex backs down through the Hotelling Creek drainage on the South Fork of the Salmon River.
Photo by Will Harling



Flaming front of the Red Salmon Complex, the night of September 28th, during an east wind event. Taken from Bear Country, Godfrey Ranch on the south fork of the Salmon River.
Photo by Karuna Greenberg

McNeil Creek in Forks of Salmon where I was born. That year, 55,000 acres burned at higher severities than any locals could remember. 10 years later in the Siege of ’87, we had scientists coming here from around the world to study the closest thing they could find to the potential effects of a nuclear winter. In the aftermath of the ’87 fires, winter rains washed on average about six feet of granitic topsoil off Yellow Jacket Ridge into the North Fork Salmon River.

My family had moved over to the North Fork Salmon River in 1979, after we were evicted from the McNeal cabin and mining claim. We were one of the lucky few evicted families that found a place to stay on the river. An old miner named Jerry Kramer carved out a tiny piece of his patented land on Pollock’s Gulch, and my brother Tim and I fished the section of river below our place religiously until the ’87 fires, when the pools filled in with silt, the river heated up and the salmon runs dwindled. It has never been the same. Since that time, I have been working to understand how to bring back our salmon. And while our instream restoration work, like our recent helicopter wood loading project on Horse Creek with logs killed in the 2016 Gap Fire (see page 15), is a monumental step towards restoring a productive stretch of that creek, I am certain that only restoring the process of fire in the Klamath Mountains will turn the tide from salmon extinction to recovery.

Nearly every year for the last decade, we have had at least one major salmon stream in the Klamath Basin heavily impacted by wildfires. This year it was Indian Creek in the Slater Fire. Not only did nearly all this key watershed for Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead burn in one 24 hour period, it burned at high intensity, killing most of the forest canopy on a massive scale. This fire burned over 90,000 acres in one day, including nearly 200 homes along Indian Creek. Pushed by a 40 mph



The Red Salmon Complex burns through heavy fuels left from the Siege of '87 wildfire on the South Fork of the Salmon River.

Photo by Will Harling

east wind with as low as 3% relative humidity, the Slater Fire became a horizontal airborne river of fire impervious to slope or any barriers except recent major wildfires. If not for the 2017 Oak Fire and 2018 Natchez Fire footprints, the Slater Fire may have reached Crescent City, in addition to Cave Junction, in it's initial run that ended up being 30 miles long and 9 miles wide.

Most of the Indian Creek watershed had not burned in over a century, and had suffered the brunt of early industrial logging in the Klamath Mountains. Following the 1987 wildfire that last burned Thompson Ridge, there had been large scale helicopter logging with minimal slash cleanup. It was in this carbureted mixture of brush and slash that the Slater Fire erupted when live power lines along the ridge ignited from a fallen snag. Six years earlier, the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership had presented the Klamath National Forest with a plan to restore fire process on roughly 30,000 acres in the Indian Creek watershed and the wildland urban interface on the north side of Happy Camp. The Klamath rejected this project for one they had designed without collaboration in the Elk Creek watershed to the south. While lawsuits are being prepared against Pacific Power for not de-energizing their powerlines before the predicted wind event, it is unlikely the Forest Service will be held accountable for ignoring traditional

knowledge and a growing body of western science for the past five decades, and continuing to promote fire exclusion as their primary fire management policy.

For every family that doesn't have a home to go back to this winter in Happy Camp and so many other small towns up and down the West Coast, for all the life that was lost in a fire people could barely outrun in their cars, for all the damage to come when the Indian Creek watershed unravels in winter rains, it is time for us to finally reckon with the truth of fire in the Klamath Mountains and in the West. Our only choice is to live with frequent fire on this landscape. Let that sink in. Imagine what would need to change for every forest and grassland around us to burn every 1-15 years. It is happening



Red Salmon Complex August 8th, taken from Godfrey Ranch.

Photo by Karuna Greenberg

now whether we like it or not. Nearly everywhere fire has been excluded for more than 15 years is burning in rapid succession despite the largest firefighting force the world has ever seen trying to suppress them. So what do we do?

About 20 miles as the crow flies from Happy Camp down the Klamath River, the Six Rivers National Forest chose to engage the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership in



The 2020 Klamath Trex Prescribed Burn at Butler on the mainstem Salmon River. *By Stormy Staats*



Firing Boss Joe Jerry (Karuk 1 Handcrew), leads a tribal firing team on the Tishawnik prescribed burn in Orleans, CA, on June 22, 2020.

Photo by Will Harling

implementing the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project. This 5,500 acre project utilizes strategic linear manual and mechanical treatments around midslope properties on the western edge of the Marble Mountains to allow for the safe reintroduction of prescribed fire to all 5,500 acres in an area that hasn't seen fire in over a century. To date, more than 1,000 acres of manual thinning have been completed as well as 68 of 800 acres slated for mechanical thinning. Protecting these at-risk private inholdings will allow for fire managers to safely manage wildfires for resource objectives on an adjacent 100,000+ acres. This Project was unique in that we incorporated traditional knowledge from the Karuk Tribe along with the best available western science. We fully analyzed the no action alternative and have maintained high level collaboration through implementation. Projects like this show how we can bring fire back in a good way on our terms, and save homes, legacy forests, and some of the largest and most at-risk carbon sinks in California.

First nations across the West must be engaged and empowered to become co-managers of fire in their ancestral territories and reservations.

Still, some days it feels like we are wrestling a 900 pound gorilla with one hand tied behind our back. While wildfires by default are managed with no environmental compliance, require no permits, and fire managers enjoy no liability or funding constraints, to bring fire back on our terms requires all this and more. For the Somes Project, we had to generate a 300 page environmental assessment, secure grant funding for implementation, work with multiple permitting agencies to secure permits, and stand down while excellent burn windows

pass us by due to regional fire politics and risk aversion within the Forest Service. Tribal fire managers with federal qualifications are still not allowed to lead even pile burns though local FS district offices are short staffed.

Key to this reckoning is state and federal fire managers, in particular CalFire and the Forest Service, sharing responsibility for fire on California landscapes with a much bigger group of partners. This will require both modifications to state and federal resource code laws, as well as to the fire culture within these organizations. Currently all incentives for state and federal fire managers support continued fire suppression policies. Why would a Forest Service Fire Management Officer regularly lauded as a hero for putting wildfires out with no liability for their actions choose to engage in prescribed fire where there is more personal liability, more preparation and messy collaboration, less money, and much less hero worship? Even while CalFire and USFS Region 5 increase annual prescribed fire targets, the incentives for reaching these targets



Butler control burn *Photo by Stormy Staats*



This cultural burn, in a patch of huckleberries, promotes healthy plant growth and bigger berries the following year. 2020 Klamath TRES.

Photo by Stormy Staats

don't compare to the inherent risks. Creating a collaborative framework for managing fire, including shared liability, can help minimize individual risk and create shared ownership to support large scale reintroduction of fire.

First nations across the West must be engaged and empowered to become co-managers of fire in their ancestral territories and reservations. Locally, tribes bring thousands of years of fire knowledge to the table, and are the keepers of the only proven method for safely managing fire for community protection, ecological diversity and abundance. That state and federal laws still prohibit cultural practitioners from managing family gathering areas with fire is testament to ongoing systemic racism. Dedicated state and federal funding needs to be allocated specifically for tribes to develop fire management programs, and laws need to be rewritten to protect cultural burning and cultural burners.

In addition to tribes, organizations including Fire Safe Councils, Prescribed Fire Councils, Prescribed Burn Associations, and other affected parties (municipalities, agriculture, timber, etc) also need to be engaged in landscape scale fire management planning. Shared ownership of fire at the landscape scale requires robust collaboration to create a shared vision for fire management BEFORE the next big wildfire. Prioritizing



Nighttime exposure makes this fire look more dramatic. In reality, it was a well-timed prescribed burn that will protect the town of Orleans. *Photo by Stormy Staats*

where and how fuels work can be accomplished, planning what the appropriate management response for wildfires in certain places and seasons, and developing local capacity in the collaborative framework of a Partnership or Network can expedite community fire adaptation.

Ron Wyden's recently introduced bill, the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2020, goes a long ways towards creating the funding to manifest a shift to more frequent fire on the landscape. This bill, if enacted, would increase the pace and scale of controlled burns through cooperative agreements between states, tribes, counties, fire districts, non-governmental agencies such as the Nature Conservancy, and private entities. The bill allocates \$300 million each to the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior to implement controlled burns on county, state and private lands.



Karuk Cultural Practitioner and MKWC Board Member Kathy McCovey talks about the role of fire in providing good basketry materials.

Societal change, however, rarely comes from the halls of Congress. Our fire reckoning begins with every one of us taking time to develop a deeper understanding of fire where we live, and taking active steps to fit our lives into the fire regimes that shape where we live. Start with your home and move out from there. Don't stop at your property line. Connect with the organizations that are managing fire on your landscape. Learn from them. Build bridges between disparate groups that all hold a piece of the fire puzzle. From homeowner's associations to fire departments, from tribes to county, state and federal agencies. For those of you who haven't had fire at your doorstep this may sound like crazy talk. Rest assured it is coming. Even the coastal redwood forests were once frequent fire forests, and they have long gone without. We have run out of time to be proactive. The boulder rolled off the mountain decades ago. But if we all put our backs to it, we can push it up the mountain again, push our world back into balance a little sooner and protect a piece of what we love before it's too late.

and throughout our watered area only single-tree torching occurred. We had also hosted an underburn after we had removed most of the brushy fuels, conducted by the Fire Training Exchange, or TREX, across the downhill portion of our land where we always expected the fire's approach. This is a yearly event, where local and distant cooperators get together to study fire management and work to put fire back on the land in a safe and productive manner for our community's benefit and protection. I am so thankful for the collaborative work done by the Karuk Tribe, the U.S. Forest Service, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, the Nature Conservancy, CalFire, contractors, and private citizens to reduce the severity and impact of these terrifying fires we are experiencing across our western landscapes. All the watering, mowing, piling, and burning paid off even though we lost our dwelling and outbuildings. Vision, foresight, shared wisdom, science, and hard work saved my life.

Around 4:00 PM I heard a chainsaw in the distance. I got out of the car and started yelling, and heard two of my girls running

and screaming and crying my name through the smoke. We hugged and all broke down in tears...I felt so bad for losing the place and scaring them so much. They were sure I had been burned to death. They had come in with their husbands... one a Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer and the other a timber faller, along with two other LEOs, cutting numerous trees to get in. They also had to cut major powerlines, which were also down, with boltcutters for passage. We left within minutes, since the fire was still very active. Parts of Indian Creek Road were so blocked we had to go through private pastures to get out, and additional trees that had fallen while they were coming in had to be removed. I was shocked at the scene on the way out, and understood their fear even though everyone had previous fire experience. Nearly all the trees along the roads were black sticks, no understory vegetation was left, and the only green trees on the mountain were on our property. Virtually every home from Happy Camp to our East Fork Indian Creek Road was burned to the ground and gone. It was a miracle I survived.



A Future with Fire

By Will Harling

In ten years, the fire ceremonies on Offield Mountain
will be restored,
And people will see that we made the wild in fire,
In ten years, an interconnected series of well
planned fuelbreaks,
Will allow us to share the inherent risk of managed wildfire
and prescribed fire,
Everyone will know there is no solution that does not include
fire on the land,
In ten years, Californians will think about fire like Floridians,
Prescribed fire will still be more fun but about as stressful as
mowing the lawn,
We will realize as a society that we can't bomb fire
off the landscape,
That we can't suppress it from doing what it has always done,
Clear away the skeletons to make room for new life,
Ten years from now, we will manage landscapes for processes
not species,
And what seems like conflicts and tradeoffs will be revealed
as the balance,
The balance of life on the land,
Ten years from now, or perhaps a hundred, we will learn to
live with fire,

Because the lessons will keep coming,
Eventually every one of us will have lost a piece
of what we love,
And will choose the uncertainty of embracing fire, even while
it burns us,
To the fear of living with a fiery grim reaper
in the canyon below,
In ten years, or perhaps a hundred,
We will have a shared vision of the fire and the forest we are
managing towards,
Based on thousands of years of fire knowledge,
Based on the best fire science our human brains can muster,
Women will be in leadership roles in the fire world,
Because we will understand that as givers of life,
They have a keener sense of fire in balance,
In ten years, creeks that have been dry for decades
will flow again,
Salmon will turn gravels that have long been out of reach,
The fruits of the land will be sweeter, the deer and elk fatter,
We will remember what it means to be stewards of place,
To give back what is owed to the land that feeds us.

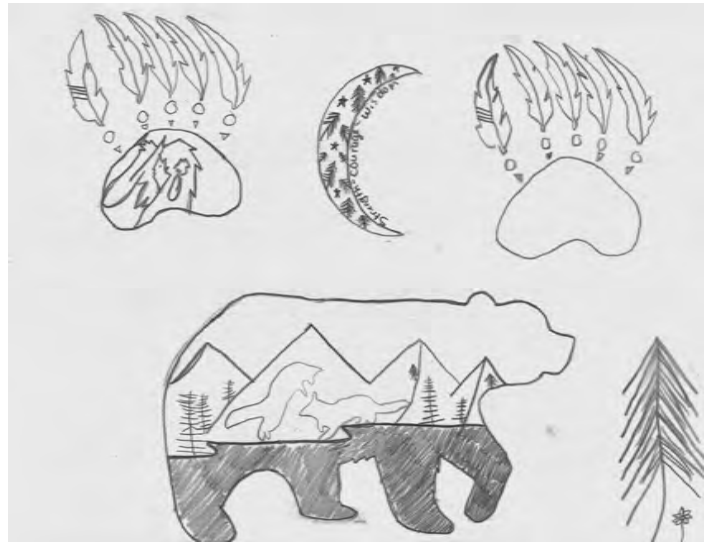
Finding Strength and Inspiration through the Resiliency of the Natural World

By Carol Earnest and Lauriebelle Adams

As was the fate of most plans in 2020, MKWC cancelled many of our youth programs that we offer each year, like school field trips, the Klamath-Siskiyou Outdoor School, and summer raft adventures. Ultimately, bringing groups of people together was just too risky for our rural communities, and we tabled many of our plans for future days.

So, we started brainstorming. How do we support youth communication and expression using our watershed as inspiration, during a time that connection and hope is so critically needed for young people? How can we support hands-on, meaningful environmental learning experiences, all while following COVID-19 safety measures and limiting the amount of screen time required? We came up with a few ideas, including a Mid Klamath watershed youth art contest.

This multi-school, multi-grade art contest prompts students with the theme of “Natural Resilience: From a dandelion sprouting up through the cement to our ancestors enduring years of hardship, our world is a product of resilient lives... Where in our natural surroundings do you see examples of resilience? How can we help the environment or individual



Natural Resilience by Audrina age 13, Junction Elementary School

species be more resilient? Where in your life have you or your community embodied resilience to get through challenging times?” This contest calls youth to consider the beauty and role of resilience in both the natural world and the human spirit,



Vuunsip Imkukirrii by Vuunsip age 9, Orleans Elementary School



Untitled by Xúrish age 7, Orleans Elementary School

Youth Internship Program Reimagined

Each summer, MKWC hires a crew of 6-8 high school students to participate in our paid stewardship intern program. This program is a great opportunity for local youth to gain experience in a variety of natural resource fields, and is one of the few paid internship programs in our region. Because of this, MKWC made it a priority to come up with a strategy that would allow this valuable program to continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rather than hiring six high school students for our summer youth stewardship crew, we hired two college students to be involved in MKWC's restoration projects over the summer of 2020. These two stewards worked directly with mentors and in small crews to enhance fish passage, remove invasive plants, and collect native plant seeds. Additionally, for the first time ever, the summer youth interns from MKWC and Karuk Department of Natural Resources earned college credit from Humboldt State University for their internship experience. This exciting new development was possible because of the dedicated staff at HSU's Indian Natural Resources, Science and Engineering Program (INRSEP) who designed a four-week virtual course titled "Fish, Forests, and Fire". The course brought youth interns from MKWC and Karuk DNR together to engage with Klamath-relevant materials and special presenters, enhancing their internship experience.



Summer stewardship interns, Natalie Rynne (left) and Tashawna Brink (right). Photo by Carol Earnest

MKWC offered another round of internship opportunities this fall, this time with a focus on Chinook and Coho salmon surveys, providing hands-on experience to current students and recent graduates that are pursuing careers in natural resources.

Thank you to all the 2020 interns, and to the Karuk Tribe DNR, Humboldt State University INRSEP, National Forest Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 for supporting this program.



Untitled by Jacob age 10, Happy Camp Elementary School

and use either visual or videographic art to depict that strength and inspire our community during these challenging times.

After thoughtful consideration of many beautiful and inspiring art pieces, we have selected winners from the communities of Orleans, Somes Bar, and Happy Camp.



Resilience by Ray age 9, Orleans Elementary School

Please enjoy some of these talented young artists' works printed here and on our website (full list of winners and pieces at www.mkwc.org). We hope they lift your spirits and make you feel more resilient!

Dogwood Red

By Tanya Chapple



The Pacific dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*

Fall arrives and the dogwoods begin to blush, specks of gleaming burgundy on the slopes. Look closer as you wander, and you may find three different species.

The most notable is the Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*). This is the tree with the large showy flower in the spring, and a cluster of red fruit in the fall.

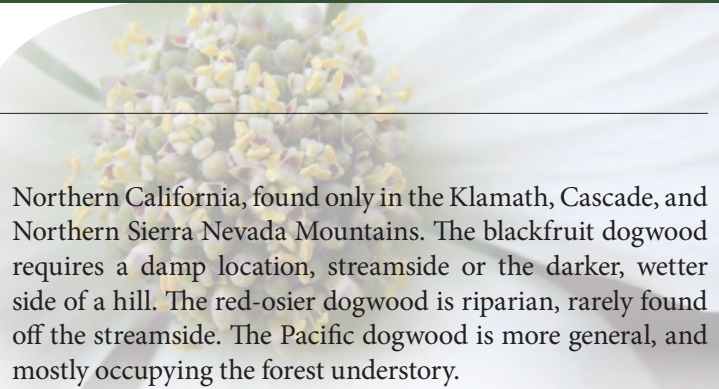
Closely resembling Pacific dogwood is blackfruit dogwood (*Cornus sessilis*). The tree is slightly smaller, but has a very similar stature to the Pacific dogwood. The notable difference this time of year is the fruits, as the name implies, this tree has black fruits. It's a dogwood tree with olive-like ornaments. If you want to check it out, the bottom half mile of Fish Lake Road is full of it.

A creek-side shrub with red stems is the third commonly seen dogwood. This is red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericera*). Look for this one along the creeks.

The range of these three dogwoods overlap, but they occupy different habitats. The blackfruit dogwood is endemic to



Fruit on the Blackfruit dogwood, *Cornus sessilis*.



Northern California, found only in the Klamath, Cascade, and Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The blackfruit dogwood requires a damp location, streamside or the darker, wetter side of a hill. The red-osier dogwood is riparian, rarely found off the streamside. The Pacific dogwood is more general, and mostly occupying the forest understory.

All dogwoods have similar leaves with strong veins that depart the mid-vein, arcing alongside each other. Within these veins is a strong filament, and if you are careful you can perform a spooky trick. First, take a leaf and turn your back to your audience. Carefully rip the leaf across the veins and slowly separate to about a half an inch. Watch the downy filaments stretch as you separate the leaf parts, don't let them break. Now, hold just the stem of the leaf and let it hang. Turn around and impress your friends with your magical skills of plant knowledge!



Cornus sericera blossoms in the spring



Red berries and twigs of the red-osier dogwood, *Cornus sericera*

Wood is Good... Again

By Charles Wickman

I'm no expert on helicopters or even using them to place wood in a creek, but I can tell you this; being in a creek, 250 feet below a helicopter which is dangling a 10 ton piece of wood over your head is no place for a person to be—especially a person with children. Having said that, it might be the best way to get wood back in the stream in some of the many places we need it around here.

On October 19 and 20, MKWC and partners flew into a roadless headwater reach of Horse Creek more than 125 pieces of large wood, 44 of which had 45 foot boles with rootwads attached. The remainder of the pieces were culled from the surrounding hills that had tragically burned over in the 2016 Gap Fire. Each piece measured a minimum of 24" dbh, averaged 45' in length, and the heaviest weighed in at 23,000 lbs. In the end, 37 large wood structures were created within a thin ribbon of water that stretched across one and



Forty-four beautiful pieces of wood culled from private land within the watershed. These logs, like all of the wood used in this project, were victims of the 2016 Gap Fire which burned nearly 34,000 acres across the watershed, destroying several homes and outbuildings within the lower Horse Creek valley.



Incoming root wad in the morning light.

a half miles of channel, nearly to the end of Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead anadromy.

It was a noisy, intense, spotlight stealing two days, muscled into a much larger, more onerous effort to restore channel function and fish habitat to a stream reach that has seen better days. The helicopters allowed us to get the wood where it needed to go, despite a lack of access to the creek. And maybe even more importantly, it allowed us to scale the project to the size of the creek; meaning we could place bigger, heavier pieces of wood in the channel, better ensuring that it sticks around, even in high water, doing good work for many years to come and presenting less of a threat to downstream properties and infrastructure.

Why Do We Need the Wood?

Wood is essential for the health of a creek and every living thing that depends on it, including the people who make a living off of it. Whether commercial fishing, logging, ranching or farming—a healthy creek connects to them all. Horse Creek, like many of our Klamath River tributaries, suffers from a lack of large wood in the channel resulting in the simplification of that channel which creates a whole host of issues such as:

- channel incision,
- disconnected floodplains,
- loss of spawning gravels,
- loss of rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids,
- a compromised foodweb,



The project team

- a lack of future wood recruitment (as most of these streams were once logged to the waters edge),
- a loss of water storage within the basin that affects important metering of cold, clean, healthy flows throughout the hottest, driest months of late summer and early fall.

How Did We Lose the Wood?

Like many of our environmental losses, it was death by a thousand cuts (no pun intended) and we all likely played and still play a role, but the management decisions that followed the 1964 flood event is one big reason. That flood event loaded up our creeks and rivers with more wood than any western settler had ever seen before and caused major infrastructure damage up and down the west coast. At the time it seemed obvious that our rivers needed to be managed for conveyance of water, first and foremost. Get the water from the tops of the hills to the ocean as quickly and cleanly as possible. The decades that followed saw the mass “cleaning” of stream channels and floodplains, leaving them stripped of wood, and in many places shoved to edges of valleys and pinned between push-up levees. But as our fish populations declined, our science caught up with us, and we began to see the error in our ways; where watersheds and fish need messy, diverse habitat to thrive, we had created aqueducts, no different than the ones feeding major western cities like Los Angeles or Phoenix. And for all the reasons listed above, that’s no place for a fish to make a living.

Coho and Large Woody Debris

Unlike their cousin the Chinook, Coho spend their first year of life in the river before heading out to the ocean, which means they need to contend with winter and all the chaos

that can bring to a creek. Historically, the wide gentle valleys of the upper mid Klamath provided them what they needed. It’s no secret in the fish world that the mid Klamath’s last best hope for recovering Coho Salmon lies in a very small handful of tributaries within this subbasin, all of which are located upriver of Happy Camp. It’s in this reach of the Klamath that the skies start to open up a bit, the hills relax, and the valleys widen out, creating the kind of gentle, no fuss backdrop Coho Salmon need to thrive. Once meandering channels created oxbow ponds, beavers backed up water into low velocity pools and pushed water up onto the floodplain, and large wood sorted and retained quality gravels for spawning and created instream velocity breaks and shelter from winter’s harsh conditions.

Coho Salmon are not tough fish. They are hands down the least resilient of the Klamath’s remaining salmonid species, and they could easily blink out at any time. And if you think that’s hyperbole, consider this; the Mid Klamath Watershed Council and partners have been surveying the tributaries in this reach of river for some time now, meticulously counting Coho redds each year. We survey all salmon bearing tributaries between Portuguese Creek and Iron Gate Dam, including the mainstem Klamath River. What we found last year were 108 total redds. Seventy four of those redds were in Horse Creek, 29 of them were in Seiad Creek, and the remaining five were divided between Grider Creek and Beaver Creek. Hardly a population of fish you could walk across the backs of. Luckily Horse Creek’s relatively few remaining fish persist, for now. Adding complexity to the creek channel and floodplain, brings us one step closer to providing these fish what they need.

As we gain a better understanding of how to promote a resilient watershed, hopefully the Horse Creek Project will be the first



MKWC Senior Field Technician Florance Condos stands atop a completed structure.

of many, so that salmon and steelhead can return to and thrive in our watersheds.

Many Shout Outs

If you squint your eyes hard enough through the two days of tree-bending prop wash and flying debris, you can begin to see the much larger effort it took to get us here. Many thanks to all our partners, funders, contractors, mentors, and supportive local communities.

Project MVP

Mitzi Wickman, MKWC Project Coordinator. There was a lot of armchair coordination and consultation on this job, but Mitzi, hands down, is the person who made this project happen through her tireless months of hard work and laser-like focus on the objectives.

Partners

- Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program
- U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest



MKWC Director Will Harling (far left) with Stream Team 1, from left to right, Bob Nichols (fish biologist, Umpqua NF), Carlos Favella (Columbia Helicopters), Mitzi Wickman (MKWC), and Simeon (Columbia Helicopters).



MKWC Director Will Harling, Stream Team 1, stands atop a completed structure.

Funders

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, PacifiCorp Coho Enhancement Fund
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USFS Northern California Forests and Watersheds

Contractors

- Karuk Tribe
- Columbia Helicopters
- Fruit Growers Supply
- Mark Thomas Logging
- ABC Logging
- Fiori GeoSciences

Mentors Under the Blades

- Rocco Fiori, Fiori GeoSciences
- Bob Nichols, USFS

Acknowledgements

First, it must be acknowledged that this project, like all of our projects, was implemented on ancestral tribal lands. MKWC's service area spans the ancestral footprint of the Yurok Tribe, the Karuk Tribe, and the Shasta Tribe, and we are deeply appreciative of the guidance, support, and historical knowledge and perspective we receive from our tribal partners.

MKWC would also like to acknowledge the support we received from the community of Horse Creek. We recognize that, as a community deeply connected to this place, you have been put through the wringer with fire, drought, flooding, and management conflicts over the several generations that some of you have been here. We also recognize that whatever we do upstream will affect everything downstream, and your historical knowledge around land use issues within the watershed is invaluable to informing our work in your neck of the woods.

Aikens Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement Project

By Will Harling

In August 2020, MKWC, the Six Rivers National Forest, and the Yurok and Karuk Tribes implemented the Aikens Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement Project to restore Coho rearing and spawning habitat. Lower Aikens Creek was reshaped by bulldozers in the wake of the 1964 flood that left Aikens Creek to occupy the lower half mile of the old Bluff Creek “ghost channel” when Bluff Creek cut a new channel further upstream to the Klamath River.



Fish biologists from the Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe, and Six Rivers National Forest, guide placement of logs in Aikens Creek by Yurok Tribe excavator operator Roger Boulby.

Nearly two decades of observations by the Karuk Tribe and partners confirmed that while adult Coho salmon regularly spawned in what little spawning gravels remained in Aikens, the lack of any floodplain forced their offspring downstream



Yurok Tribe excavator operators, Seagull and Roger, bringing in wood for the most upstream structure



Multi-agency crew ready for a day of work.

into the Klamath where life isn't so easy for a two inch fish. Nearly a decade of planning and permitting went into this project. Project partners teamed up to complete groundwater monitoring, wildlife and cultural surveys, hydraulic modelling, and NEPA and CEQA permitting. Funding from the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bella Vista Foundation were key to getting to a final design, and ultimately, implementation. Support from the AmeriCorps Watersheds Stewards Program also bolstered our implementation and monitoring teams.

The week of implementation was pure magic, mixed with blood, sweat, and tears. Forty nine large logs with root wads were placed carefully into 27 separate wood structures in a 0.4 mile reach of Lower Aikens Creek. Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program excavator operators Roger and Seagull, under the watchful eyes of co-workers Yadao and Aaron Martin, Leroy Cyr (Six Rivers NF), Alex Corum (Karuk Tribe), and Mitzi



Yadao with Yurok Tribe working on a wood structure

All photos this article by Mitzi Wickman and Will Harling, unless noted



Aikens team with a completed structure. Photo by Mitzi Wickman



Shout out to Stormy Staats with the Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative for video documenting implementation and interviewing folks. Hopefully we can find some funds to turn this into a production piece. So many moving stories!

and Charles Wickman (MKWC), successfully connected Aikens Creek to a floodplain again. As winter flows engage this wood, the straight channel will snake across the floodplain, sorting gravel for spawning and carving alcoves and pools. Juveniles will grow big enough to make the perilous journey to the sea and return to spawn. While we wait for the dams to come down, projects like this will keep the genetic thread of Klamath River Coho salmon from breaking. Thank you to everyone who made this project happen!

Shout out to all the people who kept their eyes on the prize and made the Aikens Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement Project happen this year! Mitzi and Charles Wickman, LeRoy Cyr, Alex Corum, Aaron Martin, Toz Soto, Tanya Chapple, and so many more! The night before the project began, I

passed by Aikens around midnight on my way back from dropping my kiddos off in Redding. I knew Aaron Martin and the Yurok crew were camped down there so I rolled down my window and shouted “COHO!” at the top of my lungs. At the safety meeting the next morning, I asked if anyone heard me. Roger, the amazing excavator operator who’s been working for the salmon restoring streams for over two decades, looked at me with wide twinkling eyes. “Ha, I thought you said “GO HOME!” Methinks Aikens will be home to many more Coho salmon in the years to come. Thanks everyone for your hard work and dedication and sacrifice.



Wait for it....wait for it....this same photo in four years is going to blow your mind! Photo by Stormy Staats

The Community Liaison Program

Communication and Mutual Aid in a time of Crisis

By Nancy Bailey

The Orleans/Somes Bar Community Liaison Program (CLP), modeled after the pioneering Salmon River program, was originally designed for communication during a wildfire event, providing a framework for local residents to communicate with wildfire suppression resources and each other during wildfire. Our local version of the CLP has also been used to spread word in advance of prescribed fire projects that might impact residents.

When the COVID-19 pandemic raised its ugly head this past spring, a small group of people recognized that this would be a good moment to activate and further develop the CLP as a way to support each other and keep our community healthy.

Using this same framework in response to the new health emergency, volunteers reached out to individuals in each neighborhood to expand our base of Neighborhood Liaisons. These liaisons, in turn, took on the task of calling their neighbors, updating the emergency contact information lists, and sharing resources and information regarding COVID-19. During these calls liaisons were encouraged to also initiate and welcome conversations concerning wildfire risk and readiness.

As an ongoing process and because neighborhoods differ in size and cohesiveness, the communication network is still building. However, these volunteer liaisons have made great strides in connecting with people they didn't know well and building rapport through conversations about the threats and vulnerabilities that we all have in common. Success is built one piece at a time.

When everything seemed so shut down, elders were happy to hear that the senior lunch program would deliver! Liaisons spread the news that the Karuk Tribe had food boxes available. One liaison hosted a field trip in their neighborhood to talk



Slater Relief Volunteers set up at the Salmon River Outpost, Somes Bar. Photos this page by Stormy Staats

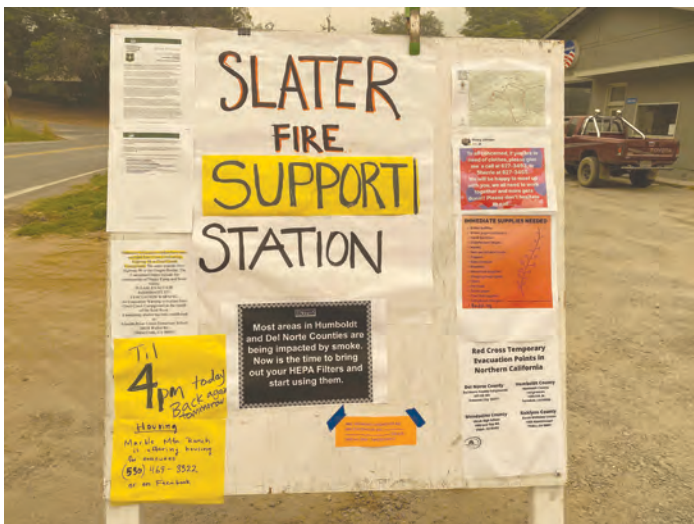
about fire risk, look at the various water sources available to them and practice using their local fire hydrant. Another initiated a neighborhood Facebook group so that all the neighbors could be in touch about issues from fire to COVID needs, to mountain lion sightings and missing critters. A third liaison received panicked calls from her neighbors when the huge column of smoke from the Slater Fire became visible behind them and seemed closer than it was.

This was near the end of the summer, when we thought things couldn't get worse. Then Slater Fire blew up and over 200 homes were lost in Happy Camp. The communities of Orleans and Somes Bar are intimately connected to Happy Camp, which is just 50 miles upriver and in the center of the Karuk Ancestral Territory. Many Orleans and Somes Bar residents have friends and family who were severely impacted and scores of survivors came through Orleans seeking shelter, food, and resources.

Motivated liaisons jumped into what became a massive Slater Fire Relief, and they continue today to actively acquire donations and collaborate with the Karuk Tribe and a multitude of relief organizations in support of our sister community as we head into winter and homeless evacuees struggle to set their lives in order.

While the Slater Fire Relief efforts are not officially connected to the CLP, when folks find affinity while working on projects together they can easily roll into other projects together. This is what happened with our community liaison group. In this difficult time we've been able to build our capacity on a number of levels for fast and effective organizing and communication in the community.

While the world—with its polarizing politics, devastating virus, and growing climate crisis—seems mind-numbingly crazy, we find hope and strength in caring for each other and readying ourselves for whatever comes our way.



PANAMNIK BUILDING

The Panamnik Building: A Good Place

by Michael Stearns

Most of you probably know that a few years back MKWC purchased an old grocery store in downtown Orleans. We kept the old store name, Panamnik, a Karuk place name, to honor its history and the ancestral territory in which we work and live. After its life as a grocery store, it was mainly used as a work space for our watershed restoration non-profit, but it has become a community place, based in the center of town. It also houses the Orleans Post Office and is a natural gathering spot, a place to say hello to friends, neighbors, or just that person you don't know (yet), but keep seeing around. The Panamnik Building is a good place.

What makes a place good? The Panamnik Building is a good place because of people. A place can grow on you. It can take real effort and time. It rewards you with a feeling of meaning and connection. Having a connection to a place makes you want to take care of it, which is what we are trying to accomplish at our little non-profit here along the Klamath.

For now, the pandemic has changed some of the things that make the Panamnik Building so good. We aren't gathering in groups and we are careful when near others. But we're all working together nonetheless. Our small river communities are rallying points for mutual aid. The quarantine and the recent



Third Thursday cafe dinner Photo by Carol Earnest

wildfires hopefully in the long run, will have strengthened us. Community based support is alive and well.

When we are gathering together again after the pandemic, we will still have lots of rewarding work to do, to improve, to repair, to heal this place. Fortunately there are a lot of good people that make up this place and I, for one, am lucky to live here.

We are raising funds for the Panamnik Building Capital Campaign! These funds support renovations that will result in a greener, more modern and higher functioning Panamnik Building that will support a thriving restoration economy, culture, and healthy resilient ecosystems for generations to come. We are on our way to raise \$110,000 from individuals like you by 2021 and an additional \$100,000 by 2025! If you would like to support the campaign, visit mkwc.org/donate and select Panamnik Building Capital Campaign as the intended fund. If you don't have any cash to give but still want to support the effort, consider offering your time, labor or expertise to support the project. All contributions are so welcome and much appreciated!

PANAMNIK BUILDING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

\$210,000



Goals:

-\$175,000

-\$140,000

-\$105,000

-\$70,000

-\$35,000

Directors

Will Harling, *Director*

Luna Latimer, *Director*

Carol Earnest, *Associate Director, Community and Stewardship Program Director*

Charles Wickman, *Fisheries Program Co-Director*

Erica Terence, *Development Program Director*

Myanna Nielsen, *Administrative Director*

Nancy Bailey, *Fire and Fuels Program Co-Director*

Tanya Chapple, *Plants Program Director*

Michael Stearns, *Human Resources Director*

Technical Specialists

Eric Darragh, *Fire and Fuels Technical Specialist*

Erin Cadwell, *IT Coordinator*

Alan Crockett, *Fisheries Technical Specialist*

Project Coordinators

Jodie Pixley, *Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Project (WKRK) Project Coordinator*

Chris Root, *Fire and Fuels Project Coordinator*

Jimmy Peterson, *Fisheries Monitoring Program Coordinator, Fisheries Project Coordinator*

Michael Stearns, *Panamnik Building Coordinator*

Mitzi Wickman, *Fisheries Project Coordinator, GIS Specialist*

Lauriebelle Adams, *Community and Stewardship Project Coordinator*

Rachel Krasner, *Fisheries Project Coordinator and Senior Field Technician*

Jason Reed, *Fisheries Project Coordinator, Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Administrative Staff

Amanda Rudolph, *Accounts Payable*

Blythe Reis, *Administrator, Events Coordinator*

Heather Campbell, *Grants Administrator*

Mark Dondero, *Grants Administrator*

Lesli Laird, *Payroll Specialist and Administrative Assistant*

Beverly Yip, *Office Administrator*

Maisy Cooper, *On Call Office Assistant*

Field Technicians, Program Assistants, and Crew Leaders

Michael Max Hentz, *Senior Field Technician, Fisheries, Fire and Fuels*

Eric Nelson, *Fire and Fuels Crew Leader*

Juniper Somers, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Rudy Galindo, *Fire and Fuels Crew Leader*

Devin Finegan, *Plants, Fisheries, and Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Brandon Tripp, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Chad Wilder, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Elben Andrews, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician, Youth Crew Leader*

Florance Condos, *Fisheries Field Technician*

Jess McLaughlin, *Fire and Fuels Crew Leader*

Danny Davis, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

George Vest, *Fire and Fuels Field Crew Leader*

Pamela Ward, *Panamnik Building Custodian*

Tai Kim, *Fisheries Field Technician*

Lee Anderson, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

William Manzo, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Clifton Whitehouse, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Dennis Whitehouse, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Eric Fieberg, *Fisheries Field Technician*

May Fournier, *Panamnik Building Waste Coordinator*

Amanaka Yancey, *Plants Field Technician*

Teri Chanturai, *Plants Field Technician*

Brianna Conrad, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Michael Cook, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Tucker Welter, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Silas Yamamoto, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*

Nathan McCanne, *Fisheries Field Technician*

Beau Quinter, *Fisheries Crew Leader*

Daniel Farris, *Equipment Operator*

2020 Youth Interns

Tashawna Brink, *Stewardship Intern*

Natalie Rynne, *Stewardship Intern*

Zoe Ziegler, *Salmon Survey Intern*

Board of Directors

Heather Foust, *President*

Dean Davis, *Vice President*

Jon Grunbaum, *Secretary*

Molli White, *Treasurer*

Mark DuPont, *Board Member*

Jeanerette Johnny-Jacups, *Board Member*

Kathy McCovey, *Board Member*

Blythe Reis, *Board Member*

Carol Sharp, *Board Member*

Michael Stearns, *Board Member*

Sinead Talley, *Board Member*

MKWC's Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

At MKWC, we are committed to building a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

To be effective, our work must be relevant and accountable to the places and people we serve. We recognize the continuing legacy of racism, colonization, and injustice in our river communities, and it is our responsibility to support Indigenous groups and community members, combat racism, and stand with those fighting for justice.

This work is not outside of our mission. There is an inextricable link between environmental health and equity. It is central to our watershed restoration work, from collaboration with diverse stakeholders, to promotion of community vitality, to the involvement of people in land stewardship.

MKWC is working with staff and board members to outline specific steps our organization can take to ensure we are meeting this commitment. We have work to do, and we look forward to updating you with our progress towards our goals.

Mid Klamath Watershed Council

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 to 2024

“For a Working Watershed”

MISSION

The mission of the Mid Klamath Watershed Council is to collaboratively plan and implement ecosystem restoration, promote community vitality, and involve people in land stewardship.

VISION

We envision the diverse communities of the Klamath Basin working together to restore and sustain a resilient watershed, economy, and community.

GOALS

1. Facilitate and support holistic restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Klamath watershed, including aquatic, riparian and upslope habitats.
2. Increase understanding of, and inspire action in, the Klamath River region and beyond.
3. Promote community resilience by encouraging cultural and economic activities that sustain our natural resources.





Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Panamnik Building
38150 Highway 96
PO Box 409
Orleans, CA 95556

Pandemic and Place Table of Content

Plants Program

- Flatten the Curve—Invasive Biology page 1
- Dogwood Redpage 14

Fire and Fuels

- Trial by Fire
—the 2020 Happy Camp Slater Fire..... page 4
- Reckoning with Fire in the Klamath Mountains
and the West..... page 7

Community and Stewardship

- Pandemic Bingo..... page 3
- Finding Strength and Inspiration
through the Resiliency of the Natural World.... page 12

- Youth Internship Reimagined..... page 13
- Community Liaison page 20
- The Panamnik Building: A Good Place..... page 21

Organizational

- Letter from MKWC Director Luna Latimer page 2
- New Associate Director page 2
- Capital Campaign..... page 21
- Who’s Working at MKWC page 22
- Commitment to Equity, Diversity,
and Inclusion page 23
- MKWC Mission..... page 23

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have Contributed to our work in the restoration of this watershed. Thanks for all you do.



Thanks to the Karuk Tribe, who provided monetary, program, and employee assistance to projects this year.

