

2005  
Mid Klamath Watershed Council  
Annual Report to the Board

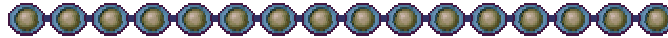


August 23, 2005



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# Strategic Plan 2003-2008

## Mission

The mission of the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council is to promote watershed restoration and active participation in restoration by coordinating education on resource issues, encouraging communication among the community, tribes, and other resource management agencies, and creating local economic opportunities by planning and implementing restoration projects

## Vision

We envision the diverse communities of the Klamath Basin working together to restore our watershed resources to their historic abundance and function, so that our children and our children's children will have the opportunity to stay and create sustainable livelihoods.

## Goals

1. Increase awareness and understanding of Klamath River issues, locally and nationally, through education.
2. Identify and facilitate restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Mid-Klamath watershed, including aquatic, riparian and upslope conditions.
3. Facilitate coordinated involvement in regional land management amongst diverse stakeholders
4. Promote community stability by encouraging cultural and economic activities that further the sustained productivity of our watershed resources.
5. Provide community fire safety.

## Objectives

### *Goal 1 Objectives:*

- A. Coordinate and host educational workshops, fieldtrips, and activities.
- B. Provide volunteer support to local watershed education programs
- C. Produce and distribute a biannual newsletter to watershed residents containing information about a variety of issues relevant to the Mid-Klamath watershed and the work of MKWC.
- D. Produce and distribute educational brochures, materials and flyers.
- E. Develop and promote the MKWC website
- F. Establish a partnership with the Klamath-Salmon Natural History Library by:
  - a. Collecting and providing information resources to the public via the library interface
  - b. Providing volunteer support for library programs and services
- G. Participate in a cooperative academic outreach program by:
  - a. providing logistical and intellectual resources for academic researchers
  - b. informing researchers of the availability of those resources
- H. Run a watershed center / public office where people can come to get information
- I. Provide money for outside workshop attendance for educational purposes
- J. Coordinate community presentations by regional professionals
- K. Develop a partnership with the Collaborative Learning Circle
- L. Network with other watershed groups
- M. Prepare and distribute material for local and national media

### *Goal 2 Objectives:*

- A. Facilitate the creation of quality watershed restoration planning documents
- B. Provide comments for documents developed by other groups, agencies/entities
- C. Develop partnerships with other groups and agencies.
- D. Implement restoration projects regarding:
  - a. Noxious weeds
  - b. Fish and water
  - c. Roads
  - d. Wildlife
  - e. Native vegetation restoration/native diversity
  - f. Geology/hydrology/geomorphology
  - g. Water quality

### *Goal 3 Objectives:*

- A. Host / Coordinate / Provide facilities for public meetings about watershed management issue
- B. Identify partners
- C. Address upper/lower basin split by educational exchanges
- D. Facilitate dialog amongst stakeholders
- E. Recruit members and reps of stakeholder groups to MKWC events
- F. Recruit regional facilitators
- G. Academic outreach program

### *Goal 4 Objectives:*

- A. Secure funding for programs and projects that will provide new living-wage jobs for local residents
- B. Provide information resources
- C. Provide internet facilities
- D. Promote arts events that relate to watershed issues
- E. Partner with other local groups to raise funds for community needs
- F. Promote and provide opportunities for job skills development



## Status Report

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) has been actively planning, coordinating and implementing restoration projects in the subbasin since May 2001. Focusing on projects that directly benefit our anadromous fisheries resource, we utilize grant funding combined with community and stakeholder volunteers to implement practical, hands-on restoration projects while educating participants on restoration techniques and stewardship principles. To date, we have received 30 grants totaling more than \$998,775 and coordinated 70 workdays and educational events in the subbasin, totaling 4500 hours of community volunteerism.

### These projects include:

- Annual opening and enhancing critical cold water refugia on Mid Klamath tributaries (volunteer workdays at Ti, Sandy Bar, Stanshaw, Rodgers, Camp, Slate, etc.): 2002-present
- Fish Rescue from dewatered side channels (volunteer in coordination with the Karuk Tribe and the USFS fish biologists): 2002-present

- Educating landowners about water conservation techniques (four workshops in Happy Camp, Orleans, Somes Bar, and Forks of Salmon – USFWS grant): 2003-present
- Coordinating educational symposia, workshops and workdays (Roads Restoration, Riparian Planting, Native Plant Propagation and Planting, Noxious Weed Monitoring and Removal, Fuel Reduction, Water Conservation, etc.): 2001-present
- Coordinating riparian plantings in the Fall and Spring (volunteer workdays at Rodgers Creek Culvert, Merrill Creek, Karuk Native Plant Demonstration Garden, etc): 2003-present
- Monitoring stream flows, performing temperature and water quality tasks (volunteer in conjunction with Karuk Fisheries): 2001- present
- Educating fishermen on DFG regulations (posted annually at all major fishing holes): 2004-present
- Invasive species monitoring and abatement (five grants totaling over \$120,000): 2002-present
- Educational Video Production (three grants for \$18,000 producing videos on Fish ID, juvenile fish health, green sturgeon, etc): 2003-present
- Protecting and enhancing riparian habitats (fuel reduction, volunteer riparian planting): 2001-present
- Identifying anadromous fish barriers (volunteer video surveys): Winters 2001-present
- Coordination and participation in Winter Steelhead and Fall Chinook Carcass surveys (volunteer in coordination with the Karuk Tribe, USFS, DFG, and SRRC): 2001-present
- Providing information on critical resource issues in a timely manner to the community (newsletter, monthly meetings, email listserv, flyers): 2001-present
- Providing grant writing and GIS map-making services to landowners interested in submitting restoration projects (Stanshaw Creek Water Conservation Project, NRCS EQIP projects): 2001-present
- Quarterly newsletter (2500 copies distributed quarterly throughout the subbasin): 2002-present
- Fuels reduction projects (14 grants totaling over \$900,000 and treating over 550 acres to date)
- Annual river cleanup on Klamath and lower Salmon Rivers: 2001-present
- Fish Kill Response and Monitoring: 2002-present
- History CD collection of over 600 historical photographs dating from 1870's to 1970's: 2002
- Housing and managing the Klamath-Salmon Natural History Library, a lending library comprised of over 140 volumes covering natural history topics and resource management issues: 2003-present

Monthly meetings focused on information sharing and planning restoration projects, are invaluable in performing our mission goals. These meetings include information from local fishermen, Department of Fish and Game, the Forest Service, and Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists and area residents.

MKWC participants consist of a wide range of community members and interests. These include: fishing and rafting guides, fishermen, farmers, teachers, foresters, private landowners, water quality technicians, grant writers, fisheries biologists, facilitators, tribal and agency personnel, and others. We are permanent residents

of the area and have an understanding of the politics surrounding resource issues here. Many MKWC participants are lifetime residents, and know how to work with neighbors and individuals in the community who are hesitant to participate in government programs and programs with a restoration focus. MKWC members continue to work cooperatively with reluctant landowners to get them involved in restoration projects.

We work closely with the Karuk Tribe's Department of Natural Resources Subbasin Restoration Coordinator to develop the Mid-Klamath Subbasin Fisheries Restoration Strategy. We are conducting outreach to residents from Weitchpec to Interstate-5 in regards to fisheries restoration opportunities, including road decommissioning and/or stabilization, riparian habitat fencing and restoration, manual invasive species abatement, mitigating impacts of stream diversions, and other projects.

We feel the best way to coordinate restoration projects in the Mid-Klamath Subbasin is to establish relationships with landowners on issues they can agree with and use this common ground to build up to future restoration projects. Funding from this grant would facilitate this process and increase the effectiveness of our volunteer efforts.



## Office Report

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) was created in June of 2004. MKWC is organized as a non-profit organization with 501 (c)(3) status. The Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (OSB FSC) was created as a partnership in May of 2001. With approved non-profit status the Mid Klamath Watershed Council may now act as the fiscal sponsor of OSB FSC projects. In 2005 the MKWC became the sole entity to administer OSB FSC and MKWC grants.

Maintaining cash flow for a grant funded organization and proper grant tracking are important daily tasks for our office. In the past year we have developed a bookkeeping structure to keep pace with the growth of MKWC. We are currently using QuickBooks for Nonprofits and developing a comprehensive database using Microsoft Access. The Salmon River Restoration Council's help and technical support have been priceless.

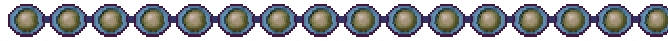
Obtaining more office space, improving our office technology and filing systems, and making our resources more available to the public are important goals for the future of the MKWC office.



## Fiscal Report

To date the Mid Klamath Watershed Council and the Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council have received cash funding totaling \$998,776.76 from grants, contracts and donations. We are currently operating 14 grants under agreements from eight entities. Income in 2005 to date totals \$108,694.38. Of this \$76,467.35 was paid locally for contract services and \$27,941.68 for payroll. This year we have employed ten community members part time.

Since its inception the MKWC and the OSB FSC have received commitments for \$494,774 from the United States Forest Service. We have received commitments for \$203,983.05 from the Bureau of Land Management, \$60,879 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$34,931 from the California Department of Fish and Game, \$54,000 from Wildland Urban Interface grants, \$79,473 from the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Council, \$15,000 from Humboldt County, \$22,000 in Weed Management Area grants, \$16,000 from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, \$11,000 from an anonymous private foundation and \$6749.60 from the Karuk Tribe of California. We are thankful and fortunate for the past, present and future support of these groups and agencies.



## Program Reports

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council supports a variety of programs that, while diverse, serve to reinforce the organization's vision and mission.

### Fisheries and Habitat Enhancement

Each summer MKWC volunteers cooperate with the Karuk Tribal Fisheries Program to observe and enhance, when needed, thermal refugia areas and creek mouth access for salmon and steelhead. At the mouths of certain Klamath River tributaries, when water is at summer time lows, the entering water channel has widened and warmed to the detriment of what is otherwise important refuge for fish traveling upstream. Volunteers, under the leadership of fish biologist experts, move rocks and materials to channelize and cool the water entering the river. In 2004, a group of 12 volunteers spent a day at this activity with good results. Inventory a month later at Ti Creek showed fish numbers had increased from 50-100 to 500-600. Plans are now underway for a summer 2005 workday of this type.

Each fall, MKWC volunteers participate in the collaborative "fish counts" on the Klamath tributaries. They work with the Salmon River Restoration Council, Cal Dept. of Fish and Game, the USFS, the Karuk and Yurok Tribes, and local school children to collect data on spawning Salmon. In 2004 MKWC volunteers assisted with the Fish Count Training at the start of the season and then joined the fish crew at the Orleans Ranger District for several days of volunteer work.

This year MKWC also developed, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Game, fishing regulation posters and cooperated with the Forest Service in posting them at river access points and Forest Service kiosks in order to encourage compliance with fishing regulations.



### The Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council



The Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council is a local chapter of the California Fire Safe Council. Established in 2001, the mission of the OSB FSC is to help plan, implement and monitor the reinstatement of historic fire regimes, primarily through strategic fuels reduction, in a manner that protects life, property, improves forest health, and enhances the resources valued by its stakeholders. Since the beginning of the OSB FSC, \$861,448 in grants have been committed to on-the-ground and planning work. At least another \$314,000 has been contributed through volunteer efforts. Fuels have been reduced on approximately 660 acres of private land in the Orleans and Somes Bar area. Currently, the OSB FSC is managing 6 grants directly related to fuels reduction work, including 130 acres of prescribed burning. This is the first year that the OSB FSC has been funded to do prescribed burning work. Current grants also include a Humboldt County grant aimed at creating an Emergency Response Book in coordination with the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department. Throughout the year, the OSB FSC has hosted several volunteer workdays to reduce fuel hazards around homes, burn debris left over from fuels reduction work, conduct prescribed burns and remove noxious weeds.

### Water Conservation

Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) is implementing a two-year program funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service aimed at improving water efficiency and road maintenance in the Mid Klamath Subbasin. Since June of 2004 MKWC has taught three workshops on Drip Irrigation & Water Efficiency. Four drip irrigation systems have been installed in prominent public areas (Forks of Salmon Elementary School, Somes

Bar Store, Klamath Knot Arts Council, and Happy Camp Community Garden) and several workshop participants have installed their own home drip irrigation systems. MKWC has gathered, reviewed and edited several educational materials on water efficiency and roads maintenance for distribution in our area, including: *Drip Irrigation Design*, *Safe Roads*, and Water Education Foundation Publications (including the Water Conservation Tipsheet, Water Facts brochure, Landscape Design Brochure, and Drought Survival Kit). MKWC has also prepared a native plant guide that lists which plants are drought tolerant and fire resistant as well as plant species that gardeners should avoid due to their flammability and/or invasiveness. Another role of MKWC has been to outreach to private landowners about EQIP ( A Natural Resources Conservation Service program) grants.

## Native Plants

MKWC is dedicated to educating about and advocating for the use of native plants. Native plants are often both water conserving and fire resistant, as well as offering competition to invasive weeds. In these ways, our native plant program compliments many of our other programs.

In April of 2005, MKWC co-sponsored with the Karuk Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) a workshop entitled *Native Plants for Restoration and Landscape.* More than 40 community members attended this event, which was held at the Karuk community center. Participants learned about current and past restoration projects and the role native plants have played in them. They also learned propagation techniques, seed and plant sources. Nursery owners and restorationists were enthused to network and share information. This workshop was the beginning of a series of workshops to be held over the next two years. The series of workshops will occur in concert with the development of the new *Native Plant Demonstration Garden* (official name still to be decided) at a site behind the Karuk Community Center. This project is a cooperative venture involving the Karuk DNR, the Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers and MKWC. The goals and objectives for the project include: education regarding native plants, their names, traditional uses, etc.; education re traditional management of specific plants; providing a venue for native plant research; providing a friendly and beautiful environment for use by community members, visitors, etc. This project is still in its developmental stage, and will require the input and involvement of many.

This year the OSB FSC also sponsored a non-timber forest products workshop where participants learned about the local non-timber forest product industry, sudden oak death, basket materials and community perspectives on non-timber forest product harvesting.

## Noxious Weeds

This is the fifth year that MKWC has coordinated a noxious weeds program. Previous projects have focused on inventory, mapping, and removal of Spotted knapweed, Leafy spurge, Milk thistle, and Squarrose knapweed. Other satellite/leading edge species including Dyer's woad, Yellow starthistle, and Broom species have been included in past projects, which have been funded by Humboldt County's Weed Management Area (WMA) program and Siskiyou County's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).

This year MKWC was granted just over \$10,000 from the WMA program, funded through the California Department of Food and Agriculture, for a project entitled: *Management of Meadow Knapweed: leading edge and satellite populations in Humboldt County.* Meadow Knapweed is an A-rated invasive in Oregon and is beginning to make inroads in California. As a relatively new arrival in this subbasin, this is seen as an excellent opportunity to establish control before it is too late. This project is in coordination with Cal Trans, the USFS Six Rivers District, and the Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

Beginning in June 05, a crew has been working toward eradicating this plant in the Weitchpec area, on roadside easements and private lands. Methods have included weedwacking, hoeing, handpulling, digging, and applying weed fabric. The project spans two years so work will be repeated in the summer of 2006. Inventories and pre-treatment monitoring have been accomplished and will continue throughout the next year.

As work has progressed, the wider extent of this species has been noted. Continued and increased funding will be imperative in the next few years.

MKWC does other noxious weed work throughout the year on a volunteer basis. MKWC volunteers monitor ten Spotted Knapweed sites on a regular basis. In coordination with the Salmon River Restoration Council, volunteers have floated the lower Salmon River each year to pull Spotted Knapweed on the river bars. In May, MKWC joined the Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers to pull Scotch Broom along Hwy 96 on a volunteer workday. Other workdays this last year had volunteers inventorying and removing Marlahan Mustard along Ishi Pishi Road. Staff has also created flyers to help people identify Scotch Broom and encourage it's removal.

## Klamath-Salmon Natural History Library

The MKWC office serves as the location of the Klamath Salmon Natural History Library (KSNHL). Established in 2002, the library is a developing information resource in the Klamath River Watershed. The library serves as a technical resource to individuals and organizations actively researching and implementing projects in the Klamath region both through its physical location and website ([klamathsalmonlibrary.org](http://klamathsalmonlibrary.org)). It also serves as a general resource for independent learning (or both adults and children) and community programs, to enhance knowledge and enjoyment of the area. Major subject areas are: cultural resources, fisheries and aquatic resources, fire management, vegetation, geology, wildlife, and other topics. These subject areas were determined to be priorities for the collection based on a formal user needs analysis.





## Media and Video Projects







MKWC is a collaborative member and fiscal sponsor of the Klamath-Salmon Media Collaborative (KSMC). Established in 2003, KSMC works on video, radio and newsprint media projects. This year, video projects include: *Salmon on the Backs of Buffalo*, *Shake your Oncorhynchus*, fish identification video for annual fish counts, and green sturgeon and spring Chinook underwater video. They also provided production assistance for the radio project "Dying for Water" and quarterly newspaper "The Black Oak." KSMC has also played a substantial role in distributing video footage for international media coverage of the Scottish Power Shareholders Meeting and Klamath dam re-licensing process.

MKWC also produces a quarterly newsletter and maintains a website, both funded by the Department of Fish and Game, that encompass the diverse interests in the mid Klamath Subbasin and the vision of MKWC. MKWC established the website in the spring of 2004. Both forms of media are a way that MKWC uses to connect with the public and keep local and bioregional stakeholders up-to-date on activities around the Subbasin.

## Watershed Education

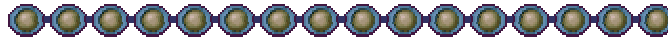
This past year MKWC participated in:

-  *Fish Count Training* at Oak Bottom Campground
-  *Forks of Salmon Watershed Education Fair* - assisted with the Fish Dissection station and a Shoots and Ladders Fish game.
-  *Hoopa Fish Fair* - presented on Klamath River birds.
-  *Salmon Relay Run* in conjunction with the Hoopa Elementary Fish Fair with a goal to "unite the communities affected by the lack of water in our rivers and the fish kill; raise consciousness of the impacts to our people's well-being, health, and culture; and bring attention to the need for more water in our rivers to help ensure there won't be a repeat of 2002's catastrophic fish kill".

-  Through the spring school semester, MKWC staff teamed up with the Watershed Education Coordinator for the Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources, to teach watershed education at *Orleans Elementary School* and *Orleans Community Garden*.
-  *Stream Ecology Field Trip*: Fourth Graders from Happy Camp set up a water velocity and turbidity station
-  *Salmon Camp* - presented on fish biology and habitat to a group of 15 high school students
-  *Riparian Challenge*, an Americorps Program presented to the local elementary schools
-  *Native Plants for Restoration and Landscape* workshop (see Native Plants Program report)
-  Other Educational Activities included a *Watershed Restoration Review* workshop and field trip on Road Decommissioning (see description below)

#### *Watershed Restoration Review* - Presentation and Field Trip to Road Decommissioning Project

Watershed restoration in this bioregion must often focus on roads. Roads are a major contributor to soil erosion and detrimental water quality. The Orleans Ranger District and the Karuk Tribe have been and are currently involved in road decommissioning projects, road surveys and monitoring. MKWC recognizes the need for facilitating dialogue between the community and agencies with regard to decommissioning roads. In the fall of 2004 MKWC joined its partners in sponsoring a workshop highlighting FS road 12N08, a cooperative road decommissioning project going on at the time. Organizations cosponsoring the event were the Salmon River Restoration Council, the Karuk Tribe, Orleans Ranger District of USFS, the Klamath Salmon Anglers and Guides Association, and California Department of Fish and Game. Other agencies represented were US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, North Coast Water Quality Board, Klamath Forest Alliance. Many of the 25 participants had some previous experience with road decommissioning, so the discussions were informed and beneficial. MKWC hosts events which promote communication and collaboration in the work of restoration.



## Staff Biographies



**Will Harling**  
**Program Coordinator**

Along with several other community members, Will helped jumpstart MKWC in 2001 by organizing community volunteer workshops and workdays, writing grants, creating MKWC PowerPoint presentations, posters and brochures, keeping the books, and documenting MKWC projects with video and photos. Currently, Will helps manage MKWC and FSC grants, identifies and develops new MKWC projects, organizes volunteer workshops and workdays, and does community outreach. Will also works for the Karuk Tribe as the Mid Klamath Subbasin Planner coordinating restoration projects and restoration planning throughout the subbasin. When Will is not in the office, he is raising his son, Owen, now 16 months old, and collecting underwater video of Klamath River fishes.



**Nancy Bailey**  
**Project Coordinator**

Nancy began working for the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council in January 2004. Her job history of work in the woods and biological surveys prepared her for field and planning work related to the implementation of fuels reduction projects. She is developing the photo monitoring protocol and handles crew communications for OSB FSC. Nancy enjoys working for MKWC in a variety of roles. She is refining her skills as an organizer, of workshops, volunteer workdays, and other events. Her involvement in MKWC has been of utmost importance in her readjustment to this country after returning in 2003 from a Peace Corps stint in southern Africa.



**Michael Stearns**  
**Office Administrator**

Michael Stearns began doing volunteer bookkeeping for the Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council shortly after its beginning. Since June of 2004 he has worked in the MKWC office as a bookkeeper, administrator, janitor and other tasks too tawdry to mention. A former school administrator, Michael strives to make the MKWC office an efficient and pleasant place to work. When he is not navigating the vast world of the grant funded non-profit Michael can be found bicycling, skiing, fly fishing and maintaining a small nursery business.



**Luna Latimer**  
**Project Coordinator**

Luna came to work at the FSC in June 2004 as a graduate student at Oregon State University researching fuels reduction projects. She now helps write and manage MKWC and FSC grants, provides community outreach, and her current projects include the Orleans/Somes Bar Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Emergency Response Book in coordination with the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department.



**Ben Riggan**  
**Project Coordinator**

Ben came to Orleans areas having worked at the Salmon River Restoration Council. He brought his inspiration for weed, fuel and fishery management to the Orleans and Somes Bar area. Ben is currently working for the Karuk Community Development Corporation in Happy Camp. Land stewardship and community involvement are Ben's passions. He strives to create community based resource management that supports sustainable economy and insures the integrity of our homes, communities and watersheds. When he isn't working, he raises his two daughters, Celeste and Teva.



**Jenny Smith**  
**Noxious Weed Manager**

Jenny has been involved in MKWC's noxious weed program for three years, since she moved to the Weitchpec area where significant weed populations have been discovered. This year Jenny began a role as a supervisor in the weed management program. She now leads the crew, fulfills monitoring tasks and helps complete grant reports. Jenny also raises two sons, Ezra and Silas whom she is already training to be able to identify weeds.



**Shawn Borque**  
**Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative**

Shawn became the Media Coordinator for KSMC in July 2005. Since then he has been active in environmental and social justice issues on the Klamath River and is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the Klamath Forest Alliance. He assisted in the production of *Salmon on the Backs of Buffalo*, Co-Produced *Salmon River: Logging, Fire & Fish*, Produced *Shake Your Oncorhynchus: Klamath River Anadromous Fisheries*, and co-founded and edits *The Black Oak*. Currently, his projects include a video on Spring Chinook, a video and radio program on indigenous traditional management, and a multi-media webpage that posts local news.



**Adrienne Storey Harling**  
**Klamath Salmon Natural History Library**

Adrienne has been involved with MKWC since its inception and was central in MKWC's first strategic planning effort. Passionate about library and information sciences, she spearheaded the Klamath Salmon Natural History Library in 2002. She operates the library website and physical library, is a full time mom and student studying library science.



**David McNeil**  
**Fisheries Program**

David started working for MKWC in 2003 after being involved in local fisheries efforts since 2000. David writes grants, staffs the office and volunteers his time for water quality and fisheries enhancement projects. In the future, MKWC hopes to see David instrumental in developing the fisheries program for MKWC as well as serving as a liaison to other fishery restoration programs in the area.