



news from the

mkwc.org

Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Spring 2014, Sixteenth Edition

You Don't Miss Your Water Till Your Well Runs Dry

By Mark DuPont

It's tempting to think of the current dry spell as an episode that we have to weather and get through, but in reality we have no way of knowing whether we're approaching the end of a three-year drought or we're in the early phases of a 10–20-year drought. Tree ring and sediment studies reveal that we're now in the driest period in 400 years, but before that droughts lasting 10, 20 and even 50 years plus, were not uncommon. The century starting in the late 1800's was the wettest 100-year period during the past 7,000 years. This also happens to have been the time when the massive water infrastructure of the West was made; dams were built, reservoirs filled, pipes and aqueduct laid, and far more water was promised than now exists. Scott Stine is a professor of geography and environmental studies at Cal State East Bay. He tells us, "We continue to run California as if the longest drought we are ever going to encounter is about seven years. We're living in a dream world."

While studies of the past reveal less rainfall, climate models for the future predict far less snowpack. The six Rivers that shape the North Coast and feed our creeks, homesteads, and

towns all originate in the high country and are fed by snow pack. That snow supports the entire state, from high mountain meadows and streams all the way down to coastal farms and population centers. It is the reason we can have drought and high temperatures for 6-7 months of the year and still have cold, fresh water surging through our creeks and rivers. But like the rest of the world, the snow in Northern California is diminishing. In the 2012-13 season Klamath snowpack was at 35% of normal, this year it is less than 20%. A report published in 2010 by the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy synthesizes the best climate models available and projects that within 70 years the Klamath snowpack will be virtually gone. In other words, our hydrology is changing. The question is whether our attitudes and habits will change with it, and in a timely fashion.

There is a wise (ass) saying: "Planning is best done in advance". It's possible we'll get through this drought and return to the "normal" that lies within living memory, even though evidence from the past and the future seems to suggest other possibilities.

continued on page 17

MKWC's Stewardship Intern Program

Summer Jobs on the Klamath!

By Jillienne Bishop

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC), is continuing its fifth year coordinating the stewardship intern program, a unique employment opportunity for local teenagers to hike on rugged wilderness trails, snorkel in cold creek waters, eradicate invasive weeds, and improve Klamath River salmon habitat. MKWC's stewardship intern program is a youth employment program that runs for seven weeks in the summer. Interns receive California minimum wage and have the opportunity to participate in local projects that help them develop natural resource career skills. MKWC anticipates having the funds to hire eight interns for the upcoming 2014 summer season.

Interns who participate in this program will strengthen their college applications by participating in environmental and community revitalization. For those not attending college,

continued on page 15



Members of the 2011 Stewardship Intern Crew prepare to pull Scotch and Spanish Broom along the Somes Peak Trail.

Photo by Jillienne Bishop

Letter From the Executive Director

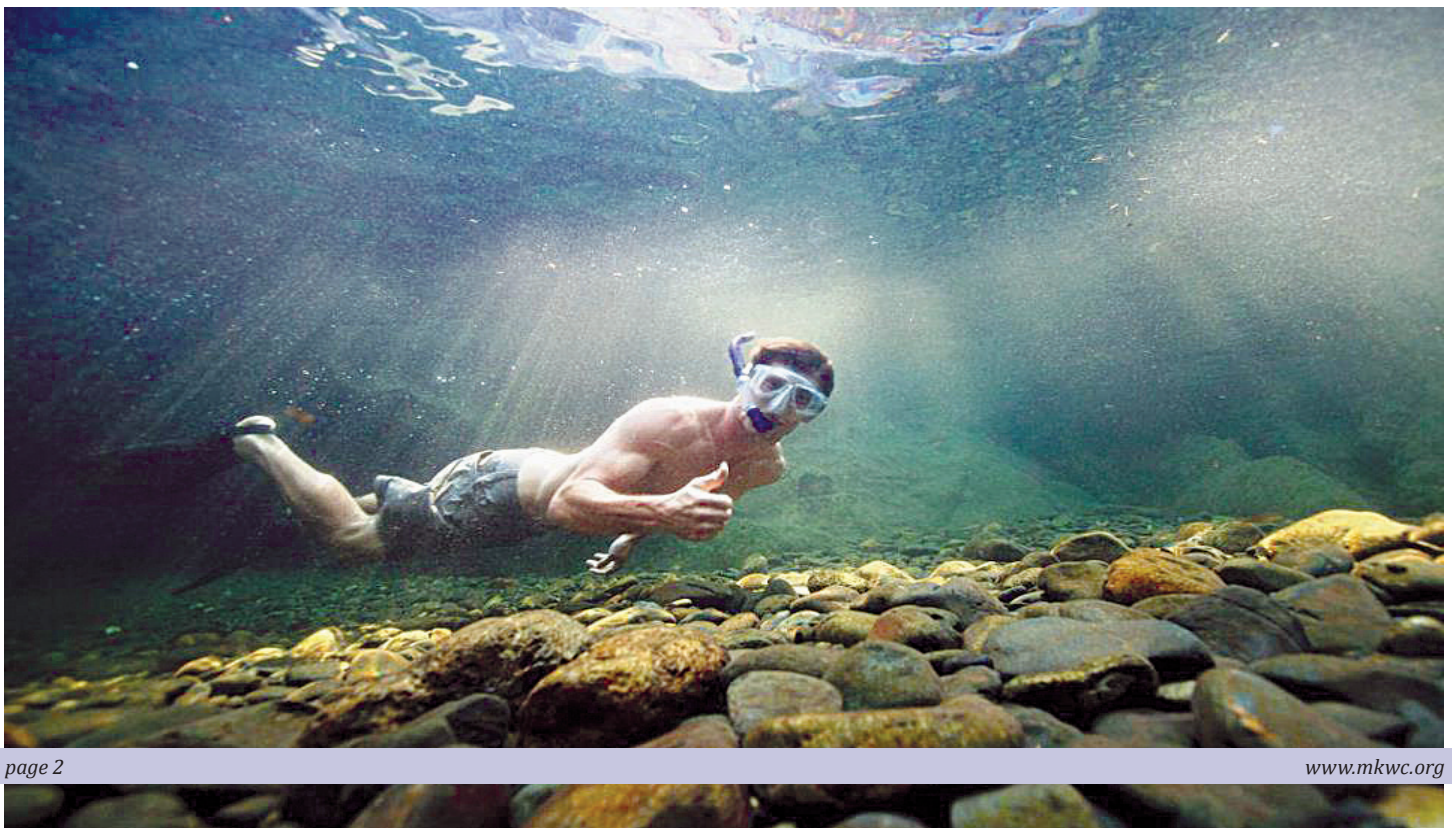
by Will Harling

In my 39 years growing up and making a life for myself and my family along the Salmon and Klamath Rivers, I have felt the impacts of our boom and bust economy based on extraction and production of a few resources (timber, gold, and nowadays the tail end of the “Green Rush”). I have seen the schools full of kids, and watched them empty again, then fill, only to fall again with prices of these commodities that are set at a scale so far removed from anything we can control. The pain caused by watching our best and brightest leave after high school, never to return, cuts across party lines and affinity groups, and sets the stage for the loss of culture and land knowledge that defines who we are and what it means to be a people of place. Of course, as a descendant of the settler culture in a landscape that has been inhabited for millennia by a people who based their very religion around survival in this place, I am only just beginning to understand the responsibility this entails.

Despite ongoing issues with substance abuse and lack of basic services, there is still a core of a functioning community here that is rare in the world at large. We have created and tended strong ties with friends and neighbors up and down the rivers that span ideological differences, supporting each other in hard times. This weekend, two bands will play at the Forks Community Club to raise money to pay for medical bills of a lifelong river resident that lost his arm and sight in a shooting accident last summer. The first fundraiser held earlier this year raised over \$5,000, but watching him sit by the stove with his family around him and feel the dance floor shaking with the many feet of those whom he had helped out in the past...that was priceless.

I say all this to frame the very real hope I have for a brighter future for our river communities in the coming years. Diverse groups of people are working together to envision an economy that is less subject to the whims of outside markets. The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership has brought together old adversaries from the timber wars to figure out what a sustainable logging industry looks like, and how that fits with communities learning to live with larger, more intense fires. They are developing detailed strategies for addressing threats to the values we all hold in common: a healthy river system, cultural and community revitalization, fire adapted communities, and ecosystems that are resilient to climate change. Central to this work is re-learning how to use fire, both prescribed fire and wildfire, as a tool to protect communities and restore the natural fire processes that made this land so abundant in resources to begin with.

At the same time, an incredible amount of work has been done to re-establish food security for area residents. Folks are sharing and learning how to grow, process, and store the foods that come from our rivers, forests, and backyard gardens. This means less money spent on gas going to town, and more time working this land we all ultimately depend upon. There is a wisdom to bringing back the old ways even in these modern days. iPod apps that re-connect local youth to traditional uses of local plants and animals are just one example of this. This broad-based grassroots movement is tapping in to diverse capital and human resources to re-create a more sustainable way of life in these hills. As more kids that grew up here choose to move back and fill an expanding array of local jobs, the promise of intergenerational learning that leads to true community vitality is more than just a hope...it's happening.



California Declares Drought State of Emergency

What's Ahead for our Water Supply

The Orleans Community Services District would like our community to be aware of what is going on with our water supply. Though you may not be on the Peach Creek system, it is important that all water users work to help reduce their use of water at this time. Whatever water you use is less for the plants, animals and river systems that also live here. Even if we do get a lot of rain this spring, it will not replace our snowpack storage system. Here is an excerpt from the Office of the Governor of California:

A PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the state's water supplies have dipped to alarming levels, indicated by: snowpack in California's mountains is approximately 20 percent of the normal average for this date; California's largest water reservoirs have very low water levels for this time of year; California's major river systems, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, have significantly reduced surface water flows; and groundwater levels throughout the state have dropped significantly; and WHEREAS dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems: drinking water supplies are at risk in many California communities; fewer crops can be cultivated and farmers' long-term investments are put at risk; low-income communities heavily dependent on agricultural employment will suffer heightened unemployment and economic hardship; animals and plants that rely on California's rivers, including many species in danger of extinction, will be threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. State agencies, led by the Department of Water Resources, will execute a statewide water conservation campaign to make all Californians aware of the drought and encourage personal actions to reduce water usage. This campaign will be built on the existing Save Our Water campaign (www.saveourh2o.org) and will coordinate with local water agencies. This campaign will call on Californians to reduce their water usage by 20 percent.

2. Local urban water suppliers and municipalities are called upon to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions that could become necessary later in the drought season. Local water agencies should also update their legally required urban and agricultural water management plans, which help plan for extended drought conditions. The Department of Water Resources will make the status of these updates publicly available.

Measures that May Be in Effect this Summer Under the OCSD Conservation Plan Are:

Customers on the town side of Orleans Bridge, i.e. Ishi Pishi Rd, Highway 96, Gold Dredge Rd, Big Rock Road, Karuk Housing All Roads:

- will water on even calendar days

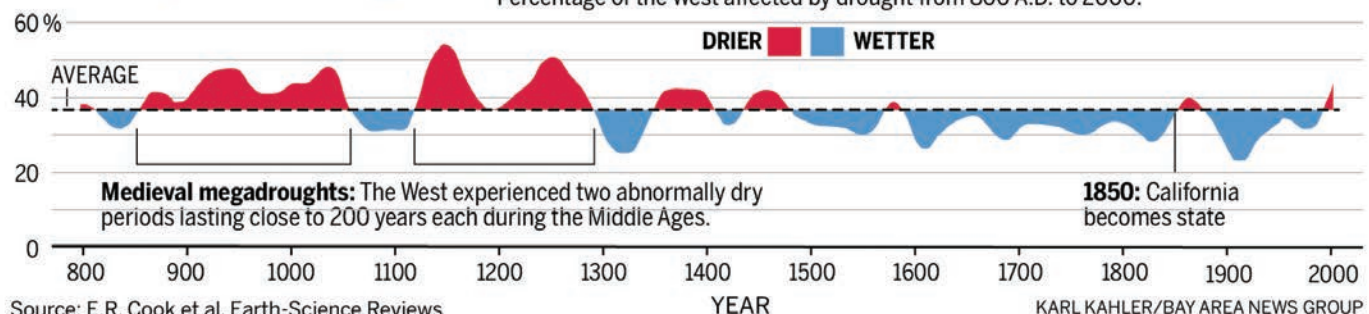
Customers on Red Cap Side of Orleans Bridge and outlying areas; i.e. Red Cap Road, Ferris Ranch Road, Hill Ranch Road, School House Road, Gault Subdivision, Old Highway 96, Peach Creek Road Tobaggin Road

- Will water on odd calendar days
- Normal household use will not be restricted unless deemed necessary
- During a critical water shortage, if necessary, no outside watering will be allowed
- All Customers with Orchards or large Farming needing water will be requested to water at night as a normal procedure

A more detailed plan will be mailed to all those on the Peach Creek System. Please share your comments/concerns with us by dropping by the office (Tuesday and Thursday 8-5pm or Weds 8-noon), sending us an email: ocsd11@hughes.net or call 627-3454.

A 200-year drought?

Evidence from tree rings shows that drought was historically much more widespread in the American West than now, while the 20th century was wetter than normal. Percentage of the West affected by drought from 800 A.D. to 2000:



Fish Habitat Restoration On the Klamath River

Scaling Up and Showing Significant Results

by Will Harling

In 2013, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) worked with local, tribal, state and federal partners to increase the scope and scale of fish habitat restoration and enhancement on the key tributaries to the Klamath River between the Trinity River and Iron Gate Dam. MKWC, the Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program (KTFP), and the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) implemented a series of projects that are providing immediate benefits to salmonids, and threatened Coho salmon in particular. These projects range from large scale mechanical projects that employ some of the best equipment operators in the area, to hands-on fish passage and fish habitat enhancement projects that engage young and old alike in the active restoration of our fisheries resource.

Off-Channel Coho Rearing Habitat Construction

In 2013, MKWC and collaborators created over 27,000 square feet of high quality coho rearing and thermal refuge habitat on five tributaries to the Klamath River that lacked off-channel coho rearing habitat prior to this project. Projects were implemented on Lower Seiad (May Pond), O'Neil, Tom Martin, Stanshaw and Camp. All habitats are currently connected to their respective creeks, and water quality and biological monitoring has been initiated.

At the May Pond on Lower Seiad Creek, a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag array has been installed to track tagged juvenile coho movement between the pond and the creek, and within the pond itself to allow better data on coho habitat use within the constructed habitat. These PIT tags were originally developed for identifying pets, but have been used extensively in juvenile salmonid life history studies.

Population estimates from May Pond in February 2014, showed over 1,000 juvenile coho are utilizing this habitat, likely due to the warmer water temperatures compared to adjacent water temperature in the mainstem Seiad Creek that was just above freezing. The Alexander Pond farther up Seiad had an estimate

of 1,610 juvenile coho in February. Coho spawning surveys in Seiad Creek have recovered PIT tagged adults who were raised in Alexander Pond in 2011.

Ongoing research by HSU graduate students and the Karuk Tribe Fisheries Program are documenting growth rates and seasonal abundance in these habitats. Similar ponds are now being built in the Scott River to increase winter rearing habitat in stream channels where off-channel habitats have been removed.

Fish Passage Improvement

MKWC, KTFP, and SRRC combined forces to restore and improve juvenile and adult salmonid fish passage to key tributaries of the Salmon and Klamath Rivers. During the 2013 field season, MKWC and partners made the following progress manually improving fish passage:

- 75 Middle Klamath tributaries were assessed for fish passage barriers within the first 1000' each. The length of streams assessed was 14.4 miles.
- Of the 75 assessed tributaries, 47 were treated for one or more barriers to juvenile migration.
- 117 barriers were identified and 65 were treated.
- 38 of the 47 treated tributaries were monitored by snorkel surveys above the barrier before and after treatment.
- In the Fall of 2013, 19 streams were treated for adult fish passage issues.

An important component of this project is including volunteers from various organizations, schools, and the community in opening up streams for fish passage. One memorable workday with the Mid Klamath Restoration Tour and the Klamath Basin Tribal Youth Education Program improved fish passage at the mouth of Ukonom Creek, and allowed participants to spend some quality time on the Klamath River.



May Pond outlet and O'Neil Pond. May Pond has a PIT tag array and over 1,000 coho. O'Neil has no documented fish use yet, but fish immigration is expected to occur next Spring as Klamath mainstem temps rise.





Bouse Pond at Camp Creek filling with water

Coho Habitat Enhancement

Over the 2013 field season, 189 sites were assessed in 50 streams. 65 sites were treated in 25 streams with a total of 319 bundles (19,905 square feet of cover). Total area of habitat treated was 99,388 square feet. 46 sites have before and after treatment coho numbers. Pre- and post-treatment monitoring found 369 coho utilizing these 46 sites before treatment and 1,078 coho utilizing these same sites after treatment.

What's Next?

In 2014, we plan on implementing off channel projects on Middle Creek (a tributary to Horse Creek) and Titus Creek. Groundwater monitoring wells will be installed at Aikens Creek, Ti Creek, and Cherry Flat up past Horse Creek in preparation for some larger off-channel habitat restoration projects in 2015. We will continue to support the KTFP and local landowners on a ¾ mile restoration project on Lower Seiad Creek. Our capacity is limiting the scope and scale of our work. Past MKWC AmeriCorps member Michelle Krall

will be studying these constructed habitats as part of a master's thesis at Humboldt State University. Her thesis will examine what specific design features contribute most to fish growth and abundance so future pond projects will concentrate on locations that will show more benefits to fish.

These projects were made possible with funding from:

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, PacifiCorp, FishAmerica Foundation (private)
- The CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Caltrans (state)
- Karuk Tribe TANF and Fisheries Programs (tribal)
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and US Forest Service (federal)



Brush bundles provide critical cover where juvenile coho congregate in the lower reaches of cold water tributaries like Aikens Creek and Camp Creek (pictured above) during the summer months.



Prior to 2005, Red Cap Creek entered the Klamath at the bottom of its active delta, maintaining a large cold water refuge within a Klamath River alcove. In 2013, MKWC was able to redirect a portion of Red Cap's flow back into this alcove, reestablishing a significant cold water refuge throughout the hottest part of the season. In addition, the "new" channel provided low velocity, low gradient fish passage into Red Cap Creek for both juvenile and adult fish. Brush bundles were added to provide complex cover for the hundreds of fish utilizing this habitat.



The Problem of Invasive Plants

by Tanya Chapple

There are many non-native plants, and while some are called weeds, not all weeds are invasive. The MKWC invasive weeds program focuses on pulling non-native invasive plants that are capable of degrading the landscape and ecosystem they inhabit. For example, dandelion is a non-invasive, non-native plant, while yellow star-thistle is a non-native, very invasive plant.

Invasive plants crowd out native vegetation and the wildlife that feeds on it. Some invasives can even change ecosystem



The Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) from wikimedia.org

processes such as hydrology, fire regimes, and soil chemistry. Invasive plants have a competitive advantage because they have no natural predators, and can quickly spread out of control.

The mid-Klamath watershed is a botanically unique place. It is found at the heart of the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion which is known for its plant diversity. Invasive plant species directly impact these rare native plants found no where else in the world. Due to our remote location the mid-Klamath has seen less ecosystem destruction than the rest of California; because of this, we still have a chance to protect our landscape and ecosystem from the detrimental effects of invasive weeds.



Jimmy & Starthistle E.Fork Trinities

Adopt a Weeds Site!
 Want to get personally involved?
 Or is there a weedy spot that is making you crazy? — **Adopt it!**
Sign up today!
 Contact Tanya Chapple
 at 627.3202, tanya@mkwc.org

In 2013 we worked diligently to control and reduce the threat of invasive plants. Following is the overview of all we accomplished:

- 16 different nonnative invasive plant species were managed
- 30.61 acres of invasive plants were hand pulled
- 93 acres of Klamath River corridor were monitored for priority weeds (the new and the nasty ones)
- 121.63 miles of wilderness trails were monitored for the presence of invasive plant species

Involving 51 People Like You!

A big thanks to all the volunteers and to the MKWC staff and summer youth crew for making the year a special one! For 2014: We are increasing our volunteer program to reduce invasive plants both on the river and in the high country. There will be many educational and important restoration events happening involving rafting, backpacking, new places and always, plenty of weeds to pull. Together as a community, we can prevent the introduction of potentially harmful species and work to eradicate existing weeds!

Check out the volunteer calendar for more information. I look forward to seeing you out there!



Weeds Watch: Oblong Spurge

Oblong spurge, also called eggleaf spurge and scientifically named *Euphorbia oblongata*, is an invasive weed to recognize. It has been found at almost all the river accesses between Somes Bar and Weitchpec. It spreads aggressively by seed and is toxic to wildlife, reducing forage value in the riparian areas (and in upland if allowed to go unchecked).

The plant is very distinctive, and like all Euphorbias, possesses a unique, symmetrical sort of beauty. It has striking red stems,



Oblong Spurge (*Euphorbia oblongata*)

with oval leaves, crowned on top with an umbel of yellow-green flowers. They turn to bright green bumpy, spherical fruits by June. Additionally, when the stems are broken the plant bleeds a milky white latex, toxic to some. The plant is closely related to and resembles a few commonly grown plants like gopher spurge, grown to repel gophers, and

mickey mouse ears which is grown for flower bouquets.

I find the plant to be most visible in April-May when it is blooming. The color isn't like any other bloom color on the river, it is just as green as yellow. It blooms at the same time as the Dyer's woad (Marlahan mustard), the blooming weed that colors the river bars a bright yellow.

And set against the mustard yellow, spurge is always greener.

As spring springs, keep an eye out for the insidious oblong spurge. And if you find it (or other suspicious plants) please let me know! Details like exact location, and a sample or photo are very helpful. Happy weeding!



Chris Root and Leafy spurge

Mid Klamath Wildflower Walks 2014 Schedule and Summary

May 10, Saturday. Bluff Creek Trail. Trail begins on Hwy 96 then heads up the hill into Douglas fir and Madrone forest. It's a very interesting trail that travels through a variety of plant communities in a short distance. Meet at the Panamnik Building in at 10am, or at the trailhead at 10:30. Please bring a lunch and water. Finish by mid-afternoon. Please contact Tanya Chapple at 530-627-3202 or tanya@mkwc.org.

June 14, Saturday. Fish Lake Area. Explore the plant communities in the vicinity of Fish Lake, including Port Orford Cedar, Azalea and a variety of other ericaceous shrubs. Meet at the Panamnik Building in Orleans at 10am, or at the campground at 11:00. Camping at Fish Lake Campground is available. Please contact Tanya Chapple at 530-627-3202 or tanya@mkwc.org.

July 12-13, Saturday - Sunday. Bear Lake, Siskiyou Wilderness. Explore the Bear Peak Botanical Area. This is an overnight backpacking trip with the option to day-hike. The first day we will hike the three miles to camp at Upper Bear Lake. The hike is moderate and very exposed, through a burned area, and drops steeply into the lake basin. The next day we can explore the botanical area and/or hike on to Red Hill, a very interesting open forest with Port Orford Cedar and Brewer's



Wildflower Walks

Look forward to joining MKWC for plant hikes this spring and summer!

On the second Saturday
of the month
March - July 2014

We will gather to investigate our local wildflowers and botany on various local trails.

All ages welcome!

For more information contact:
Tanya Chapple, tanya@mkwc.org or
Nancy Bailey, nancy@mkwc.org
at MKWC, 627-3202

Spruce, growing out of red rock. Meet at the Panamnik Building in Orleans at 10am, or at the Elbow Springs Trailhead at 12:00. Please contact Tanya Chapple at 530-627-3202 or tanya@mkwc.org.

2013 Wildfires: A Success Story

by Will Harling

The 2013 Butler Fire originated from a series of arson starts along the Salmon River on August 1, 2013. As it spread, it burned through an area that hadn't seen fire in several decades through incredibly steep terrain in one of the driest years on record. To the south lay the footprint of the 1977 Hog Fire with its lingering snag patches and logging slash. To the north, the fire spread through slopes that hadn't burned in over 80 years directly adjacent to private inholdings at the mouth of Butler Creek.

These homes had had large fires burn very close in 2006 and 2008 on the north side of Butler Creek and across the Salmon River. A significant investment in fire prevention work from the community, the US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service during and after these fire events allowed firefighters to safely defend the 10 structures there during the Butler Fire.

Butler folks had faced this event before and were prepared, with the help of the local community and firefighters, to defend their homes once again. An old ditch line constructed by miners in the 1800's was identified after the 2008 fires as the place to hold future fires upslope of the homes. 13 acres of prescribed burns had been conducted by the Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council between this ditch and the homes below, since 2008, and in the past two years, the Salmon River Fire Safe Council had brushed more than 10 acres along the ditch line.



A Croman helicopter draws water from the Salmon River above Butler Flat as the Summer of 2013 Fire burns over Grants Bluffs in the background.



Local residents defended homes on Lower Camp Creek Road during the 2013 Orleans Fire.

As the fire approached, 40-plus community members who had just mobilized to help save the town of Orleans from another arson fire, came up to see how they could pitch in. While some crews prepared the homes for fire, others established perimeter firelines and brushed along the main water line. Still others organized an emergency evacuation plan for volunteers.

Some people brought food, and supplies like brass fittings to get hydrants online. And Rebecca Lawrence, a Facebook pro,

Header photo: Butler Flat has had major fires on all sides in the last seven years. Butler residents are asking fire managers to allow wildfires to burn in these recent fire footprints to restore the fire resilient forests of a century ago. *photo by Thomas Dunklin*



A rain on snow event in 2005 caused up to one acre patches of tan oak forest to fall down, creating a serious fuel hazard next to homes at Butler Flat. On the private property, these fuels were treated, but patches like this remained on adjacent national forest lands.



The 2013 Butler Fire greatly reduced fuel loading from the snow down event. Given 2013 was the driest year on record and this area hadn't burned in 85+ years, canopy mortality and fire behavior was moderated by a thick inversion layer.

whipped up the Salmon River and Orleans Complexities Open Group that allowed people to communicate and organize even when phones were out and roads were closed. When the agency hotshot crews showed up a couple days later, they were grateful for the prep work already accomplished that allowed them to focus on bringing the fire safely past the homes with minimal use of burnouts.

Post fire, the Butler Flat community is continuing their work of living with fire. Firelines are in place to implement a prescribed burn to protect a tan oak acorn gathering area used since time immemorial by the Karuk Tribe, and to treat the fuels between the ditch where the wildfire stopped and the structures. Plans for a new 40,000 gallon pond at the end of the old miner's ditch are underway to increase the water available for fire suppression.



Burnouts on the western flank of the 2013 Salmon River Complex in Murderer's Gulch caused thousands of acres of plantations to burn at high intensity.



The Ukonom Hotshots shepherded the Butler Fire around Butler Flat, using an old miner's ditch to hold the fire up on the hill away from the homes below



Butler Ditch After 2013 Fire Came Through



Forested Area of Butler Flat Before Fire



Forested Area of Butler Flat burning in 2013

Butler residents are now advocating for wildfires to be allowed to burn around them through these recent fire footprints to clear away vegetation killed during these recent fires and open up the forest floor. Working together, local, tribal and federal partners modeled how residents in this rugged, remote country can have positive outcomes in the face of wildfires.

Restoration of historic fire regimes is essential if we hope to retain our forests and their stored carbon in the face of climate change. Climate change is predicted to increase the size and intensity of future fires in California and across the West, making the shift away from the policy of full fire suppression imperative. Areas that have had multiple recent fires, like the south side of the Wooley Creek drainage, show the benefits of restoring something that looks more like our historic fire regime. Wooley Creek's remoteness, and bold decisions by Forest Service line officers to allow wildfire for resource benefits in this area have created an example of the incredibly diverse and fire resilient forests that once blanketed this landscape. MKWC and its partners will continue to promote this new approach to dealing with fire in our landscape. 🔥



Post fire Footprint Around Butler Flat:
photo by Thomas Dunklin



Pile Burning along ditch by visiting Spanish firefighters fall 2012



Sims Gulch Burnout Summer 2013

2014 Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium

April 15-17, 2014 in Orleans, California

This fourth symposium will focus on the nexus between fire science and fire management in the Western Klamath Mountains, and how this relates to people and place. These symposia highlight presenters from many disciplines, allowing participants to understand the full complexity of fire and fire management on this landscape. Come talk fire, eat good food, and help us define the future of fire in the Klamath Mountains and beyond.

Sponsored by the Western Klamath Mountains Fire Learning Network, funded through the Fire Learning Network, and hosted by the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, and California Fire Science

Fire and Fuels Program (OSBFSC) Update

Brushing Program

Each winter, the Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (OSBFSC) brushing crew, along with a local contractor do important fuels reduction on prioritized private properties in the area. In 2013 our team completed brushing on approximately 60 acres, on seven separate private properties. This year they created shaded fuel breaks on 70 more acres and worked with Ti Bar landowners to clean up a major blow-down of middle sized to large trees threatening their homestead. These projects were funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners program and the USDA Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council.

Thank you to all of our brushing crew members who work diligently day after day through the season.

Orleans is “Firewise”

The Community of Orleans has been a nationally recognized “Firewise Community” since 2012. The National Firewise program offers recognition and support to communities who are taking wildfire preparedness and fire-safe activities seriously, particularly education of landowners and residents,

and fire-safe work in defensible space zones. Our Firewise Board is comprised of representatives from the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD), the Karuk Tribe, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council Board, and the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council staff. With a recent proposal submitted to the Humboldt County Title III program, the OVFD is taking a lead with Firewise. Look for notices for a series of Firewise activities scheduled throughout the spring and summer. As drought conditions take hold in Northern California, it is particularly timely to return to the community with examples of successes, demonstrations of preparedness techniques, and other Firewise educational programs for landowners. The Title III project will include Firewise events, fire-safe demonstrations, and neighborhood meetings in 2014

Orleans Wins National Firewise Award!!

Orleans, along with four other communities in the country, won a grand prize from the National Firewise program, through their “Firewise Challenge”. The prize is provided by State Farm Insurance and the National Fire Protection Association. The extra funds will expand on the educational firewise activities being planned for 2014. As a community, we should be proud to be recognized in this way. We are making great progress toward becoming fully prepared but certainly we still have much work to do.

You are Invited to Fire Safe Council Meetings

OSBFSC is now holding Quarterly Meetings: These meetings feature updates from the Fire Safe Council, the USFS, the Karuk Tribe, and PG&E. They are open to the public, and community members are encouraged to attend. Approximate timing is January, April, July, and October (This year’s April meeting will be usurped by the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium.) Watch for posted notices or call Nancy at 627-3202 to suggest agenda items or for meeting dates .



From left to right: Wyatt “Opie” McBroom, Erin Cadwell, Walt Thom, Israel Conrad, Travis Gayle. Front: Eric Nelson, Chris Root, Tim Murray

LEARNING FIRE

Malcolm Terence, Two Rivers Tribune, 3.5.2014

Collaboration, the word, has many meanings but in the on-going conflicts over natural resources like water or timber, it must sometimes sound like the punch line of a not-especially-funny joke.

In some cases it is code for Why-Can't-Everybody-Agree-With-Me? In others, like the roll-out a few years ago of a timber sale in Orleans, it was a thinly-veiled announcement of an already formulated Forest Service plan.

Despite that, a small crowd from many sides of the conservation/extraction divide have begun a long series of meetings in Orleans and Happy Camp using a new format to see if they can reach agreement on a common threat—wildfire. In other words, collaboration.

The meetings are sponsored by the Fire Learning Network (FLN), a partnership of the Forest Service, several Department of Interior branches and The Nature Conservancy. The attendees include Forest Service personnel, Karuk Tribe representatives, locals including members of the Fire Safe Councils, activist locals who favor increased logging, environmentalists and a few just-plain locals.

The Two Rivers Tribune attended Day 3 of their fourth session last week in Orleans to watch them work together. The room at the Panamnik Building was filled with seven large round tables, each covered with large printed flow charts with multi-colored boxes labeled words like Strategy, Outcome and Goal. Lines with directional arrows connected many of the boxes. Other large charts were taped to the walls, reflecting work from the previous days.

Mary Huffman, the FLN facilitator, provided instructions for that day's tasks. Groups of four would go to each table and revise or otherwise improve the chains. Will Harling, executive director of Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and Bill Tripp, Eco-Cultural Restoration Specialist of the Karuk Tribe, were assigned to making sure each group was diverse, that is, not all Forest Service or not all of any one point of view.

One of the attendees was Gary Hughes, executive director of EPIC, the environmental group that has opposed many logging proposals over the years including some that were ostensibly designed to reduce the threat of wildfire.

"It doesn't mean the Klamath National Forest won't come up with a controversial project outside of this circle," he cautioned, but said his group supported the direction of the FLN and the way they seek zones of agreement.

Harling said that proposed projects, including timber harvest, can't impact any other values identified by the collaborative group.

"Logging by itself has been shown by numerous studies to not be effective as a stand-alone treatment to reduce the threat



Fire Learning Workshop

of wildfires," Harling said. "But logging is one of many tools that we need to use in order to accomplish fuels treatment strategies that allow for the reintroduction of prescribed fire and unplanned ignitions at the right time of year. If activity fuels (read logging slash) are cleaned up, ground disturbance is minimized, and re-growth from opening up the canopy is moderated by prescribed fire, then logging can be done without impacting our agreed upon values."

One of the groups included Alan Dyar, a retired educator from Happy Camp; Ron Reed, a cultural biologist for the Karuk Tribe; Max Creasy, a retired Forest Service ecologist; and Lance Noxon, deputy district ranger from Happy Camp.

They had already agreed on several edits and attached them with colored post-its. In one they had changed the threat of "continue fire suppression," to the strategy of "allow fire for resource benefit." To the threat box labeled "Air Quality Restrictions" they added the strategy word "Lessen." For the problem called "Large Fire Suppression Costs" they added the word "Reduce."

Dyar, the retired school administrator, has long identified with plans to resume some scale of logging in the area. He said he had hopes that so many people with different values coming together with common goals was good for jobs and community sustainability in the area.

He said only seven of his graduates over the years have been able to get a post-high school degree and return to the community to work. He added, "If not for the (Karuk) Tribe, the majority of those kids wouldn't have a job."

Ron Reed, cultural biologist for the Tribe, was at the same table as Dyar. He said the FLN was consensus-driven and "that makes me feel more relaxed when I leave this table."

Reed had just returned from meetings in Washington, D.C.,

where he had found that policy makers were searching for solutions for the new scale and cost of wildfires. “Climate change is a driving factor now and they want to incorporate our traditional knowledge,” he said.

Cathy Meinert is also from Happy Camp and is a member of the local Fire Safe Council. She gestured around the room at the small groups working around tables and said, “All these people? No one thinks the same. We’re going to find common ground. The (FLN) people are good facilitators. As a tribal member and a community member, to see this happen is a miracle.”

She said the outcomes would get incorporated by the local Fire Safe Councils in their work plans and their requests for funding.

Another planner in the sessions was Dan Blessing, the natural resource officer for the Klamath National Forest. He said the FLN model needed to happen as preface to the next forest plan due in 2016.

“It was different in the past,” Blessing said. “The plan was put together with specialists and then the public was invited to comment. This is unprecedented when it originates from the ground up.”

One faction that was absent from the proceeding was reps of industrial timber, although organizers said that they had been invited. Ric Costales, a former logger and now Natural Resource Policy Specialist for Siskiyou County, would not speculate on

why they logging interests didn’t come but said he had attended a session himself.

He said that the collective efforts might lead to more jobs in the county and said, “County to my knowledge has always been in support of prescribed fires as a tool for management and helping restore fire to the landscape.”

Mary Huffman, the FLN facilitator, said there were still three workshop sessions left in the process plus the Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium in Orleans April 15-17. The next round will be in Happy Camp March 17-19. Visitors are welcome.

She said the approach at collaboration on conservation issues between often warring parties is called Open Standards has been used in over a thousand settings around the world in many different landscapes.

The funding comes from the Forest Service, the Department of Interior, the National Forest Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Lyn Decker, FLN director, said the workshops were brought to the mid-Klamath because local energy suggested readiness for a solution to the ever increasing threat of wildfires.

She said the factors included good local leadership and she especially mentioned Will Harling from MKWC and Bill Tripp, from the Karuk Tribe. Another factor was a high probability that the planning work would happen and that it would receive investment from the Forest Service.

Prescribed Fire Education—TREX—Offered to Local Residents

2014 Fall Prescribed Burning Training Exchange Planned for Orleans Valley

MKWC and the US Fire Learning Network (FLN) are teaming up again to host a prescribed burning training exchange (TREX) for two weeks in early October, 2014. The TREX in October 2013 brought together 40+ fire professionals and beginners from around the country, to Orleans for three days. 85 acres were burned on nine private properties, and select participants also helped the Orleans Ranger District implement the Hazel Underburn.

The 2014 TREX will include 15-25 participants for 10-14 days of burning around Orleans and Somes Bar. One key change is that half of the training slots will be reserved for local participants who are interested in increasing their prescribed burn qualifications, or are interested in the practice of burning. Online and classroom courses will be offered leading up to the TREX to provide participants with the basic qualifications to put fire on the ground.

Jeremy Bailey, the FLN’s associate director of fire training, said, “The community of Orleans was so welcoming and knowledgeable about fire that I decided we needed to come back again and share Orleans with other fire practitioners from around the country. In my mind, Orleans is a shining star of how communities can work together, build grass root

A landowner celebrates a burn on his property during the Fall 2013 in Northern California



initiatives and really deliver on action. I think if we were able to return to Orleans for the next 3-5 years we could burn most of the private land (people would want to see burned) and really protect the community from future wildfires.”

Bailey explained that if the private lands of the local communities were protected from future wildfires then the USFS would have more decision space on how to manage wildfires on public lands in the summer. If you are interested in participating in the 2014 TREX, contact Will Harling at: will@mkwc.org.

Bird Bio: Acorn Woodpecker

By Ellie Armstrong, Klamath Bird Observatory Research and Monitoring Intern

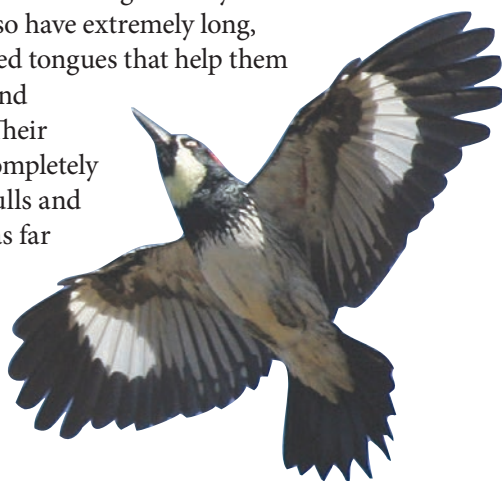
The Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) is common year-round in oak woodlands near the West Coast. Oregon was believed to hold the most northerly population of this species until a colony was discovered in Washington in 1989. Considered clown-faced in appearance, the Acorn Woodpecker's distinctive "waka-waka" call can often be heard whenever oak trees are near. Male and females look similar, although males can be distinguished by the presence of more red on the top of their heads.

There are several morphological adaptations shared by woodpeckers. One of these is the zygodactyl foot. While many birds have three toes pointing forward and one backwards on each foot, woodpeckers have two toes pointing forwards and two pointing backwards; this arrangement allows woodpeckers to cling securely to the sides of trees. They also have extremely long, sticky, and barbed tongues that help them

probe crevices and collect insects. Their tongues wrap completely around their skulls and can extend out as far as 5 inches. To accommodate a lifestyle of drumming on wood, the bone at the base of their bill

is porous and acts as a shock absorber.

Acorn Woodpeckers are communal breeders, a characteristic shared by only three percent of all bird species. Up to as many as 15 individuals from multiple generations will live together in an established territory. Only



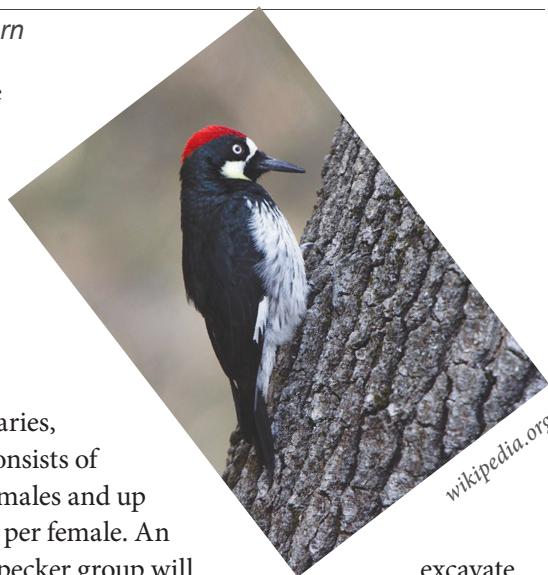
Female Acorn Woodpecker
photo © John C. Avise.

some of these individuals breed, while others help raise the young. The number of breeding individuals varies, but usually consists of one or two females and up to four males per female. An Acorn Woodpecker group will excavate several large cavities in dead or live trees; one cavity is typically used for the nest and the remaining cavities are used for roosting.

Acorns and insects comprise the bulk of the Acorn Woodpecker diet. The woodpeckers collect acorns during autumn and winter and store them in dead trees and telephone poles and other manmade structures, including the siding of houses. These acorn storage sites are called granaries, and one granary may contain as many as 50,000 acorns. All of the woodpeckers that live in a community are responsible for collecting and storing acorns. Old granaries are used year after year, but new ones are made as well.

References:

- Ehrlich, Paul, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. *The Birder's Handbook*. New York: Simon & Schuster Inc., 1988. 283-285. Koenig, Walter, Peter Stacey, Mark Stanback, and Ronald Mumme. "Acorn Woodpecker." *Birds of North America*. 194. (1995)
- Marshall, David B. et al, eds. *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2003.;
- Sibley, David. *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, Inc., 2001.
- "This article first appeared in Klamath Bird Observatory's Winter 2013 Newsletter."



wikipedia.org

Kurat (Acorn Woodpecker) Holds a Special Place in Karuk Culture

The feathers of the Acorn Woodpecker are highly revered and used extensively in headdresses, quivers, and dresses signifying spiritual worth.

"Indians used to get just hatched kurat from a nest and raise them inside of a woman's-house. They put a rotten log, erect, in there and the bird or birds stay on it, pecking it until they make tunnels in it and go in and come out the side all the time. Inside the house is all they know, that is their home. And they pull the furax (red head-feathers)

off their heads from time to time, and it comes (grows) out again. Philip Donahue has a kurat in his house thus and a furax from it in a can. When the kurats get big, they take them up on mountains and turn them loose." From *ananakupheekxunnikich: Karuk Ethnographic Notes* (page 191) by JP Harrington transcribed by Jim Ferrara

One Karuk Story tells of how Woodpecker helped Coyote out of a hole in a tree where he was stuck and in reward, he painted on their red colors. There are greater numbers of Kurat around here and their feathers are used more often than the pileated woodpeckers in regalia.

interns will develop skills that will enable them to participate in the local restoration economy that has been growing throughout our watershed. Previous Intern Sinead Talley said of the position, "Working as a Stewardship Intern for the past few summers gave me some experience in a few really important areas of natural resource management (fisheries, invasive weeds treatment, rare plant surveys, etc.). As someone who enjoys spending the summertime outdoors, it was also enjoyable in that I still got to spend my days working in creeks or going hiking to some really beautiful wilderness area. Overall, I gained some really enriching experiences in this job that I wouldn't have otherwise been able to."

Beyond career skills, there are other benefits participants have enjoyed such as connecting to and taking care of their natural environment. One intern learned that, "Stewardship is the act of taking a role in helping support the natural environment we live in. Stewardship is an important concept to me, and my internship with MKWC has definitely inspired me to be a more active steward of my community and environment." Others have enjoyed working on a team with their peers to accomplish work. An intern from 2013 stated that, "My favorite part of the stewardship intern job this year, was my great co-workers, and the amazing places we got to work!". Testimonies from interns reveal that these are valuable and challenging positions, that can also be a lot of fun!

Interns must be between the ages of 15-18 years of age. Stewardship Interns work four days per week on a variety of projects including:

The 2013 Stewardship Intern Crew constructed step-pool fishways to improve juvenile fish passage on Red Cap Creek.

Photo By Michael Hentz



- Fish passage improvement
- Salmonid presence/absence surveys (snorkeling)
- Removing Invasive Species
- Monitoring invasive plants in wilderness areas (backpacking)
- Native Plant Garden maintenance
- Harvesting produce for elders and/or community programs (tentative)

Applications will be made available on April 1st at the MKWC office. All applications must be submitted by May 1st, 2014. MKWC encourages applicants from the communities of Weitchpec, Orleans, Somes Bar, Happy Camp, and Forks of Salmon, provided they have transportation to the MKWC office in Orleans Monday-Thursday. Priority for hire is given to those who have been previous interns, have previously participated in MKWC's Watershed Education program, and those who meet requirements designated by our funders such as Karuk Tribal TANF. MKWC is excited to continue this program and is looking forward to further developing local youth crews in the years ahead!

MKWC 2014 Youth Restoration Raft Trip Dates

MKWC has been offering cost free restoration raft trips to local youth every summer since 2006. Youth participants learn about the ecology of their local river while participating in activities such as fish passage improvement, snorkeling and juvenile fish identification, and invasive weed removal. MKWC offers these trips to local youth, free of charge, through our licensed and insured raft guides, the Klamath River Outfitters. If you want to find out more information, or sign up for these trips, please contact Jillienne Bishop at the MKWC office at (530) 627-3202 or email jillienne@mkwc.org. There are only 20 spaces available per trip, so sign up soon!

- Happy Camp Restoration Raft Trip
- Friday July 11th: Indian Creek to Ferry Point Ages 9-12
- Orleans Restoration Raft Trip
- Friday July 18th: Ullathorne to Big Bar Ages 7-9
- Somes Bar Restoration Raft Trip
- Friday July 25th: Persido to Stuarts Bar Ages 9-12

MKWC would like to thank our funders the Humboldt Area Foundation, Humboldt County RAC, and US Fish and



Raft trip participants construct step-pool fishways for juvenile fish to access the creek.

Wildlife Service for making these cost-free trips possible. Additional thanks to project staff, volunteers, and our Klamath River Outfitters raft guides!

PANAMNIK BUILDING

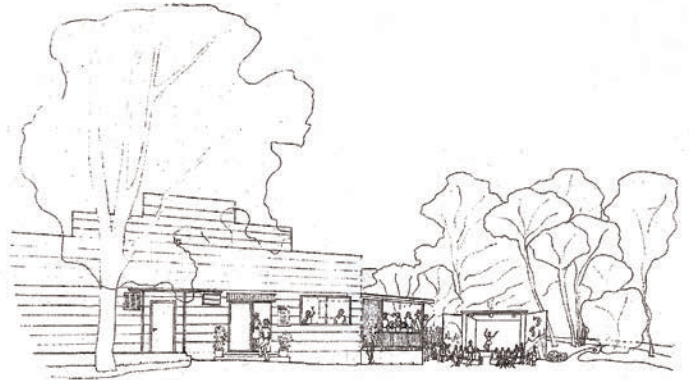
Panamnik Building Entering Phase 2!

After over a year and many hurdles dealt with by Michael Stearns, we finally received our permit from the Humboldt County Planning Department. Because the Community Center is close to the river, impacts on biological, historical and cultural resources had to be considered before a building permit could be issued. MKWC's goal is to responsibly create a useful place for people and events, while enhancing native plants and habitat, and respecting the culture that was here before us. Since MKWC moved into the Panamnik Building, we have made the building available for community functions and other activities that support the river community. Through fundraising and grants, rent, donations and community support we are covering our expenses and planning improvements to the Panamnik Building and its grounds.

Our most exciting current project is an Outdoor Park and Education Facility. This project will create a riverside amphitheater behind the Panamnik Building along the Klamath River. The Somes Bar Arts Council and the Stewardship Council's Foundation for Youth Investment are funding this project with help from our local community.

Along with the amphitheater project, other plans are in the works. We received a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation for an equipment shed. This new building will replace the current old one and will house our Fire and Fuel program's tractor and tools. We plan to move our parking area to the south and construct a bio swale to treat runoff from vehicles before it enters the watershed. This will change the way traffic flows behind the building to create an outdoor area friendlier to pedestrians and children. We are excited to provide a community outdoor area for education and events.

Although our budget is limited, we have been able to make small improvements to the Panamnik Building over the last couple of years, and we have plans for more substantial changes. We have upgraded the building's lighting, improved our security system, removed the old walk-in coolers, and many other repairs necessary to keep the doors open and the



weather out. In the near future we plan to remove the loading dock and create a different back entrance and deck including an ADA accessible ramp. Painting the building, landscaping, a new roof and heater are all projects planned for. We are seeking funding for a new ADA accessible bathroom.

The first two Phases of the Building Project were largely funded through community donations, fundraising events, and a few grants. We expect that Phase 3 of the Project will be largely funded through grants. We understand that there are a lot of wonderful causes that people can support in our community, throughout the region, and throughout the world. We sincerely appreciate all of the support that we have received. Of course we can still use monetary donations if people can provide this form of support. We would also appreciate a helping hand during demolition, landscaping, and building. We would love gifts of materials, equipment and time. Although we are pursuing funds for major remodeling, we will continue to rely on our community to help us improve the Panamnik Building and its grounds together. The PBP project has an advisory board which consists of: Tina Marier, Teri Chanturrai, Tera Palmer, Michael Stearns, Luna Latimer, Nancy Bailey, Blythe Reis, Meredith Moorhead and Malcolm Terence. Anyone interested in joining is welcome and we encourage people to give us their input and feedback.

2014 Old Timers' Parade Theme:

Fire and Fire Preparedness

Each year the Old Timers' Parade and picnic, held in Orleans on Father's Day (this year, June 15th) has a theme. This year it is FIRE and FIRE PREPAREDNESS. How are you prepared for wildfire? How do you feel about fire? It will be interesting to see what creative ideas the community comes up with for

the parade with these questions in mind. The Firewise Board is planning various educational activities, giveaways, and demonstrations for the parade and picnic which follows at Orleans Elementary School. SEE YOU THERE!

But if the dry weather we're now experiencing turns out to be more chronic than episodic, then the expectations we've built in an epoch of plentiful water are going to prove unrealistic and our infrastructure inadequate. A dryland climate exists where evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation. With higher temperatures and little or no snowpack in the mountains, we will be living in a dryland climate for half of the year. Cultures survive and thrive in dryland climates throughout the world by adopting water conservation strategies ranging from rainwater harvesting, and roof water storage to greywater recycling and ultra-efficient use of water in the home, farm & landscape. Adapting these strategies to our own particular homes, communities and watershed would be like taking out a catastrophic insurance policy - the best case scenario is that we never really need them, and we simply end up using water with more efficiency and respect, leaving more in the creeks for fish runs that hang in the balance. But in the event of a dry future, we can hopefully avoid someday finding our intake pipes dry and our storage tanks empty, with no backup plan. With this in mind, here are a few thoughts to add to the ongoing conversation of how to adapt to drought and the possibility of changing weather and hydrology.

Cold Water Refugia for Salmon & Steelhead

Water consumption peaks in the late summer/ early fall, exactly when salmon are migrating upstream and need cold, moving water the most. The main stem of the Klamath can run dangerously warm for anadromous fish species. The 60 cold water tributaries of the Mid-Klamath are a lifeline for the survival of Klamath salmon and steelhead, providing oxygen-rich, cold water. For many fish the migration upriver is a mad dash from one creek mouth to the next. During drought years this pattern is exaggerated. It is possible that salmon bearing streams with alluvial fans (sand bars) could run subsurface at the mouth during low flows, blocking passage for migrating fish. Already salmon bearing streams in the Scott and Shasta watersheds are dry during the summer.



Juvenile salmon piling into a thermal refugia on the Klamath River. photo by Kyle Swann, therivers.blogspot.com

Water Conservation

A range of strategies exists for using water more wisely, from sealing up leaks in domestic and community systems, to using reduced water more efficiently, and to recycling greywater in the landscape. (See Side bar, Water Conservation Strategies).

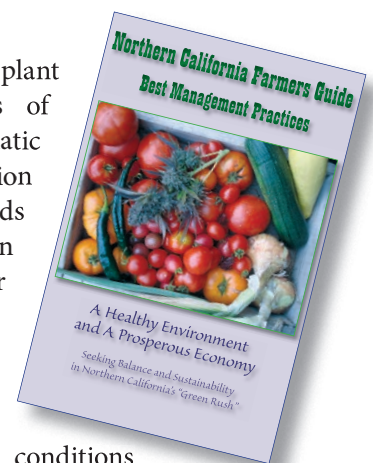
Rural Community Systems face financing, staff, and maintenance challenges. Funding and support is needed to address deferred maintenance, improve infrastructure, augment storage and reduce leaks in the system. These community systems may account for considerable water withdrawals, often from important salmon bearing streams, but they also serve clusters of water users with the shared interest of maintaining a safe and reliable water source that is used wisely. Such concentrations of users provide the chance for promoting water conservation. Many community water systems have revised rate structures to encourage conservation during the driest times of the year.

Storage

With less water being stored as snow high in the watershed it would be wise to develop more water storage in our homes and community water systems. The Mattole Restoration Council has implemented a voluntary storage and forbearance program whereby participating landowners forbear from exercising their riparian water rights during the low-flow season, and receive a water storage system and water management plan to ensure an adequate water supply. Governor Jerry Brown signed the "Rainwater Capture Act of 2012" last year, which exempts the capture and use of rainwater from rooftops from the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) permitting authority over appropriations of water. This creates an opportunity to reduce reliance on potable water for landscaping needs and provide a recharge benefit to underlying groundwater aquifers. Water storage tanks can be plumbed for compatibility with fire equipment for home protection.

Marijuana Production

A mature marijuana plant consumes about 6 gallons of water/ each day. The dramatic increase of marijuana production has impacted watersheds throughout Northern California by diverting water from salmon bearing streams, leaching of nutrients that causes algae blooms, and pesticide/ rodenticide contamination. Drought conditions are likely to magnify these effects. "Best Management Practices—Northern California Farmers Guide" is available online at www.treesfoundation.org and lists specific practices to minimize ecological impacts by conserving water and reducing nutrient runoff.



Board of Directors

Chris Hatton, *President*
Dean Davis, *Vice President*
Jon Grunbaum, *Secretary*
Molli White, *Treasurer*
Mark DuPont
Annelia Hillman
Jeanerette Jacups-Johnny
Michael Stearns
Blythe Reis

Fire and Fuels

Jim Agee
Max Creasy
Sue Daniels
LaVerne Glaze
Frank Lake
Ben Riggan
Morgan Varner

Native Plants

Max Creasy
LaVerne Glaze
Jennifer Kalt
Barbara Rohr

Invasive Weeds

Petey Brucker
Michael Hentz

Advisory Board

Panamnik Building Project

Meredith Klein-Morehead
Michael Stearns
Blythe Reis
Tera Palmer
Teri Chanturrai
Nancy Bailey
Kristina Pearlingi
Tina Marier

Fisheries

Toz Soto
Rocco Fiori

Watershed Education

Jeanette Quinn
Edna Watson

MKWC Staff

Will Harling, *Executive Director, Fisheries Program Co-Director, and Fire and Fuels Program Co-Director*
Luna Latimer Lake, *Associate Director*
Charles Wickman, *Fisheries Program Co-Director*
Chris Root, *Fire and Fuels Controlled Burning Coordinator, Brushing Crew, Invasive Weeds Technician, and a KSOS counselor*
Grant Gilkison, *FoodSheds Outreach Coordinator*
Heather Campbell, *Program Assistant, KSOS counselor, and Wildlife Project Coordinator*
Jillienne Bishop, *Watershed Education Program Director, Fisheries Project Coordinator*
Josh Saxon, *Fisheries Project Coordinator*
Mark DuPont, *FoodSheds Program Director*
Meredith Morehead-Klein, *Panamnik Building Fundraising Coordinator*
Michael Stearns, *Panamnik Building Coordinator*
Mitzi George Wickman, *Fisheries Project Coordinator*
Myanna Nielsen, *Bookkeeper*
Nancy Bailey, *Fire and Fuels Program Co-Director, Roads Program Director, and Native Plants Program Director*
Pam Cobb, *Custodian*

Ramona Taylor, *FoodSheds Project Coordinator*
Tanya Chapple, *Invasive Weeds Program Director*
Priscilla Kinney, *Office Assistant*
Amanda Rudolph, *Office Assistant*
Blythe Reis, *Administrative Assistant*

Seasonal Staff 2013-02014

Mike Hentz, *Fisheries Field Technician*
Sinead Talley, *Fisheries Field Technician*
Tammy Lightle, *Fisheries Field Technician*
Walt Thom, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
Travis Gayle, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
Isreal Conrad, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
Erin Cadwell, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
Eric Nelson, *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
"Wyatt ""Opie"" McBroom", *Fire and Fuels Field Technician*
Alberto Alcantar, *Invasive Weeds Field Technician*
Thomas McNeil, *Watershed Education Program Assistant*
Teri Chanterai, *Summer Youth Program: Back to the Garden project*



New Foodsheds Website for the Klamath-Trinity Region!



The Mid Klamath Community Foodsheds Program has launched over 60 pages on the new MKWC website, with information, charts, references, and links on food production in the Klamath-Trinity Region. Most popular gardening references and websites are written for population centers, such as the Coastal or Central Valley regions of California.

The Klamath-Trinity region encompasses more diverse growing conditions than these two regions combined, calling for a knowledge base that is both broader and more specific

to regional variations. The site includes pages on growing vegetables, fruits, nuts, and berries; gardening calendars; regional soils and soil management; climate zones, and managing pests and diseases specific to the area. It also includes many pamphlets and charts that can be downloaded for free, as well as links to other websites with useful information on gardening and farming.

Have a look and send us your comments!
www.mkwc.org/programs/foodsheds/

Cook a Third Thursday Café Dinner for YOUR Cause

Third Thursday Café dinners are now open to all non-profits

We have been hosting monthly dinners at the Panamnik Building since 2008. It has been a great five years of fundraising for the Panamnik Building. So many people have volunteered to cook, set up tables, clean, bartend, and otherwise support the events. It has always been our intention that community fundraising would be a phase that would eventually end as we sustain the building through facility use fees and increase our capacity to leverage grant funds for the building renovation. We are happy to announce that that time has come. The Building can sustain itself through community donations and facility use fees. However, after five years of getting together to share meals, we don't want the good times to end. We are happy to launch a new generation of dinners.

The signup sheet is available starting June 2014 for dinners. Please extend your community support by continuing to



Third Thursday Cafe continues successfully!

attend Third Thursday Café dinners for a variety of important causes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please call MKWC or come by to inquire and sign up!



**MID
KLAMATH
WATERSHED
COUNCIL**

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- \$25 Spring
- \$50 Creek
- \$100 River
- \$250 Confluence
- \$500 Estuary
- \$1500 Ocean (Lifetime Member)
- Other \$ _____

Thank you!

I WANT TO SUPPORT MKWC!

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE (OPTIONAL): _____

\$50 and up check one: Please send me a Notecard Pack,
 T-Shirt (Shirt Size _____), No Gift.

All members will receive an annual newsletter and annual report.

Check any that apply: I want to be anonymous, List me as a member, but don't specify my member level, Please add me to your current events mailing

IN ADDITION TO MY MEMBERSHIP,
I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE
\$ _____ TO:

Programs: Fire & Fuels Fisheries Native
Plants Invasive Weed Management Panamnik
Building Project Watershed Education Wildlife

Donations of \$250 or more are eligible for a one-day tour of current on-the-ground projects.

Please send me information on the restoration tour dates.

Send your check to:
MKWC
PO Box 409



Mid Klamath Watershed Council

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US Postage Paid
PO Box 409
Orleans, CA
Permit No. 20

What's Inside

Letter from the Executive Director.....	2	Panamnik Building	
Water		• Panamnik Building Entering Phase 2.....	16
• You Don't Miss Your Water Till Your Well Runs Dry	1	• Third Thursday Café Announcement	19
• California Declares Drought State of Emergency	3	Fire	
For the Youth		• 2013 Wildfires: A Success Story.....	8
• Stewardship Intern Program	1	• 2014 Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium	11
• 2014 Youth Restoration Raft Trip Dates.....	15	• Fire and Fuels Program (OSBFSC) Update.....	11
Fisheries Update		• Learning Fire	12
• Fish Habitat Restoration on the Klamath River	4	• Prescribed Fire Education—TRES— Offered to Local Residents.....	13
Invasive Weed Program		MCWC	
• The Problem of Invasive Weeds.....	6	• Klamath Wildflower Walks	7
• Weeds Watch: Oblong spurge.....	7	• Old Timers Parade Announcement	16
Wildlife Highlight		• Who's Working at MKWC	18
• Bird Bio: Acorn Woodpecker	14	• Foodshed Website Announcement	19
• Kurat Holds a Special Place in Karuk Culture.....	14		

Newsletter edited by Blythe Reis, with design & layout by Trees Foundation