



Traverse Creek Stewardship Report

May 20, 2006

Background and Goals

As part of the South Fork American River Watershed Stewardship Strategy, the Traverse Creek Stewardship (TraCkS) volunteer group has completed one year of service. This partnership with the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District began in March of 2005.

Traverse Creek watershed (#10) is a sub-basin of the SFAR and ranked high for sensitive soils under the sedimentation risk analysis and it ranked high for listed species occurrences, stream density, and important agricultural areas under the wildfire risk analysis. It is considered at risk and in need of stewardship and is considered high priority for both fuels and water quality. This sub-basin includes residential neighborhoods south of Georgetown and is the most rural in the focus area 1.

The goals of the SFAR Watershed Monitoring Program are to facilitate coordination of and expand current water quality monitoring efforts to gain understanding of water quality trends throughout the watershed, to enrich the understanding of residents to the issues affecting water quality, and to identify funding opportunities to expand water quality monitoring efforts.

Traverse Creek Stewardship (TraCkS) was formed as a local volunteer group by interested community members to help establish baseline data for water quality conditions in this watershed. Our focus is on determining if our watershed is healthy, sharing the results of our monitoring with our community and interested agencies (FS and RCD) and helping create an educational opportunity to increase awareness and stewardship.

Accomplishments

March – April 2005 Training of approximately 30 volunteers by the RCD staff (Mark Egbert and Jill Andersen), SYRCL (Diane Cross) and Forest Service (Mike Taylor) in water quality protocols and stream walk assessments

April 2005- Obtained grant from Sierra Nevada Alliance for Traverse Creek Stewardship Day on April 30 at Georgetown Nature Area, Monitoring spot # 1 and headwaters of Traverse Creek

April 2005- Staffed a booth and offered demonstrations at Arts in Nature Fest in the Georgetown Nature Area to share information and recruit volunteers for TraCkS

May-June 2005 -Training of approximately 12 volunteers by ARC (Greg Suba) in bio assessment protocols

June 2005- BMI collections and bio assessment in three locations in Traverse Creek watershed

June 2005- May 2006- Monthly water quality monitoring at five locations in Traverse Creek watershed

August 2005- April 2006 -Twice a month meetings in Georgetown School Science Lab for identifying BMI's to family and on-going training by Susan McCormick

April 29, 2006- TraCkS staffed a booth at Arts in Nature Fest to share data collected and recruit volunteers and educate community on watershed information

May 7-10, 2006- Susan Whittington and Susan McCormick attended National Monitoring Conference in San Jose with registration paid for by GTRCD.

May 22, 2006- Held year celebration to share data, set goals for next year and honor volunteers and supporters

Support and Partnerships

Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

American River Conservancy

U S Forest Service

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Black Oak Mine Unified School District

South Yuba River Citizens League

Friends of the Nature Area