MKWC’s mission is to collaboratively plan and implement watershed restoration, coordinate education on land management issues, and promote community vitality. Here’s how we measured up to our goals in 2016.

**Cover Photo:** MKWC Stewardship Intern Emmanuel Cyr befriends a praying mantis during his crew’s regular fieldwork restoring fisheries and removing invasive weeds in the Middle Klamath.
In 2016, the Foodshed Program hosted over 45 workshops, events and classes reaching over 1,200 participants of all ages! MKWC’s Foodsheds staff is dedicated to enhancing our local food system by implementing food security and sovereignty projects that reach all incomes, ages and cultures.

Our FREE, peer-to-peer, hands-on, seasonal food workshops covered topics from seed to table: tree pruning & propagation, fruit pressing, goat butchering, seed saving and processing, and sourdough. Events included our Mother’s Day Plant & Craft Sale, two Fall Harvest Festivals, and two Spring Seed Swaps. We also provided support for other food events such as “Third Thursday Dinners,” an on-going opportunity for MKWC and community groups to provide a hot meal in Orleans, once a month, in our community center.

The Klamath Roots Youth Food Project is a year-round collaboration with the Karuk Tribe, MKWC Watershed Education Program, schools, volunteers and many community partners. Approximately 350 participants in five Mid Klamath Schools attended over 30 food-focused activities. Our school gardens, cooking classes, field trips, and after school projects inspire students to have fun in the kitchen, garden and outdoors, while empowering them to choose healthy food options! Students planted, harvested and ate fresh veggies including carrots, beets, greens, garlic, tomatoes, basil and other fresh herbs, and the ever-popular pumpkins. Summer highlights included salsa making where youth harvested veggies from the school garden, made salsa and then entered into the community Salsa Contest! Youth most enjoyed feasting on self-prepared spring rolls and summer fruit baked goodies. Once again, the Stewardship Youth Internship participants were an awesome addition, helping younger students to get the most out of these activities!
Foodsheds Program

The old orchards of our region have survived the test of time. Uniquely adapted to the climate and soils of this area, they provide a treasure trove of heirloom fruit varieties. Since 2012, MKWC has partnered with the Karuk Tribe, and the Salmon River Restoration Council to identify, catalog and preserve these bioregional legacy varieties as part of our Orchard Revitalization Project. In 2016 we cataloged 35 additional heirloom fruit varieties. The assessments, including photos and descriptions, are being compiled into a publication that will include resources on how community members can continue to preserve these important varieties. We hosted an heirloom fruit tasting at our Harvest Festival, where 50 varieties of local fruit were tasted and evaluated. We grafted over 200 heirloom fruit trees, which will be planted on family homesteads and in community orchards in 2017.

CONNECT, VOLUNTEER & CHECK OUT OUR RESOURCES!!

There are 100 publications focused entirely on the Mid Klamath available on our website, covering the spectrum of food: growing guides, pests, soils, climate, food preservation, animals and even seasonal calendars for planning. Please check us out at www.mkwc.org/programs/foodsheds/

Interested in volunteering, attending or teaching a workshop? Send us an email at foodshed@mkwc.org, or on Facebook, at “Mid Klamath Food Shed.” We post all about our free workshops. Connect with us in person, by phone or stop by our office in beautiful downtown Orleans and get FREE SEEDS from our SEED LIBRARY!

Photo above: Gleaning local apples for community-based food security projects.
This year, The Mid Klamath Watershed Council’s (MKWC) Fisheries Program continued to forward its vision of working together with the Klamath Basin’s diverse communities to restore our watershed resources to their historical abundance and function. Building working relationships with landowners and partners from as far away as the community of Hilt on Cottonwood Creek, downriver to MKWC’s natal waters around Orleans and Somes Bar, the Fisheries Program used a model of outreach and collaboration that not only gets work done on the ground but builds community support and employment across our culturally diverse landscape.

In 2016, MKWC’s Fisheries Program secured over one million dollars from Federal, State and private funding sources. Over half of that funding will result directly in the construction of salmonid rearing and spawning habitat in 2017 and 2018, while the remaining funds will facilitate planning and design of future restoration projects as well as effectiveness monitoring of existing projects. This ratio of implementation funding to design and planning funding will help sustain our program into the coming years, as uncertain as they may be.

Fisheries’ one large-scale construction project slated for 2016 implementation, the Seiad Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project, was postponed to 2017 due to a delayed response from Siskiyou County on a floodplain development permit. Despite this setback, the Fisheries Program kept busy with design and planning of several other projects including a large off-channel habitat complex at Aikens Creek, as well as implementation of our seasonal fish passage and brush bundle projects, Chinook escapement surveys on the Salmon River, and coho spawning surveys on our upriver tributaries (still in progress). In total, MKWC Fisheries employed four full-time employees and twelve seasonal technicians throughout the year. Our program also provided partial funding for MKWC’s perennial youth intern crews who worked with our fish passage and brush bundling crews this summer. Our work at Middle Creek represents a major highlight of 2016. There, MKWC previously constructed two off-channel ponds on private lands during the region-wide, four-year drought. This year, in part due to sedimentation in mainstem Horse Creek from the Gap Fire and in part due to higher flows, there have been 21 coho redds spotted on Middle Creek to date, and both ponds are brimming with juvenile coho. “If you build it, they will come!”

Photo above: Despite ominous greetings like these, MKWC fisheries staff have gained widespread support from landowners throughout the sub-basin for our fish habitat restoration.
Bottom left: Endearingly referred to as our snow-ho survey crews, coho spawning survey crews brave bone-chilling temperatures on 21 upriver Klamath tributaries each year between November 1 and January 15.

Right: One of our shining stars, Dillon Creek, hosts summer, fall, and winter run steelhead, coho salmon, fall run Chinook salmon, and, in limited numbers, Spring run Chinook salmon. Here, collaborators from the Karuk Tribe work alongside MKWC to complete an 11-mile survey of the mainstem of Dillon Creek from the top of anadromy to the mouth.
Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP)

Landscape-level projects
WKRP made significant progress bringing diverse partners together through a series of workshops and working groups in 2016 to develop projects that span 1.2 million acres. The 6,500-acre Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project encompasses three pilot projects. This project includes mechanical, manual and controlled fire on national forest system lands adjacent to private property in Somes Bar. A 25,000-acre project in Happy Camp focuses on community protection, wildlife habitat and reintroduction of good fire. The 20,000-acre Salmon River project shows how, in areas where several recent fires have burned, fire processes can be restored relatively quickly and easily to reduce future wildfire hazards and expenditures. These projects demonstrate the WKRP strategies to address the barriers and threats to achieving the tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Coordinated Wildfire Response. This year WKRP hired a partnership coordinator to support these efforts.

2016 Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange

More than 80 participants from 15 local, tribal, state and federal organizations came together to implement 405 acres of prescribed fire in 41 prescribed burns on 27 properties. The Klamath TREX brings together skilled fire professionals from around the world to work with local fire experts, as well as entry-level trainees, to re-learn the art of getting good fire back on the ground in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). “Good Fire” is fire that restores forest resiliency in the face of stand-replacing wildfires, insects and disease through careful application of controlled burning at the right time of year. Through agreements between the US Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 and the Nature Conservancy, who, in turn, have agreements with local partners like the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, we were able to participate in burning on public lands on the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), and SRNF fire staff participated in private land burns. By burning together in events like the Klamath TREX, we are slowly building co-ownership of fire in the WKRP area between diverse partners. To implement controlled burns at the scale needed to truly protect against wildfires and manage wildfires for resource benefits, this co-ownership of fire by our local volunteer fire departments and Fire Safe Councils, local tribes, CAL FIRE, USFS, and air quality management districts is essential to long term success.

Photo at Left: TREX participants Sophie Neuner and Heather Rickard prepare to put some good fire on the ground.
Orleans/Somes Bar
Fire Safe Council

2016 Private Lands Fuels Reduction
MKWC’s solid and energetic brushing crew implemented brushing and thinning on 95 acres of private and tribal property in 2016. MKWC also administered contracts on an additional 11 acres, bringing the total to 106 acres of brushing. On all of these acres, the treatments fulfilled restoration and fire-safety objectives, as well as enhancing wildlife habitat and preparing for prescribed fire within the WUI. MKWC thanks the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program and the Forest Service-Six Rivers National Forest, through the Karuk Tribe, for their support in these activities.

2016 FLASH Program Update
The well-loved reimbursement program called FLASH (Fire-adapted Landscapes And Safe Homes), funded by the County of Humboldt, enabled 16 local landowners to thin wildfire prone vegetation on 25 acres near homes and along roads, and get a partial rebate for their time and expenses. MKWC staff did 35 site visits planning and monitoring these projects and offered fire safe education through Home Risk Assessments at nine of the participating homes. Our community continues to prove its understanding of fire risk and willingness to be proactive with fire-safe behavior.

2016 FireWise Program Update
In the spring, crew members from MKWC’s Fire and Fuels crew joined several neighborhood volunteers and the Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps (HTCCC) crew to work on a two-day roadside brushing project along a one-mile stretch of upper Ishi Pishi Road in Somes Bar. Using chainsaws, weed eaters, and a chipper, the group worked on both sides of the road to reduce dangerous fuels directly adjacent to several homes. Residents themselves instigated this project, and it served to highlight what can be accomplished in a short amount of time when the community works together.

Scaling Up to Promote Ecosystem Resilience (SPER)
Funding from the US Fire Learning Network to increase coordination with state and federal agencies regulating prescribed fire has allowed MKWC director Will Harling to work directly with the California Air Resources board, local air quality management districts, CAL FIRE, Region 5 USFS staff, as well as local partners to create more opportunities for increasing the scope and scale of prescribed fire in the Klamath Mountains, and throughout the state of California. Connections with successful prescribed fire programs across the country, from Prescribed Burn Associations in the Midwest who came to Northern CA in the fall of 2016, to the Four Forests Restoration Initiative in Flagstaff, AZ, have allowed more rapid development of mechanisms for increasing the amount of good fire in the Klamath Mountains. Presentations on WKRP and TREX at the International Smoke Symposium, to Congressman Jared Huffman and Regional Forester Randy Moore in 2016 have greatly increased outside support of our local fire programs.

Photo Above: MKWC’s 2017 brushing crew takes a break during prescribed burn preparations at the edge of Orleans.
MKWC’s incredible staff and volunteers continued the diligent effort to manage invasive weeds in 2016. **We pulled 62,391 individual invasive plants** from our Mid Klamath watershed. We mapped and removed 20 different priority invasive plant species at 248 distinct locations over a gross area of 155 acres, including a heroic effort by the weeds crew to remove over 20 acres of isolated “old-growth” Scotch broom. Out of the 248 locations, **19 are potentially eradicated, 197 were completely removed, and 33 were newly mapped** this year. **We welcomed 40 new volunteers and had 34 volunteers return to help** in our plants restoration workdays. Volunteers are incredibly important to the Plants Program, since they account for about 17 percent (786 hours of 4,644 total MKWC volunteer hours) of total volunteer hours in 2016.

The youth stewardship crew was motivated by plants work in 2016. We had some keen observers, a crew member identified a new invasive plant for MKWC, tocolote or malta starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) growing within a yellow starthistle site. Three of them had the opportunity to survey for invasive plants in the Siskiyou Wilderness. They went on a four day trip gaining backcountry as well as plant identification skills.

This year we also made strides towards establishing a more diverse native plant seed collection project. We continued an effort to collect seeds for restoration of invasive weeds sites with the Six Rivers National Forest and **collected seeds from native plants that could both be competitive with invasive plants as well as provide for pollinators**. We collected along roadsides at higher elevations and along the river – even seeing a monarch caterpillar and butterfly at a volunteer workday. We are also expanding our seed collection efforts in partnership with the Klamath National Forest for **native plant restoration at our constructed coho ponds**. The seeds or cuttings are grown out at a nursery in Orleans. Our aim is to **support local businesses as well as support and source genetically local plants** for MKWC’s restoration work.

MKWC’s Plants Program works to protect and enhance our unique native plant communities through targeted removal of harmful invasive plant species as well as providing meaningful educational opportunities. Our plants program work is supported by the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests, the National Forest Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the California Department of Agriculture.
The Mid Klamath Watershed Council’s (MKWC) Watershed Education Program spent time inside and outside the classroom in 2016, where students received natural resource career skills training from restoration specialists and in-class science curriculum, with the ultimate goal of inspiring the next generation of natural resource professionals and enthusiasts. The program also increased activities in the communities of Happy Camp and Seiad Valley, with the help of a new project coordinator, Laura Jaffe-Stender. In keeping with MKWC’s mission, the program continues to involve local youth in hands-on restoration and monitoring projects in the Klamath Basin with the help of collaborative partners, Karuk Tribe, Six Rivers National Forest, Klamath National Forest, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Watershed Education in 2016: By the Numbers**

In 2016, MKWC’s Watershed Education program engaged 150 youth, from 9 classes in 6 schools. Students came from Orleans, Junction, Happy Camp, and Seiad Valley Elementary Schools, as well as Happy Camp and Yreka High Schools.

During the school year, a total of 9 restoration field trips involved youth in tree planting, willow brush bundle habitat enhancement, fish passage improvement, and invasive plant removal projects. Additionally, 6 watershed monitoring field trips took place, involving students in Downstream Migrant Trap monitoring and Fall Chinook spawning surveys in Orleans, Happy Camp, and Seiad Valley.

On 4 school campuses, rain gauges were installed and students are reporting precipitation data to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) citizen science program. Nature’s Notebook, another citizen science program, received over 250 plant observations from local students as they tracked the plant life cycle of native plants. Both citizen science programs are supplemental to the climate change curriculum that MKWC staff and guest presenters are implementing in the classrooms.

As a way to encourage students to write and improve computer literacy, students at two schools have been blogging about program activities, totaling 150 blog posts this year.

During the summer, 20 youth participated in the week-long Klamath-Siskiyou Outdoor School, learning about the Klamath watershed through program backpacking and rafting trips. In July, 3 restoration raft trips involved 55 youth in projects at hard-to-reach river locations, improving fish passage, increasing cover, and pulling invasive plants.

The summer also brought 7 teenagers, hired to work as stewardship interns in a variety of MKWC’s programs including, fisheries, plants, fire and fuels, foodsheds, forestry, and watershed education. This year’s incredible interns were: Autumn Allgier, Tashawna Brink, Emmanuel Cyr, Zaine Huhtala, Johnathan Markin, Anna McLane, Ryan Mollier.
Watershed Education Program
MKWC’s Wildlife program had many owl detections in 2016. **We concluded the season with a sighting of an adult male Northern Spotted owl (NSO) foraging with its young!** It was very exciting and heartening to see the declining species making headway towards successful reproduction. This year’s NSO crew consisted of resident MKWC’ers Tony Dennis, Rudy Galindo and Heather Campbell, as well as contract Biologist Dan Hansen, and one adult and two youth volunteers - all under the guidance of biologists Jessica Stauffer and Sean McAllister, and the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP).

Surveys were conducted in the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains and along the Klamath River in areas from Ti Bar road to the GO road. Throughout the summer season we visited **814 nighttime calling points**, conducted **12 follow-up visits** to nighttime detections and **16 visits to known activity areas**. We detected: 9 Northern Spotted owls, 45 Barred owls, 6 Unknown Strix, 18 Western Screech owls, 15 Northern Saw-Whet owls, and 10 Northern Pygmy owls.

In 2016 MKWC’s wildlife department operated primarily to support the detection of presence or absence of the Northern Spotted Owl. However, we are currently seeking funding and opportunities to expand the program to include habitat monitoring and restoration, as well as opportunities for species conservation and education. Future work could include substantial cross-pollination with our plants program as we explore possibilities like fostering more monarch butterfly habitat. We would like to thank all the landowners that allowed us to survey on or near their property and the organizations that funded the project and provided invaluable support.

![Left: MKWC’s 2016 Wildlife crew.](image1)

![Right: A barred owl discovered by youth volunteers working with the Wildlife crew.](image2)

![Above: The view from Ukonom Mountain.](image3)
The Panamnik Building Project has been focused on developing a working plan to turn our dreams into reality this past year. We have been working with our architect, draftsperson, advisory board and staff on plans to improve the Panamnik Building. These dreams have changed into a clear plan and an attainable goal.

We have a useful and attractive plan to remodel the Panamnik Building. These plans include priorities and details to narrow our construction cost estimates, prioritize non essential elements and consider demonstration of innovative, energy-saving and green building modifications.

We have developed a funding strategy that includes grant funding, private donors, private lenders and conventional bank funding. We have approved plans for fixing our roof and providing overhangs and a new sidewalk, which we plan to implement this summer. We are still struggling with attracting a qualified general contractor to undertake a project in our remote area. We are still improving the riverside portion of our parcel, continuing with our outdoor amphitheater project. We have made significant progress on upgrading our electrical service.

The Panamnik Building continues to offer its space for community events, and a diverse section of our community utilizes this facility.
MKWC continues to play a substantial role in building a restoration-based economy. Where people once relied on resource extraction industry jobs, we now support our families counting fish and owls, pulling invasive weeds, reseeding native plants, and bringing good fire and locally-sourced, sustainable food back to our rural landscape. Woven together, these threads form the social fabric of this wild place we work to restore. To that end, **MKWC employed 72 people in 2016**.

Here’s what those jobs looked like: 10 Full-time employees, 29 Part-time employees, 24 Seasonal employees, and 10 Interns. Among those, 14 were new employees (not counting the interns).

This represents **$919,341 in payroll**, and an additional **$5,895 paid via 21 stipends**.

Our dedicated Administration-crew makes sure we are supported for any of the many jobs needed to do the ground work. They keep us and our books on track and, not least, got a clean audit last year. Notably, our most recent audit reflected this telling statistic: in 2015, **84 percent of MKWC’s expenses were directly related to watershed restoration programming, while 16 percent of our expenses covered support infrastructure**. Most importantly, 100 percent of our funds supported MKWC’s mission!
We Couldn’t Do It Without You!

Major Institutional Sources of Support ($500 or more)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Fire Safe Council
Dean Witter Foundation
Humboldt Area Foundation
Humboldt County
Jiji Foundation Fund (ICF)
Karuk Tribe
National Forest Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
PacifiCorp
Pacific Power Foundation

Patagonia World Trout Grants Council
Salmon River Restoration Council
The Nature Conservancy
Tides Foundation J. Vance Huckins Fund
US Fish and Wildlife Service
UC Berkeley
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
US Forest Service Klamath National Forest
US Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest
US Forest Service Region 5
Common Counsel Penney Family Fund
Major Individual Sources of Support ($500 or more)

Dan and Bunny Krall
Jon McClelland Separate Property Trust
Jonathan and Terri McClelland

Michael Cusack
Robbin Lacy
Wilson and Helen Forbes

We Couldn’t Do It Without You!
In 2016, more than 430 MKWC volunteers logged 4,674.75 volunteer hours. That’s $262,235.25 of donated labor! All of this in-kind support enables us to leverage more funding for watershed restoration.

Our volunteers go above and beyond to help kick-start and sustain MKWC’s work.

At our 2016 Annual Banquet and Auction, MKWC recognized the tireless work of three individuals who stand out because they have given so much of their time, energy and knowledge:

Tina Marier

Nathaniel Pennington

Teri Chanturai

We would like to say thank you and acknowledge all of the contributions from community members, local businesses and our partner organizations that make all of the work that we accomplish possible.
MKWC: A Cross-Section Of Our Community

Landowners Like Larry Are Key To Our Success!

“Dear Nancy:

I got the nice letter from you thanking me for my cooperation in the TREX fuels reduction program. I, however, would like to thank TREX and MKWC for the great job they’ve done, not just on my property, but throughout the community.

Everyone involved was very polite and respectful and seemingly quite competent. I’m very pleased with how well everything went and the end result. I’m grateful to have been a part of the whole campaign.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Larry Gabbert

MKWC Board of Directors:

Chris Hatton - President
Dean Davis - Vice President
Molli White - Treasurer
Jon Grunbaum - Secretary
Mark DuPont - Board Member
Jeanerette Jacups-Johnny - Board Member
Blythe Reis - Board Member
Carol Sharp – Board Member
Michael Stearns - Board Member
Myanna Nielsen - Board Member

Above: Karuk Tribal member Rony Reed on a burn during the 2016 Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, TREX.
Pacific Giant Salamanders are indicators of the health of our ecosystems.

What befalls these creatures befalls all of us.

MKWC is listening to what these species are telling us, striving to take better care of the place we all call home. Visit us online at www.mkwc.org or call us at (530) 627-3202