

Trinity Opi

Feedback...

Forest partnership praised

FROM CLARENCE ROSE
WEAVERVILLE

As a forester who manages the growth and harvest of timber on our bit of family-owned forest in Trinity and Shasta counties, I am always interested in how other local forest managers are caring for their properties. So, I recently went out to the Weaverville Community Forest and viewed the active logging operation. I have been aware of the planning process for this project and wanted to see how things were working out, now that logging is taking place.

I believe that Trinity Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (the landowner), and Stan Leach Timber Company (the logging contractor), are off to a great start in helping create a healthier, more fire resistant Community Forest.

In my opinion, Stan Leach Timber's crew is doing a thoroughly professional job. They are under contract to Trinity Resource Conservation District to harvest and transport the timber sold to the local sawmill, Trinity River Lumber Company. As an example of the commitment to quality by both RCD and the logging contractor, the timber was being "stage-felled." Instead of cutting all the marked trees the first time through, they were cutting a portion of them and removing them, then going back through the same area and falling the remaining marked trees into the areas from which the first-stage logs had been removed. This minimizes damage both to the logs being harvested and to the trees left

to grow.

It is my understanding that after log removal is completed, the logging debris at the landings will be treated by a combination of firewood cutting and biomass chipping, and considerable work will be done by hand crews on the forested hillsides to eliminate hazardous fuels.

In my opinion, our community stands to benefit in a number of important ways from the present project and those which will follow:

1. The fuels most likely to promote the spread of devastating wildfire are being reduced, through treatment of the buildup of dead material on the forest floor, and through elimination of the "fuel ladder," i.e., too many small trees which can conduct fire from the forest floor to the upper layers of the forest canopy. Hopefully there will be no wildfires in the Community Forest, but if they occur, the difficulty of suppression and the threat of damage to the forest and surrounding homes will have been lessened.

2. Many merchantable trees which are in excess of the number the land can support in a healthy condition are being removed. Trees which do not receive enough sunlight or water gradually become weaker and die. Removal of some of the trees promotes a healthier condition in those remaining, while capturing valuable wood which would otherwise be lost to decay.

3. The projects are designed and overseen by the Trinity Resource Conservation District, so that even though title to the Community Forest property is held by the federal Bureau of Land Management, the

management taking place is the result of thoughtful planning by local people with community credibility who have the best interests of the Weaverville area in mind. The desire to maintain the aesthetically pleasing view of the Community Forest from the Weaverville basin, to protect cultural resources (such as evidence of the pioneer mining activities), and to protect fish and wildlife habitat have all been given major emphasis in the planning.

4. There are numerous economic benefits, including traditional ones such as the employment created by the logging, sawmilling and fuel reduction related to the project. Less obvious, but critically important is the fact that the work is being done under a Stewardship Contract, whereby the net receipts from timber sold will be made available for further work on the Community Forest instead of disappearing into the federal treasury in Washington.

Finally, I would like to make one more observation and then pose a question: The same types of unhealthy, fire-prone forest conditions that are being addressed in the current operations on the Community Forest (which is about 1,000 acres) prevail on additional thousands of acres around the Weaverville basin, primarily on lands administered by the United States Forest Service. The memories of the fires of 2001 and 2006 on the west side of Weaverville are still fresh in our minds. Wouldn't it make sense to see if Trinity RCD can forge a working relationship with the USFS similar to what is in place with the BLM, so that some of those lands can be treated, too?



Oil se

FROM BARBARA E
WEAVERVILLE

We readers might think about how the changes ahead in society with Mr. J's fascinating articles and other energy sources.

This scintillating scientific articles in issues of The Trinity (Feedback) paints a picture of how our species is a very resource that in the modern world a high activity and providing the endless technology we've experienced.

I suspect that you would want to shoot (Mr. Veevaert). A wants to think of the that are already happening. The glory hole of

Longt deserv

FROM KIM SMITH
DOUGLAS CITY

It's been six weeks of the school year. I see some form of

Many human activities stress fish

FROM RICHARD "DOC" ROCKWELL - unriver to spawning beds, attracts weather is often more productive.