

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



2005 Targeted Watersheds Grants: Trinity / Lower Klamath Rivers

California and Oregon

WHY IS THIS WATERSHED SPECIAL?

The Trinity River salmon fishery has been critically important to Tribal People for thousands of years for subsistence, cultural, religious and commercial purposes. The Trinity River watershed encompasses 2,950 square miles, and the river flows 172 miles through the mountains and the Yurok Reservation to the Pacific Ocean. With the construction of the Trinity River Division for the purpose of diverting water to the Central Valley Project beginning in the 1950s, the natural flow of the river has been dramatically reduced, threatening the survival of the chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Trinity River watershed is under constant threat from riparian development and reduced flows. The Targeted Watersheds Grant funds will focus specifically on the following priority environmental problems that are negatively impacting salmonid populations:

- Degraded streambeds and riparian habitat and excess sedimentation as a result of commercial forestry and water diversion operations.
- Increased thermal loads resulting from the loss and degradation of riparian areas and habitat.



Stream restoration on the South Fork of the Trinity River.

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

The Yurok Tribe will use the Targeted Watersheds Grant funds to improve in-stream conditions and riparian habitat. Specifically, they will:

- Reduce sediment loading to salmonid habitat by decommissioning roads, rehabilitating upslope sites and stabilizing erodible stream banks.
- Restore habitat diversity by planting native hardwoods in riparian areas.
- Promote the full release of Trinity River flows through stream restoration, creation of low flow zones for salmonid rearing habitat and removal of excess sediment in streams.
- Monitor water quality in areas of restoration activities.



Installing willow baffles to recapture floodplain and promote riparian recovery.



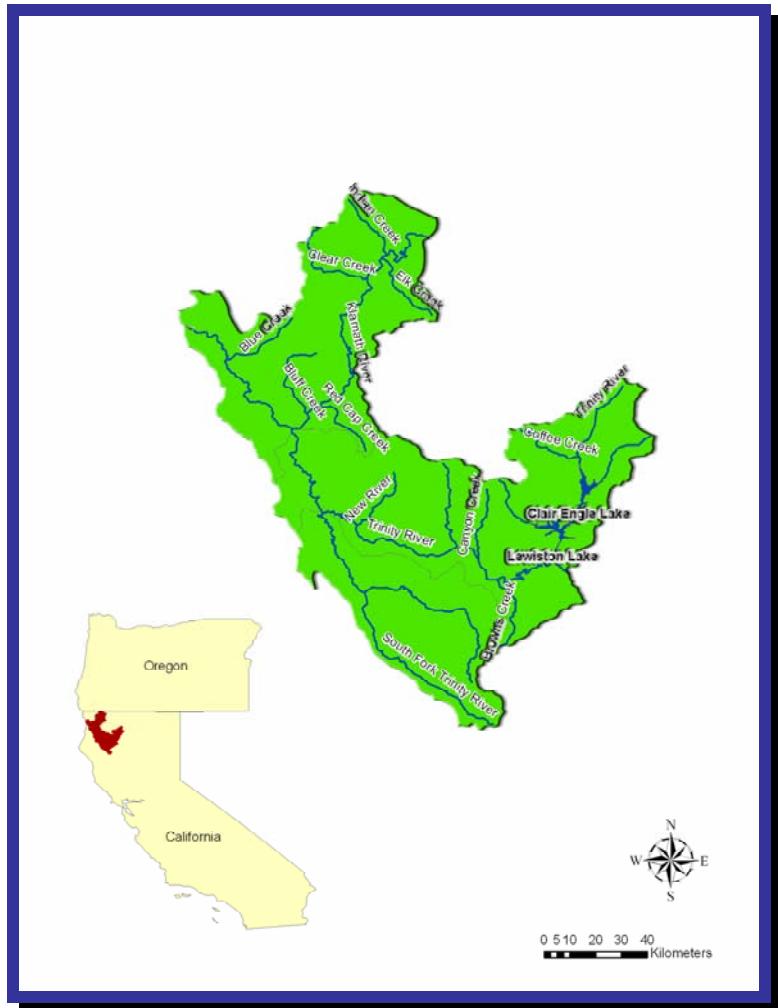
A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

Recognizing the importance of working with a broad range of stakeholders, the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program has formed a partnership with:

- Trinity County Planning Department Natural Resources Division
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- California Coastal Conservancy
- Trinity River Restoration Program
- Trinity Management Council
- Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grants

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grants program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.



Using logs from decommissioned roads for floodplain bank recovery.

For More Information Contact:

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