

**Salmon River Restoration Council  
JITW 98 – Final Report**

**Project Title: Shaded Fuel Break Construction & Riparian Fuels Reduction**

This project has enlisted private property owners from the community to steward their lands over time in a fashion that is consistent with ecosystem management over the larger landscape. The Salmon River Restoration Council (Council) has provided a crew of displaced timber workers from the community to construct fuel break systems, restore damaged riparian and wetlands habitat, reduce road caused erosion problems, and perform project inventory and monitoring tasks on several parcels of private property in the Salmon River subbasin. Restoration activities have taken place on approximately 56 acres. Detailed acreage is in the GIS Report.

Tasks in this project have been performed in consultation with the USF&WS, the USFS, and the Karuk Tribe of California. This collaborative approach should be a major component of a comprehensive fuels reduction program on the Salmon River. This project has expanded community and agency support for the Council and help in the recovery and protection of the Salmon River subbasin.

**Methods Used:**

**Fuels Treatment**

Fuels treatment techniques included handpiling and removal of excessive fuels from site. To create a system of shaded fuel breaks on private property, we utilized existing roads, skid trails and ridges. Fuel reduction also took place in buffer zones next to the riparian areas to protect the riparian areas from fire.

**Native Vegetation Release**

During the fuels treatment activities, individual plants of desired species that are currently suppressed were released.

**Noxious Weed Removal**

Remove, when possible, noxious weeds from restoration sites. Species targeted for removal were: star thistle, Scotch broom, Klamath weed, Marlahan mustard, Himalayan blackberries, and bull thistle.

**Roads**

Surface erosion on cut and fill slopes associated with approximately 2 miles of private roads was reduced through planting and establishing native vegetative species where needed. In addition, water drainage problems on these roads were corrected by maintaining or installing waterbars and cleaning of culverts and ditches.

**Monitoring:**

Photo-documentation took place at all restoration sites before, during, and after project activities.

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Landowner Participation:

Site #1	Fraser	Knownothing
Site #2	Hanauer	Knownothing
Site #3	Sturgis	Otter Bar
Site #4	Hacking	Somes Bar
Site #5	Phelps	Above Otter Bar
Site #6	Goods	Forks of Salmon
Site #7	Locker	Cecilville *
Site #8	Martin	Cecilville
Site #9	Snipes/Doyle	Cecilville *
Site #10	O'Conner	Finley Camp
Site #11	Colvig	Finley Camp * <b>Pre existing Agreement</b>
Site #12	Wann	North Fork Near Forks
Site #13	Harling	North Fork Near Forks
Site #14	Pollack	Cecilville
Site #15	Minehan	Sawyers Bar
Site #16	Quigley	Sawyers Bar
Site #17	Van Scoyoc	Sawyers Bar
Site #18	LeDuc	Sawyers Bar
Site #19	Thompkins	Sawyers Bar *
Site #20	Randazzo	Sawyers Bar *
Site #21	Wilson	Sawyers Bar
Site #22	Will	Little North Fork
Site #23	McBrooms	Little North Fork
Site #24	Holzem	Sawyers Bar

Signed agreements are included as an attachment. Agreements followed by an \* have been signed but were lost when we moved offices.

**Summary of Monitoring Component**

Implementation monitoring activities were conducted by SRRC staff during project activities. Landowners will perform annual monitoring of project sites for at least 5 years following completion of project. Photo-point documentation were taken before during and after from the same point and perspective to assess the project.

**Community Outreach/Education Plan**

Geographic Information System (GIS) maps and photo displays of JITW project sites will be highlighted in a display at our Salmon River Restoration Council Watershed Center. The center functions as a clearinghouse for watershed restoration information for the community and the general public. Up-to-date information is available on fish populations, habitat conditions, and other aspects of watershed health.

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**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- A.** Modify excessive fuel loading, with a focus on reducing the risk of catastrophic fire at several prioritized parcels of private lands situated in neighborhoods and located in more isolated areas.
- B.** Identify and release desirable native vegetation in riparian areas and associated buffer zones and in areas associated with fuel breaks where targeted native vegetation is currently being suppressed.
- C.** Reduce road surface related sediment to the stream through the maintenance of existing and installation of new minimal drainage structures.
- D.** Continue to identify useful and efficient techniques that SRRC and landowners and managers can use regarding plant propagation, fuels management, revegetation, erosion control, inventory, monitoring and other restoration activities in the Salmon River subbasin.
- E.** Create new job opportunities for displaced workers who have worked in logging related activities or live in timber dependant communities.
- F.** Enlist landowners to increase responsible stewarding of their private lands in a manner that is consistent with federal management direction at a landscape level. This participation will foster others in the community to partake in land managing and use activities that are more appropriate.
- G.** Fireproof concentrations of rural residencies to a condition that requires low maintenance in the future. This approach will reduce the spread of house fires into wildlands and reduce demands for residential protection during catastrophic fires.

Specifically, shaded fuel breaks were designed by thinning out flammable species, removing dead and down fuels and trimming up remaining trees and shrubs. This technique reduces and breaks up fuel continuity and fuel ladder, while maintaining the vegetative cover needed to prevent unwanted growth of flammable brush species. The resulting fuel break is a long lasting solution to vegetation management in this fire-prone area.

**RESULTS**

- Fuels Reduction activities occurred on approximately 56 acres (see GIS). We utilized existing roads, skid trails and ridges on private property.

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- Reduction of sediment from roads (approximately 2 miles) was accomplished by constructing and repairing waterbars and other drainage structures, cleaning out plugged or partially blocked culverts, planting grass on cut slopes and using slash to stabilize bare slopes.
- Pictures were taken at many of the sites as a monitoring tool (see Appendix 2).
- Crewmembers spent approximately 240 worker days performing the aforementioned Tasks. SRRC staff also spent approximately 220 hours on planning and implementation.
- This project is part of a continuing fuels reduction program – we have gained a wide acceptance and have helped to stimulate the beginning of an interagency Fire Management Strategy.

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

In-Kind contributions consisted of several categories:

1. Crewmembers travel time. The Crew rode in a “Crummy” to and from the job site on their time. Figure 2 hrs per day average = 480 hours at \$13 per hour = \$6,240.
2. Salmon River Restoration Council used GPS and GIS equipment to map project. We figured 60 hours was spent mapping locations. Using \$10 per hour for GPS use, the value of GPS comes to \$600. GIS equipment was used for making ArcInfo coverage and ArcView Project. We figured combined GIS time to be 40 hours at \$60 per hour = \$2,400. Some staff time was also donated – we estimate 160 Hrs at \$12 per hour = \$1,920.
3. Landowner participation to date (includes prior JITW follow up work) is estimated to be approximately 2,200 hours at \$12 per hour = \$26,400. The landowner follow up work is on previous JITW project areas.

This totals \$37,560.00 in In-Kind Contributions to date. Landowners will continue to maintain the project on their properties. We expect the final In-Kind contribution will greatly surpass the original \$35,064 estimate.