



# Shasta Valley RCD NEWS

November 2020

## Board of Directors

Ryan Walker,  
Board President

William Hirt,  
Board Member

Chris Robertson,  
Board Member

Vacant

Vacant



Rich Klug

## Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association

### Lyndsey Lascheck

The Shasta Valley RCD is working with local partners to develop the Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association. The mission of the Siskiyou PBA is to engage landowners, tribes, and local organizations and agencies to work together to safely conduct burns in the interest of restoring historic roles of fire, using fire as a management tool and reducing wildfire hazard to our communities and watersheds throughout the diverse fire-adapted landscapes of Siskiyou County.

The RCD is collaborating with the Scott River Watershed Council, Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council to form the Siskiyou PBA. In addition,



the Siskiyou PBA is coordinating with CALFIRE, local Fire Departments and Fire Safe Councils to plan prescribed burns on private lands throughout the County. This project is part of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, funded with California Climate Investments funds granted by the California Natural Resources Agency to

the North Coast Resource Partnership.

Throughout history, these fires were sparked by lightning in summer thunder storms and by the Native Peoples who lived with this land before colonizers arrived. Local tribes tended fire on these landscapes to cultivate their foods, medicines, and promote their hunting grounds, among many other uses. Even early settlers lit fires to maintain grazing lands and hunting grounds.

The exclusion of the historic fire cycle over the past century has resulted in a buildup of high fuel loads, the decline of diverse fire-adapted species, the degradation of our indigenous cultures and a dramatic

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## Board Changes and Vacancies

This fall we say good bye and a big **THANK YOU** to **Rich Klug**. Serving on our Board since 2013, Rich has been instrumental in the initiation and development of our Forestry and Fire Management Program. Stay in touch Rich, and the best of luck to you in your future endeavors.

His departure leaves The Shasta Valley RCD with 2 vacancies on our Board of Directors. We are actively looking for 2 interested citizens to help direct our activities. Ideally a candidate would have practical experience in some natural resources area of expertise

and own property in our service area. For more information and a detailed description of the positions, please contact the SVRCD. Board members serve in a public capacity and the Board is subject to the Brown Act as the SVRCD is a local governmental agency.

# Parks Creek Fish Passage Completed

**Mike Riney, District Manager**

The Shasta Valley RCD successfully completed the Parks Creek Fish

Barrier Removal Project in 2020. This took more than six years to complete from inception to design/planning to construction, encountering numerous hurdles and delays along the way.

adjacent landowners, funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, CalTrans and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and assistance from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the SVRCD successfully removed a fish passage (jump-height) barrier that opens up passage for salmon to access more than five miles of habitat. Project designs and construction were completed by Cascade Stream Solutions and North Rivers Construction, two local contractors who have proven time and again to be some of the best in the business.

channel with engineered V-shaped weirs constructed of large boulders engineered to withstand high-flow flood events that rip through the narrow *pinch point* created when the overpass was constructed. We hope that this project, along with other fish passage, habitat improvement and water conservation projects currently underway, will drastically improve and create access to prime salmonid spawning and rearing habitat on this very important tributary. Thank you to all the landowners, agencies and contractors who collaborated through the years to get this project done.



**North Rivers Construction placing boulders with Hwy 15 in the background**

With enthusiastic cooperation and land access permissions from the

Design aspects included a nearly 240-foot-long roughened

## Siskiyou PBA

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increase in cataclysmic wildfires.

Prescribed fire, sometimes referred to as controlled burning or broadcast burning, is a planned burn that can be used as a land management tool to meet a variety of benefits. Effective prescribed fire treatments have proven to limit wildfire size and intensity, which reduces the emissions of wildfire smoke, preserves critical wildlife habitat and protects healthy forests and communities

The Siskiyou PBA aims to be a community led, collaborative group that plans and implements prescribed burns to promote wildfire resiliency, sustainable forest and rangeland management and watershed level ecological restoration. We are working to plan a couple of small demonstration burns to be completed before next summer to serve

as the training ground for local residents to gain first-hand experience with prescribed fire application.

With the efforts of the Siskiyou PBA we hope to empower our local community to safely use fire again, renewing a healthy relationship with fire and giving fire back to the people.

More information about California PBA's can be found at [calpba.org](http://calpba.org). If you are interested in learning more or joining the Siskiyou PBA, please contact Lyndsey Lascheck at [LLascheck@SVRCD.org](mailto:LLascheck@SVRCD.org).

Lyndsey Lascheck, SVRCD Forestry and Fuels Project Manager

*Effective prescribed fire treatments have proven to limit wildfire size and intensity,*



**Lyndsey helping with a prescribed burn**

# Piezometers

**Ethan Brown**  
**Brandy Caporaso**

Shasta Valley is home to three new shallow piezometer transects. One transect is located on the Little Shasta River and two are on the main stem of the Shasta River. Working with willing landowners to establish piezometer locations, the data collected will help inform the Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) on the possible interactions between surface water and groundwater.

These key areas will allow the GSA to better understand the reaches of surface water that are increasing or decreasing in flow due to a change in

groundwater levels. In addition the data will help refine the groundwater model and begin to identify management opportunities such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) that will be vital to stakeholders and resource managers. This may play an important role in sustaining late season in-stream flows and cooler temperatures by exploiting these connections with targeted management practices.

The transects are comprised of 12 monitoring wells at a depth of no more than 30' with pressure transducers installed to record the depth of water from ground level. They were installed at the end of April and

began collecting data at the beginning of May. SVRCD worked closely with Larry Walker Associates and Davids Engineering to determine locations of the transects and installing the wells and monitoring equipment. The

initial data from the study will be available at the November Groundwater Advisory Committee meeting.



**Drilling a piezometer well**

*A shallow piezometer transect measures fluctuating groundwater depth and flow paths underground, a key part of understanding*

# HyDAS Stations

**Ethan Brown**  
**Brandy Caporaso**

The *Shasta Valley Upper Watershed Precipitation Station Construction Project* Hydrologic Data Acquisition System (HyDAS) stations at the Gooseneck location on the Klamath National Forest and Bolam location on the north flank of Mount Shasta in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest have been installed!

These stations will provide the all-important snow water equivalence data to help refine the water budget and increase the Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (GSA) ability to forecast the availability of water. In addition, the data will also be utilized by the California Snow Survey.

The HyDAS stations are one of the many "measuring instrumentations" the SVRCD has helped install for the GSA in the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP's will provide an important management tool to learn, understand



**HyDAS Station Construction at Bolam**

and enable long-term groundwater sustainability for all beneficial uses and users of groundwater

Each station is outfitted with sensors to measure snow water equivalent, wind direction, wind speed, net radiation, soil

moisture, and fuel moisture. Equipment to measure rain data can be easily added in the future

Ethan Brown, SVRCD Monitoring Specialist states: "The fuel moisture sensor is pretty brilliant. It involves two wooden dowels. One of the dowels has a temperature probe inside, and the other one is hooked up to an electrode that sends a signal down the dowel, and based on the return time determines the moisture of the wood. The dowels are 3/4-1" in thickness and pretty close to the ground, which when I thought about it makes sense because that's the stuff that is likely to get going in a blaze."

The project has been a multi-agency effort. Through DWR's 2017 Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant, the SVRCD permitted and paid for installation of the DWR specified tower and foundation. The DWR Statewide Monitoring Network committed to supply the sensors and communication equipment. Nicholas Ellis, Electrical Engineer, with DWR, fought

hard for funding to furnish and install the necessary monitoring equipment for the stations and was SVRCD's point person at DWR to coordinate specifications and installation of the monitoring equipment. Stacy Smith, Lands and Special Uses Officer, with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest was instrumental in assisting with the permitting across two national forests. NRCS Soil Scientist Brooke Hogan, and Katie Chambers from the Soil Survey Office in Klamath Falls, Oregon, described soil profiles and installed soil moisture and temperature probes.

The information for the stations can be found here:

- <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/QueryF?s=SVG>
- <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/QueryF?s=SVB>



# Partner News: NRCS

from Jim Patterson, District Conservationist Yreka Field Office

Office News: Due to COVID-19 restrictions the NRCS Yreka office remains closed to the public, but all staff are available by phone 530-842-6123 ext. 3, or their direct line. The field office has onboarded the new Forester, Katelyn Suderman. She is a welcomed asset for the district. She'll be getting the forestry program in shape over the next year, but has a heavy backlog to work through so we're still asking for everyone's patience.

USDA Offers Secure New Options for Signing and Sharing Documents Online-For more Information Visit [farmers.gov/mydocs](https://farmers.gov/mydocs) to learn about Box and OneSpan, steps for getting started, and additional resources for conducting business with USDA online. To learn more about program flexibilities and Service Center status during the coronavirus pandemic, visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus)

## Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

215 Executive Court  
Suite A  
Yreka , CA 96097

Phone: 530-572-3120

E-mail:

[shastavalleyrcd@snowcrest.net](mailto:shastavalleyrcd@snowcrest.net)



## Conservation Through Collaboration

[WWW.SVRCD.ORG](http://www.svrCD.org)



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## The Back Page

### Letter from Mike Riney, District Manager

Dear community members:

For more than 40 years, the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District has assisted landowners and communities throughout the Shasta Valley by finding grants and dollars to assist in making necessary improvements to agricultural operations, help landowners meet regulatory requirements and conserve our natural resources. If you have benefited from our many programs and projects throughout the years and have not made a donation

to the Shasta Valley RCD in the past, we ask that you consider donating to our organization this year. The Shasta Valley RCD has no tax base funding. We depend 100% on the grants we are awarded, and the overhead funding we get with those grants never meets our true administrative costs. A small donation can help us buy office supplies, write more grants (we lose money on every grant we don't get) and even help pay our administrative staff salaries.

Please consider donating to the Shasta Valley RCD in 2020. We are *your* Resource Conservation District.

Visit our website to find out more about how you can donate.



Sincerely,  
Mike Riney  
District Manager