



Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C)

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E- NEWSLETTER

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This is the second in a series of 5C e-newsletters. It coincides with the reappointment of existing and appointment of new Board members to the 5C Board.

If you would like to suggest a different format for these newsletters, please let us know.

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5C POLICY BOARD FAREWELLS AND MEMBER APPOINTMENTS:

The 5C staff says farewell to some great Board leadership with Supervisors Chuck Blackburn (Del Norte), Hal Wagenet (Mendocino) and Bill Hoy (Siskiyou) finishing their terms in January. Four new members have been appointed to join the 5C Board as follows: Supervisors Gerry Hemmingsen and David Finigan (Del Norte), Supervisor John Pinches (Mendocino) and Supervisor Michael Kobseff (Siskiyou County).

Beginning in January the 5C Board consists of Supervisors:

- Gerry Hemmingsen and David Finigan (Del Norte);
- Jimmy Smith and Jill Geist (Humboldt);
- Michael Delbar and John Pinches (Mendocino);
- Marcia Armstrong and Michael Kobseff (Siskiyou); and
- Howard Freeman and Roger Jaegel (Trinity).

The addition of 4 new members represents the largest change in Board members since the 5C inception in 1997. We have been fortunate over the years to have had a Board that has provided continuity as new members have joined and others have left and we look forward to meeting and working with the new members this year.

Thinking about the three members leaving, and the advice they have given me, got me thinking of all of the Board members that have guided our work for the past 10 years. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous leadership, patience and skill that all of the past Board members have demonstrated. In particular, I have learned a lot from the founding 5C Supervisors: Clyde Eller and Chuck Blackburn (Del Norte), Paul Kirk and Stan Dixon (Humboldt), Charles Peterson and Michael Delbar (Mendocino), Bill Hoy and Joan Smith (Siskiyou), Stan Plowman and Ralph Modine (Trinity). With Supervisor Hoy's departure, only Supervisor Delbar remains from the original 5C Board.

BOARD MATTERS FOR 2007:

2007 looks like an eventful year for the 5C Program as we revise and update the Program MOA; wrestle with costs and evaluate where the 5C staff will be housed in the future; address the expanded role of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) with their proposed stream and wetland policy; begin several new work areas including new land use incentives, urban stream planning and conservation strategies (including restoration of degraded habitat); as well as continue the award winning programs we have developed and pursued over the years. I encourage each member to take a few minutes to review the 5C website (www.5counties.org) and to feel free to give me a call anytime.

BOARD MEETING:

We would like to schedule a 5C Board meeting on March 21st in Redding from 12 pm to 5 pm. We will provide a working lunch at the meeting. The meeting coincides with the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) meeting the next day, on March 22nd. 5C Board members Smith, Geist, Delbar, Hemmingsen and Armstrong sit on the NCIRWMP Policy Board (as well as myself) and will be in Redding already (theoretically). The location will be determined within the next few weeks. The agenda will be:

- o Introduction of the 5C History with an overview of past work
- o Overview Of Current Work
- o Work Program for 2007-08
- o Status of 5C within Trinity County
- o Agencies Coordination and Cooperation
- o Discussion of and acceptance of the revised 5C MOA

Transportation/Planning Department representatives as well as Board members are typically invited to attend 5C Board meeting. There has been interest expressed by a few individuals (mostly Board clerks) to be noticed of meeting dates as well.

Action Requested: Please email me by **February 21st** to let me know if you will attend.

DRAFT 5C MOA:

The 5C Board initially met on March 11, 2004 to discuss the 5C MOA and direct staff to continue to place emphasis on education and incentive approaches to conservation programs. At the 5C Board meeting on June 15th 2006, the Board members requested that the revised MOA remain concise and consistent with the existing MOA to the extent practical. The attached revised draft MOA incorporates these requests, we believe.

Action Requested: Review attached draft 5C MOA.

ROADS MANUAL SUBMITTAL LETTER TO NOAA:

The formal submittal letter to initiate NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) inclusion of the roads manual for Federal Endangered Species Act Section 4(d) incidental take coverage will be sent next week. The submittal was delayed pending additional information requests of NMFS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). While the 4(d) coverage will be applicable to anadromous salmonids, the USFWS will not extend coverage to terrestrial species that are federally listed. This will have a very minor effect overall for maintenance activities. At some point in the future we can address USFWS matters if necessary, but it is currently a low priority for most areas. Pursuing water board and CDFG programmatic approvals is a higher priority.

Action Requested: None - Information Only.

FISH PASSAGE MOU:

The Boards of Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties have adopted the State-wide Fish Passage Forum MOU. We expect Mendocino's Board to consider it at their February 28th meeting. Once that is done, the 5C chair can sign the MOU, making the 5C Program a Contributing Signatory .

Action Requested: Mendocino Board to agendize the Fish Passage Forum MOU.

BRIDGES:

We still have two railcar bridges available for fisheries and water quality projects from the original four available. They are 27' and 45' long. We are transferring the 71' bridge to the Weaverville-Douglas City Park and Recreation District for a pedestrian, equestrian trail over an anadromous, coho-bearing stream. This bridge does not meet criteria to carry vehicle traffic. We are currently working on the transfer process to move the 55' bridge to Siskiyou County where it will replace a deteriorating bridge on Canyon

Creek.

With regards to the remaining bridges, we will entertain any proposal that improves fish passage or water quality. Given the limited locations that these bridges can be used, we will entertain any reasonable requests.

Action Requested: None - Information Only

BARRIERS IN PROGRESS:

Seven migration barrier removal projects are scheduled for construction this summer:

- o Little Browns Creek - Trinity County (tentative)
- o Hall City Creek- Trinity County
- o Ryan Creek- Mendocino County
- o Horse Creek- Siskiyou County
- o Griffin Creek #2- Del Norte County (tentative)
- o Indian Creek- Humboldt County (tentative)
- o Caspar Creek- Mendocino County (CDF Project)



Yonkers Creek Migration Barrier Removal Project (Del Norte County)
Left - Before, Middle - During, Right - After



Little Browns Creek Migration Barrier
Left: looking downstream - Feb '04, Middle: Summer flow, Right: Upstream inlet - Feb '04

This brings the number of barriers completed or planned for construction in 2007-08 to 55. The 5C website (www.5counties.org) has a feature on barrier projects that will be updated with construction photos.

Action Requested: Send digital photos of completed projects to Christine Jordan at cjordan@trinitycounty.org for inclusion in the website.

ROAD DRAINAGE AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: The Trinity Drinking Water Source Sediment Reduction Project (Trinity County) is in progress. It targets six Trinity County roads: Lewiston-Turnpike Road, Browns Mountain Road, Roundy Road, Rush Creek Road, Viola Lane and Trinity Dam Boulevard with improvements in road drainage and surfacing that have the potential to yield ~74,490 yd³ of sediment to anadromous streams in the Trinity River watershed. These sources deliver upstream of drinking water intakes for major communities. The project is funded by Proposition 40, the Trinity County Department of Transportation and the Trinity River Restoration Program. Supplemental funding is being pursued.



Trinity Drinking Water Source Sediment Reduction Project Roads-
Left: Browns Mountain Road with plugged and diverted culvert, Right: Past outboard fill failure on Trinity Dam Boulevard

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

Action Requested: Send information on other sediment reduction projects not listed above to Sandra Pérez at sperez@trinitycounty.org.

SCOTT AND SALMON RIVER DIRT INVENTORY: The DIRT inventory in the Scott and Salmon River watersheds began in July. As of the end of December '06, ~68 miles of county roads in the Scott River watershed were inventoried. The inventory is currently still within the Scott River watershed.

Action Requested: None - Information Only

SUMMARY OF REQUESTED ACTIONS:

Action Requested: Please email me by **February 21st** to let me know if you will attend the March 21st 5C Board meeting.

Action Requested: Review attached draft 5C MOU.

Action Requested: Mendocino Board to agendize the Fish Passage Forum MOA.

Action Requested: Send digital photos of completed migration barrier projects to Christine Jordan cjordan@trinitycounty.org for inclusion in the website. Also send electronic versions of project designs to Christine for inclusion in our database.

Action Requested: Send information on sediment reduction projects, preferably with photos to Sandra Pérez at sperez@trinitycounty.org.

SUMMARY OF 2006 WORK BY COUNTIES AND/OR 5C:

Began Scott River Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments- Siskiyou

- Four Migration Barriers Completed:
 - Yonkers Creek (Del Norte)
 - Kelly Gulch (Siskiyou)
 - Marsh Creek and Albion River (Mendocino)
- Six Migration Barrier Designs Completed:
 - Yonkers Creek (Del Norte)
 - Little Browns Creek (Trinity)
 - Indian Creek (Humboldt)
 - North & South Forks, Caspar Creek (CDF- Jackson Demonstration Forest Mendocino - CDF)
 - Schooner Gulch (Mendocino- Mendocino RCD)
- One Road Sediment Project Started
 - Trinity Drinking Water Source Sediment Reduction Project (various roads within Trinity River watershed)
- Over 20 Grant Applications Prepared for 5C or County Projects
- Served on North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Policy and Technical Committees
- Completed Submittal Package for Roads Manual Endangered Species Act 4(d) Incidental Take Application
- Conducted Roads Workshop and Planners Outreach Sessions
- Completed Land Use Planning Products:
 - Application Questionnaire model template
 - Environmental Questionnaire model template
- Project Review Completed Weaver Basin Wetlands Restoration Project (Trinity)- Refer to Attached Information
- Provided Counties with Biological Contract Services Including:
 - Fish Relocation at Barrier Projects
 - Long-term Spawning Surveys at 5C Sites
 - Habitat Surveys at Perspective 5C Barrier Sites
 - Provide Training at Workshops
- Completed Engineering Design Workshop & Video
- Begin Demonstration Urban Stream Projects- Sidney Gulch Phase I (Trinity)
- Conducted Agency Interactions:
 - CA Fish and Game:
 - Coho Recovery Team
 - Project Coordination
 - North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:
 - Stream and Wetlands Policy
 - Storm and Emergency Projects/Permits
 - Roads Manual Implementation
 - NOAA/NMFS
 - Project Design
 - Permitting Issues

- Funding
 - Coordination
- FEMA/OES
- Committees such as Fish Passage Forum, Trinity River Watershed Council, etc
- Develop Proposal and Preliminary Design for Weaverville Sanitary District Reclaimed Water Project (Trinity)
- Data Management