



RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Striving to Protect and Restore the Russian River Watershed

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What is the Russian River Watershed Council Up To?

The Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) established in 1998, was originally created under the auspices of the Army Corps of Engineers and the State Resources Agency to provide stakeholder input to the Army Corps through the development of a watershed management plan for the Russian River. Our mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed through a community-based process, which facilitates communication and collaboration among all interested parties.

Over the last 6 years, our special partnership with the Army Corps has provided an avenue for interested stakeholders to play a role in watershed management decisions. We have also produced several impressive products through collaborative partnerships, including the Plan of Action, Watershed Management Plan Scope of Work, and Russian River Interactive Information System.

Now, in 2005, the success in achieving our original mission with the Army Corps has brought us to our next stage of organizational development. While we will maintain a meeting ground for diverse stakeholders and a forum for community involvement in the development of the management plan, we are refocusing our efforts in order to play a



more active role in watershed protection and restoration.

With recent success in securing funding to support our new organizational direction, we will be focusing on capacity building and a public outreach campaign. The capacity building project will supply the necessary organizational development assistance to transition from an advisory body, to a self-sustaining organization with clear organizational direction and capacity to better enhance the Russian River watershed. The development and implementation of a public outreach campaign will utilize multiple approaches to more closely link the community with their watershed.

This is an exciting time for the Russian River Watershed Council and our watershed. We invite you to stay involved. For more information on upcoming meetings, events, or progress on our projects please visit us online at www.RRWC.net.

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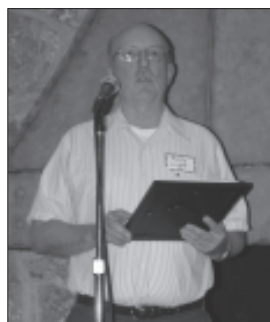
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Watershed Stewardship Award Winners

The Russian River watershed is lucky to have people who are actively working to improve our watershed. The Russian River Watershed Council recently honored several good stewards at the first annual Watershed Stewardship Celebration.

Rudolph Light received the John Wesley Powell Stewardship Award for multiple improvement projects on the Light Ranch in Redwood Valley including riparian fencing, riparian restoration, sediment reduction on roads and native upland plantings through a collaborative partnership.

Karen Rippey of the Army Corps of Engineers received the Agency Award in recognition of their long-term partnership and continued support for the Russian River Watershed Council.



J.W. Powell Stewardship Award recipient, Rudolph Light.

Brenda Adelman was honored for her lifetime commitment to improving the health of the watershed and providing leadership that has had a lasting effect, by receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Kay McCabe received the Mover of the Mover & Shaker Award for taking an active role in water resource protection and working to connect the general public to with their watershed.

Brock Dolman was recognized for his success in taking political action to ensure the protection and restoration of the Russian River watershed, by receiving the Shaker of the Mover & Shaker Award.

Congratulations to the 2005 Stewardship Award winners and keep up the good work!



Russian River Watershed Council Mission Statement

To protect, restore and enhance the biological health of the Russian River and its watershed through a community-based process, which facilitates communication and collaboration among all interested parties.

Watershed Management Plan for the Russian River

The Russian River is one of our most precious resources. The river fulfills many important demands, but without careful management the demands can quickly outweigh the supply and damage this critical resource.

In 1998, the Russian River ranked in the highest category of impairment in the California Unified Watershed Assessment, which triggered the Army Corps of Engineers to take action to prevent further degradation. The Russian River Watershed Council was established as a community advisory group and worked with the Corps to develop a Plan of Action and Scope of Work for a Watershed Management Plan.

The Watershed Management Plan (WMP) will be a tool to help local decision makers and managers to minimize impacts and have a road map for making watershed improvements. The WMP will evaluate water quality, water quantity and the physical, hydrologic, and biologic health and functions of the watershed. The plan will provide measurable goals and recommendations for watershed restoration, protection, and management.

Work began on the Watershed Management Plan early this summer, with the Engineer Research and Development Center out of Mississippi hired to conduct a baseline watershed assessment. The assessment will compile existing watershed data and information from multiple agencies and other appropriate sources. This will provide the scientific basis for identifying restoration and protection potential and set the foundation for the plan. The baseline watershed assessment is scheduled for completion in 2006 with the final plan completed in 2009.

The Russian River Watershed Council is excited to finally see the plan being developed and is actively participating by providing a forum for community involvement in this planning process and sitting on a technical advisory committee along with multiple technical experts representing several agencies. The Council is also working to secure additional funds for the plan and perform public outreach.

For more information about the management plan visit our website at www.RRWC.net.



Watershed Profile

The Russian River Watershed encompasses 1,500 square miles of forests, agricultural lands, and urban areas within Sonoma and Mendocino Counties with 95% of the watershed in private ownership. The mainstem of the Russian River is about 110 miles long flowing from its headwaters near Redwood and Potter Valleys into the Pacific Ocean near the town of Jenner on the Sonoma Coast.

The Russian River is a vital resource in Northern California providing water for residential and agricultural use, a popular summer vacation destination, multiple recreation opportunities, critical habitat for three endangered salmonid species, and habitat for an abundance of other aquatic species.

Russian River Facts

- Supplies drinking water to over 500,000 area residents in Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties
- Is one of the most heavily used rivers for canoeing in the nation during the summer months
- Five principal tributaries: the East Fork of the Russian River, Big Sulphur Creek, Mark West Creek, Maacama Creek, and Dry Creek
- Is home to thirty-four species of fish, including steelhead trout, striped bass, American shad, and coho and chinook salmon



Russian River Interactive Information System (RRIS)

RRIS is a publicly accessible interactive digital library housing a growing wealth of watershed information, communication tools for watershed groups, educational resources, GIS data, and mapping tools. RRIS offers those working to protect and restore the Russian River watershed the tools and resources for enhancing community-based watershed efforts.

Major components of RRIS include:

- **Communication Manager** – Groups can keep their members informed of new information via automatic email notification, and control who has access to documents with the built-in user/group permissions system.
- **Digital Library** – The digital library is a dynamic resource of watershed-related information. Site users can search for and retrieve documents, and authorized users can upload digital files for their group or for the entire RRIS community.
- **Calendar Tool** – Online calendar allows users and groups to post, track, and stay informed of public and group events. Built-in email RSVP feature allows for easy notification of participants.
- **Online Mapping Tool** – Interactive ArcIMS-based mapping tool provides easy custom viewing of the watershed's GIS data layers.

RRIS was developed in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, California Resources Agency and Development Team, Circuit Rider Productions, Inc., University of California Integrated Hardwoods Range Management Program, and Moore Iacogano Goltsman, Inc.

Check out RRIS at www.RussianRiverWatershed.net.

Get Involved in RRWC

The RRWC encourages watershed residents to get involved and support local watershed efforts. Please contact us for help connecting with a workgroup or volunteer position of your interest.

- **Attend a Meeting** – Meetings are primarily held in Cloverdale and occur bi-monthly. Meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted at www.RRWC.net.
- **Join a Workgroup** – There are several active workgroups working on a variety of watershed projects. Contact the Watershed Coordinator for help connecting with a workgroup of your interest.
- **Become a Volunteer** – RRWC has a number of volunteer opportunities including, administrative, outreach, fundraising, and more. Contact the Watershed Coordinator for help connecting with a volunteer position of your interest.
- **Make a Contribution** – Help us protect and restore the Russian River watershed by making a contribution to the Rose Foundation for benefit of the Russian River Watershed Council.

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

The Russian River Watershed Council is looking for a motivated individual to fill the Volunteer Coordinator position. This important position will assist the RRWC Coordinator perform administrative and coordination functions.

Time Commitment: 10-15 hours per month, including regular attendance at monthly evening and bi-monthly weekend meetings. A commitment through at least March 2006 preferred.

Travel: Minimal travel may be requested

Workspace: Must have access to own workspace including, phone, Internet, computer, and printer.

Major Duties: 1) To assist with meeting logistics and general administration related to bi-monthly RRWC Council meetings (this includes a primary focus on meeting minutes) and monthly Steering Committee meetings; 2) Assist in executing a public outreach campaign including maintaining a mailing database, distributing informational materials, outreach presentations, and event planning; 3) Update current website by redesigning layout, improving overall aesthetic appeal, and updating web content.

Contact: Michelle LeBeau, RRWC Coordinator
Telephone: 707- 972-7776 • Email: steward@rrwc.net

Meet Our Steering Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2005 Steering Committee members and Officers. Accomplishing our mission would not be possible without the dedication of these individuals.

RRWC welcomes the new 2006 Steering Committee and Officers.

Jerome Dix – Interim President
Tim Buckner – Vice President
Scot Stegeman – Secretary
Colleen Fernald - Treasurer
Bob Anderson
Kathy Hayes
Curtis Kendall
Bob Rawson

Alternate Members:

Chuck Conner
Dennis Murphy
Johanna Vanoni
Jim Nosera
Rusty Klassen



P.O. Box 3908
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Phone: (707) 972-7776
Email: Steward@RRWC.net
Web: www.RRWC.net



Local Watershed Groups

There are several sub watershed groups within the Russian River Watershed actively working to improve their community by planting trees, restoring creeks, and educating their neighbors. Use the information below to find out how you can get involved at the local level.

Atascadero and Green Valley Creek Watershed Council

www.atascaderogreenvalleywatershed.net
(707) 824-1525

Blucher Creek Watershed Group

www.bluchercreek.org
(707) 829-1452

Cotati Creek Critters

www.CotatiCreekCritters.info
(707) 792-4422

Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group

(707) 874-1504



Russian River Watershed Council
P.O. Box 3908, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Return Service Requested

Being Water Wise at Home, in the Garden, and at Work

The first step to being water wise is knowing how much water your household is consuming. Refer to your water bill or meter for usage, then use the below tips to conserve water.



At Home:

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Don't let water run while shaving, brushing teeth or rinsing dishes.
- Replace high-water-using toilets with the new 1.6-gallon per flush toilets.
- When replacing your old washer, purchase an energy and water saver washing machine which use 40% less water.

In the Garden:

- Install a rainwater catchment system for watering lawn and garden.
- Water early in the morning, avoid watering during the heat of the day when water evaporates more quickly, or when it's windy. Sprinkler systems with automatic timers should be set to water before 6 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
- Install a drip irrigation system for shrubs, vegetable gardens, flower beds or pots and save up to 50% in outside water use.
- Apply three inches of mulch around the base of plants to retain moisture and prevent evaporation.
- Avoid excess watering, this allows water to run-off the landscaped area or allows the ground to become super saturated.



At Work:

- Apply the same water conservation practices at work as you do at home, even when someone else is footing the bill.
- Report water losses such as broken pipes, overflowing toilets, leaky faucets, broken sprinklers to the appropriate maintenance authority.