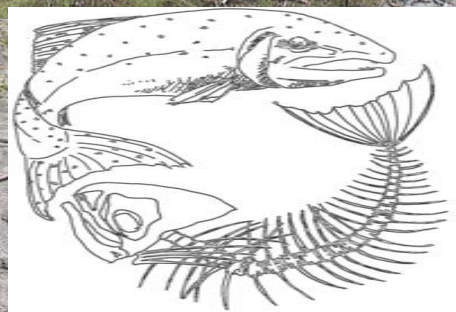
Salmon River Cooperative Noxious Weed Program (CNWP)

Presented by the Salmon River Restoration Council



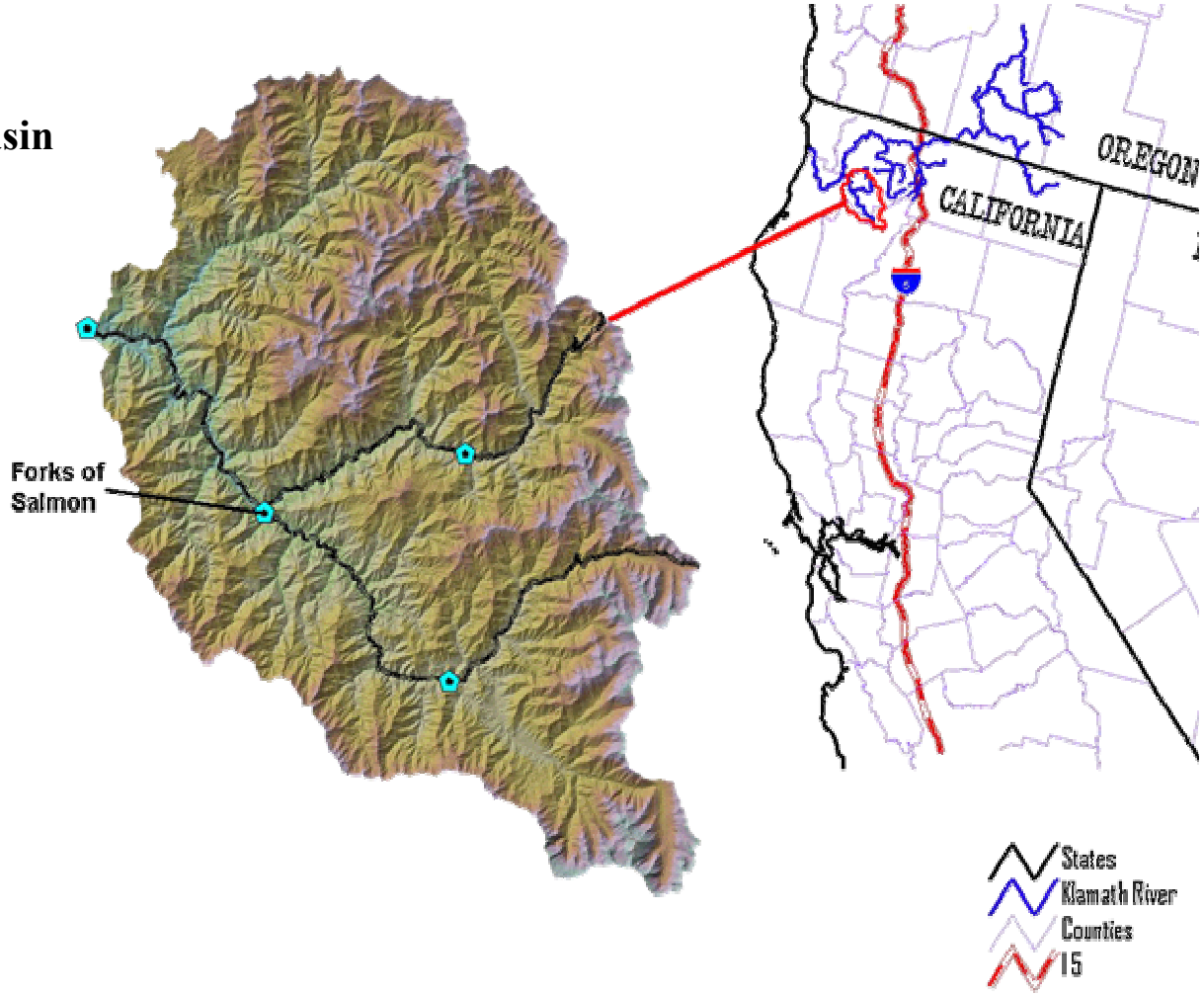
Some of you may be thinking “So where is Salmon River?”

Isn’t it in Idaho, Washington, or Oregon?

The answer is: Northern California

Salmon River Location

751 sq mi Salmon River Subbasin



Godfrey Ranch where I've lived for 27 years
My house has burned twice in forest fires

Salmon/Klamath Confluence

A WILDLANDS

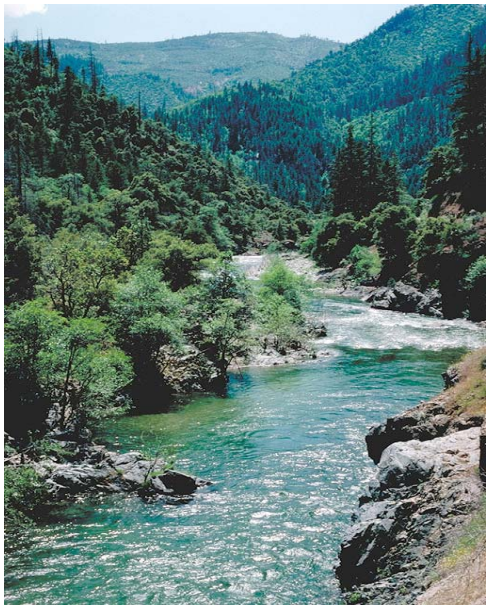
ECOSYSTEM

Katamin - "Center of the World" to the Karuk

The Salmon River Wildlands Ecosystem

North Fork from Etna Summit

The Salmon River is **one of the most biologically intact Subbasins in the west**. It is the largest cold water contributor to the Klamath River, and known as **one of the cleanest rivers in the state**. This 751 sq. mile watershed is entirely within the Klamath National Forest and is considered a key watershed by the Forest Service. Watershed analysis has been completed for the entire Subbasin, with the exception of Wooley Creek. The land base in the watershed includes: **98% Public Lands-USFS with 45% in wilderness, and 67% Karuk Ancestral Lands**. Four communities lie widely dispersed within this watershed. There are approximately **250 year round and 100 part time residents** in the subbasin. The Salmon River is documented as having an area in the Russian Wilderness that is **one of the most diverse area for conifer species on Earth**. It has long been known for its exceptionally high quality waters and is designated under the Wild and Scenic Act for the **outstanding fisheries resources**. The Salmon River is the home to several species of fish that are thought to be at risk: Spring and Fall Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Green Sturgeon and Summer and Winter runs of wild Klamath Mountains Province Steelhead. Our watershed is now known to have the largest remaining run of wild Spring Chinook in the Klamath.



Mainstem of the Salmon River

Although Siskiyou County has the second greatest number of noxious weed species in the state, limited access to the Salmon River has kept the invasion of noxious weeds at a moderately controllable level. We feel that this watershed is **one of the best places to demonstrate manual control of noxious weeds because of its: current function as a native plant refugia, large amount of public lands, and strong community support**.

South Fork of the Salmon

Federally Designated Wilderness

The 12,000 acre Russian Wilderness has a square mile known to be one of the most Biologically Diverse areas for Conifers in the World

Thompson Peak Glacier – 9,200 Feet Tall

The Headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River flow from the ½ million acre Trinity Alps Wilderness

One of the Largest Incense Cedar Trees is found in the 300,000 acre Marble Mountain Wilderness

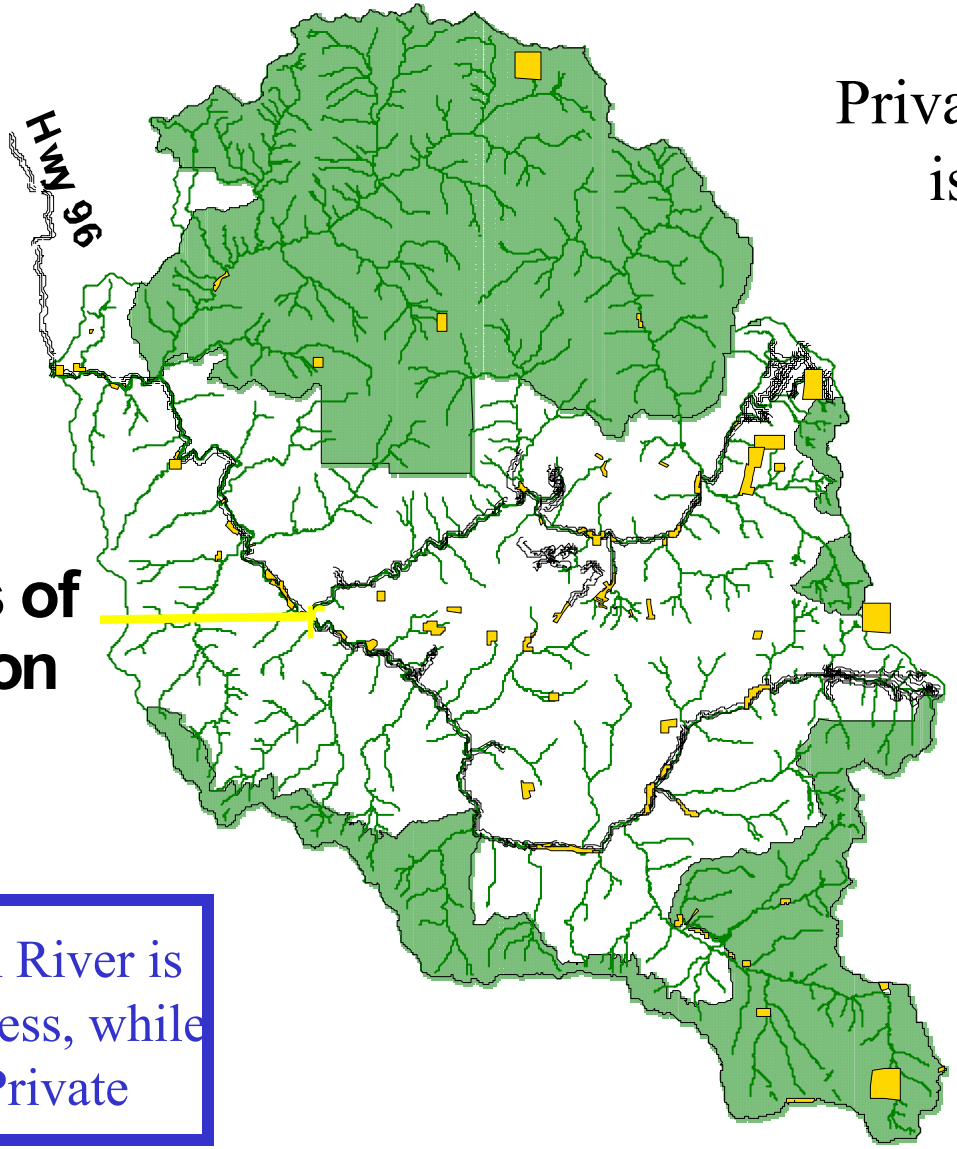
Main Stem Salmon and Wooley Creek

The Salmon River is recognized as the refugia for Wild Spring Chinook in the Klamath Basin. Wooley Creek, is world renowned for its exceptional water quality which runs almost exclusively from the Marble Mountains Wilderness, in the heart of the Klamath Knot. The salmon migrating in the hotter and lower water flows in the Klamath River during summer months rely on the cooler and cleaner waters contributed by the Salmon River

Ownership & Wilderness GIS Map

Wilderness is in Green

Private Property is Yellow



45% of the Salmon River is Designated Wilderness, while less than 2% is Private

SALMON RIVER RESTORATION COUNCIL(SRRC)

A 501 C 3 Non Profit

Since 1992 the SRRC mission has been to protect and restore the Salmon River ecosystem, highlighting the anadromous fisheries, through diversification of the local economic base by focusing on restoration, and promoting cooperation and communication between all of the stakeholders.

The SRRC has coordinated over 2 Million Dollars worth of restoration activities in the Salmon River, **almost half in community volunteer support**

Salmon River Restoration Strategy 2002

Don Elder, Brenda Olson, Alan Olson
Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, California 96097

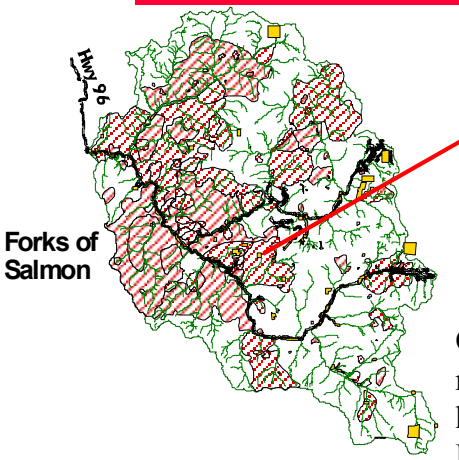
Jim Villeponteaux, Peter Brucker
Salmon River Restoration Council, P.O. Box 1089, Sawyers Bar, California 96027

PROGRAM AREA	3 YEARS	10 YEARS	25 YEARS
PROJECTS			
1. COOPERATION & COORDINATION			
Fire Safe Council	Form Salmon River Fire Safe Council (2000-2001)		
Stakeholder Advisory Group	Cooperative Work Plans (annually)	Cooperative Work Plans (annually)	Cooperative Work Plans (annually)
SRRC	Work Plan (annual)	Work Plan (annual)	Work Plan (annual)
2. EDUCATION			
	Community Restoration Program (On-going)	Community Restoration Program (On-going)	Community Restoration Program (On-going)
	Watershed Education Program	Watershed Education Program	Watershed Education Program
	Increase awareness and support for controlling noxioud weeds (annual)	Increase awareness and support for controlling noxioud weeds (annual)	Increase awareness and support for controlling noxioud weeds (annual)
3. PLANNING			
ROADS	Lower South Fork ATM Plan (2000)	Landing Assessment	Update Roads Assessments as Needed
	North Fork ATM Plan (2001)	Subbasin Sediment Analysis	
	Main Stem ATM Plan (2001)		
	Upper South Fork ATM Plan (2002)		
	County Road Management Plan (2001)		
Fire	Fire/Fuels Management Strategy (2002)	Update Fire/Fuels Management Strategy	Update Fire/Fuels Management Strategy
Riparian	Mine Tailings Management Plan		
Fisheries	Fisheries Management Plan		Update Fisheries Management Plan
Recycling & Toxic Reduction	Develop Recycling & Toxic Management Plan	Update Recycling & Toxic Management Plan	Update Recycling & Toxic Management Plan
Noxious Weeds	Develop Noxious Weed Management Plan	Update Noxious Weed Management Plan	Update Noxious Weed Management Plan
Recreation	Recreation Management Plan to reduce impacts	Update Recreation Management Plan	Update Recreation Management Plan
Monitoring	Develop Subbasin Monitoring Plan (2002)	Review and evaluate program-upgrade plan	Review and evaluate program-upgrade plan
4. INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT			
ROADS	Lower South Fork Roads Inventory (1999)	Lower South Fork Roads Inventory (2010)	Lower South Fork Roads Inventory (2025)
	North Fork Roads Inventory (2000)	North ForkRoads Inventory (2011)	North Fork Roads Inventory (2026)
	Main Stem Roads Inventory (2000)	Main Stem Roads Inventory (2011)	Main Stem Roads Inventory (2026)
	Upper South Fork Roads Inventory (2001)	Upper South Fork Roads Inventory (2010)	Upper South Fork Roads (2025)
	County Road Inventory (2001)	County Road Inventory (2011)	County Road Inventory (2026)
Fire	Subbasin Vegetation & Fuels Assessment 2002	Continue Subbasin Vegetation & Fuels Assessment	Continue Subbasin Vegetation & Fuels Assessment
Riparian	Riparian Reserve Assessment - 5 priority watersheds (2002)	Riparian Reserve Assessment - Next highest priority watersheds	Riparian Reserve Assessment - Ongoing until Complete
	Mining Tailing Assessment (2002)	Mining Tailing Assessment - Continue as needed	
Fisheries	Fisheries population and habitat Assessment (on-going)	Fisheries population and habitat Assessment (on-going)	Fisheries population and habitat Assessment (on-going)

Natural Disturbance

Bloomer Slide on Main Stem after 1964 Flood

Fires on the Salmon



One of the greatest risks to watershed health in the Salmon River is catastrophic in forest fire.

Fires have Burned 211,972 Acres Since 1911, or 44% of the Subbas

1964 Flood Event

Taken on the North Fork

Photo by Rick Wann

1997 Flood Event

January 1st

Human Related Disturbance - Resource Use and Management

MAIN ROAD
A one land road carved into the cliff for over 50 miles

Recent increase in boating

Early Mining Towns

Open Range & Wilderness Horse Packing

Historic and Current Mining

Log Landings

Poison Creek Road Mgt & Failure

Clearcuts

Forest Management

Lafayette Point - Murphy Rock Area 1995

South Taylor Area 1995

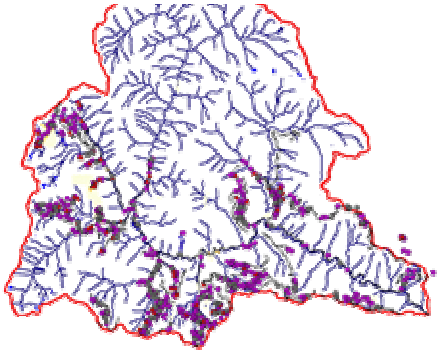
Livestock Management on Kelly Bar - 2002

WATERSHED RESTORATION

A Cooperative Sediment Source Assessment has been completed for all roads in the entire Subbasin

(Approx 1,000 miles) **Lower So. Fork Field Work 1999**

North Fork Field Work -2000



Mainstem – Field Work 2000

Upper South Fork – Field Work 2001

Jobs in the Woods 97

Cooperative Project with SRRC & USFS – Funded By Cal Dept of Fish & Game -

Merrill Creek Bridge Installment

Planting Decommissioned Steinacher Road with Karuks

Burning Excess Fuels is used Extensively in Our Shaded Fuelbreak Program

Fuels Reduction