



YUROK TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

AIR QUALITY

- Established real-time health warnings on the Tribal website to update public during episodic events such as wildfires and inversions. The monitor is located in Weitchpec. The air quality conditions as well as health advisories are updated every hour throughout the year.
- There is also a monitor in the Klamath Glen. This monitor has been documenting some surprising levels of particulate matter during some times of the year, likely due to the high density of woodstove smoke and backyard burning coupled with the fact that the Glen sits down behind the levy.
- An atmospheric mercury deposition monitor was installed on Requa hill as part of a national network of mercury monitors. The Requa site operated by YTEP is one of very few located on the west coast as serves as a "boundary" condition, documenting mercury levels that are transported from overseas. YTEP is also working with U.C. Davis to install and operate an IMROVE (Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments) on Requa to further monitor and preserve our air quality.

WATER QUALITY

- Continue to Conduct real-time water quality monitoring of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers from May to October. This information is available at: <http://exchange.yuroktribe.nsn.us/lrgsclient/stations/stations.html>
- YTEP Water Division collected toxic algae samples and notified communities of levels and potential health risks during the summer of 2007. YTEP has also worked with various State and Federal agencies as part of the Klamath River Blue-green Algae Workgroup to focus on the technical information in the basin and how it affects humans, animals and the environment
- The Water Division continues to operate tributary gaging stations in McGarvey, Turwar, Blue, and Tully Creeks. This involves taking stream flow measurements during storms as well as collecting sediment samples and turbidity measurements. In the last year YTEP installed a new

monitoring site on Lower Turwar Creek to monitor the effectiveness of stream restoration projects in this basin.

- The Water Division continues to sample macroinvertebrates in tributaries to the Klamath River within Yurok Reservation boundaries. Macroinvertebrates are aquatic organisms that are indicators of stream health.
- YTEP continues to publish a number of reports documenting the water quality conditions and hydrology of the lower basin. Available at <http://www.yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep/Water.htm>
- YTEP continues to provide technical assistance to the Karuk and Hoopa Tribes water quality staff so that all Tribes are maintaining consistent data collection methods so data can be compared over time
- YTEP continues to work with YTFP and the Legal Department on the relicensing of the Klamath River Hydroelectrical Project
- YTEP is continuing to work with the State of CA and OR and the USEPA to complete the Klamath River TMDL process that is designed to improve water quality in the Klamath River from downstream of Upper Klamath Lake to the Klamath River Estuary.
- YTEP is continuing to work with all of the Indian Tribes in California that reside in the Klamath Basin to address water quality needs. The latest project we have coordinated, is a water quality sampling program that the Karuk and Hoopa Tribes participate in to collect data over 200 River Miles on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. More info available at: <http://www.klamathwaterquality.com/>
- YTEP continues to issue water quality permits to government agencies that are using Federal funds on projects that have the potential to affect water quality. The most recent and high profile project is the Martins Ferry Bridge Emergency Repairs





WETLANDS

- -Developed a Quality Assurance Project Plan for wetlands assessment, approved by USEPA March 2008.
- -This year YTEP began assessing Yurok wetlands and working to identify areas in need of restoration. On the brink is the new and highly acclaimed California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM). YTEP is one of the first field teams to use the method on the north Coast. –
- -YTEP is in collaboration with other professional agencies as a part of the North Coast CRAM team. Specialized training in CRAM has given a YTEP specialist “practitioner” status.
- -The presence of native and invasive vegetation is also being documented in a “Yurok Wetland Plants Field Guide”.
- -The use of GIS and aerial imagery for wetlands has been instrumental in developing these tools for other aspects that YTEP deals with.
- -A grant proposal has been submitted to BOR for additional wetland assessment funding to support a restoration program in the future.
- -Wetlands specialists have been working with land owners to target important wetland areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Environmental Education is provided by YTEP’s AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project Members Arie Scharnberg and Scott Sinnott.
- Six weeks of “Real Science” environmental education instruction at Margaret Keating Elementary’s with Elizabeth Asbill and William Einmann’s 1st grade classes and at Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods with Ann Mason’s science class.
- “Real Science” focus is about hands-on experience with salmonid life-cycle based environmental education.

YTEP has developed a very sophisticated environmental database to manage the millions of data points collected each year. All YTEP’s archived data will soon be available on the web

DATA MANAGEMENT

- Completed Hydrology Data module
- Completed Nutrient Data Module
- Completed Photo database archive
- Transmission of Nutrient data to EPA
- Transmission of Bacteria Data to EPA

- Implemented new and innovative technology to the real-time website
- Developing Community scoping data storage system for underground storage tanks for an environmental threat assessment program
- Developing Data Storage and transmission module for FRS
- Developing Continuous data transmission module to transmit water quality data to EPA
- Developing web tools to view data from our archive
- Provide limited technical data management assistance to local Tribes

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK MANAGEMENT

- Welcomed Ken Henderson as a new staff member; Ken comes to YTEP from the UST Management industry.
- Conducted pilot testing at two investigation areas at Requa
- Investigated two additional contamination sites at Requa
- Conducted quarterly well sampling at contamination sites at Requa
- Conducted monthly water depth measurement at contamination sites at Requa
- Coordinated with project partners on the Requa Remediation
- Conducted an inventory of Underground Storage Tanks on the Reservation


SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT


- Assisted with Klamath River Cleanup – YTEP removed over 40 yards of debris from the Fort Turwar Subdivision.
- Conducted Reservation-wide open dump inventory
- Coordinated for funding at Johnson’s and Roach’s Creek Dumpsites with Humboldt County, Green Diamond, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
- Conducted outreach to Tribal Members on recycling opportunities

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Drafting new versions of Abandoned Vehicle, Vehicle Storage, Illegal Dumping, and Health & Sanitation Ordinances
- Continued to work with Tribal Police, Tribal Prosecutor, Tribal Court, and local District Attorneys on investigations and case resolution.

RTOC Budget Workgroup

- Prepared annual Region 9 Tribal Budget presentation for EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri
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-Participated as Region 9 Representative on EPA's GAP Tracking Workgroup

-Began development of Regional Tribal Strategic Plan

EPA Network Operations Board

-Served as National Tribal Representative on the USEPA Exchange Network Operations Board

-Presented at various conferences and meetings on the Yurok Tribe's approach to data management and network accessibility

CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

The Cultural Resources Division completed many projects and tasks this year. Some of the highlights include:

Klamath River and Environmental Justice Efforts:

- Continued to represent the Yurok Tribe in the State Water Resources Control Board's Environmental Justice Pilot Project on Tribal Beneficial Uses of the Klamath River;
- Completed the California EPA Environmental Justice Grant award for FY 2006;
- Received FY 2007-2008 Cal EPA EJ Grant to conduct tribal member survey on Beneficial Uses of the Klamath River for subsistence and cultural purposes.

Grants submitted & awarded:

- NPS Tribal Preservation Fund Grant FY 2007 (Awarded FY 2007-2009):
A 2-year grant to document traditional Yurok uses of coastal resources within Yurok Ancestral Lands.
- ANA Environmental Grant FY 2007 (Awarded FY 2007-2009):
A 2-year grant to identify and document potentially contaminated sites on the Yurok Indian Reservation as part of a baseline environmental assessment.
- Cal EPA Environmental Justice Grant 2007 (Awarded FY 2007-2008):
Continued work on identifying impacts to Yurok cultural and subsistence

resources and uses on the Klamath River.

- EPA STAR Grant 2007 (Awarded FY 2008-2012):
A 4-year research grant to conduct a baseline toxicological assessment of selected aquatic resources.

Pesticides:

- Continued consultation and monitoring regarding pesticide applications on Green Diamond lands within the YIR;
- Compiled pesticide use data from multiple government and private sources on application history within YIR; and
- Advised tribal staff and departments on alternatives to pesticides for specific purposes.

Environmental Assessments and Cultural Reviews:

- Martin's Ferry Bridge Emergency Repairs and Retrofit Project;
- RNSP Rehab and Repair Cultural Inventory Study; and
- Various departmental Environmental Assessments and Cultural Reviews for Forestry, Planning and Watershed Departments.

Other:

- New hire: Joe Hostler, Environmental Specialist, under ANA grant;
 - Contract negotiations with CalTrans for Cultural Resources contracting on YIR;
 - Continued Adopt-a-Highway cleanups for 22 miles of Hwy 169;
 - FEMA/NIMS disaster preparedness training completed for all staff;
 - GIS training for ANA grant staff;
 - ARPA and site protection training for all staff; and
 - Cultural Resources Monitoring Training for all staff.
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