NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NEWS

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2021

From the Director

Aiyukee, I hope this finds you well and in good health. It's been a tough few months but we are strong and resilient people. I wanted to highlight the exceptional work of the Natural Resources Department Team and share just a few of their accomplishments this spring and summer. They are an amazing team who work very hard! We all hope you enjoy the newsletter. Below is our contact information. Feel free to reach out at any time. Best wishes to you all!

Shaunna

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Tylor Jones, Natural Resources Technician

Announcement!

Kathy Dowd has been named the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)! Please congratulate Kathy when you see her. Kathy will represent Resighini in various arenas and will advocate for the protection of traditional Yurok culture.

Big Pond on the reservation.

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Tylor Jones and Bradford Norman with a Fyke net used to trap fish.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Project Completed

With the onset of rains in the Fall of 2020, Resighini Rancheria's Natural Resources Department began a fish trapping program that extended through to early June 2021. This effort was funded as part of a $93,500 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that culminated in a Fisheries Restoration Plan for Rancheria lands. Our study verified that juvenile Coho enter the Junior Creek wetland complex during Winter high water events to grow over the Winter and Spring before migrating out to sea. The documentation of the presence of Coho salmon was the main focus of the work, but we discovered many other fish species living in both Waukell and Junior Creeks. These creeks are both small tributaries to the Klamath River.

Other native fish species found to use these creeks during this study include: Prickly Sculpin, Western Brook Lamprey, Threespine Stickleback, Klamath Smallscale Sucker, Coastal Rainbow (Steelhead) Trout, and Speckled Dace. We also trapped some non-native invasive species, including Green Sunfish, Black Bullhead (catfish), and the American Bullfrog.

The NFWF grant also allowed: 1) funding for engineering work and partial design completion for two small culverts that need to be replaced to ensure fish passage, and 2) we were able to conduct a topographic survey of Junior Creek Pond, and conduct fish habitat surveys for nearly one mile of streams located in the Junior Creek watershed. The fisheries firm of Thomas Gast & Associates provided a preliminary Fisheries Restoration Plan for the Junior Creek drainage and will continue assisting us with this work as we continue under another grant.

Earth Day Clean Up!

On April 22nd, the EPA GAP program hosted an Earth Day clean up on the reservation lands. Tribal members gathered on and off the reservation to participate in this important event! A lot of the clean-up consisted of small items like plastics, food wrappers, aluminum cans, and other debris.

Items were weighed, catalogued and then hauled away for disposal. The EPA GAP Program thanks everyone who participated. Yes, swag was given away! Come and help us out next year to get your goodies and to do your part in taking care of our places.

Items recovered during the clean-up.

Meet Tylor Jones, NR Technician

Hi, my name is Tylor Jones, I'm a 20yr old California Native born and raised in Crescent City. My family has lived here the majority of their lives as well. I am of Yurok descent and here our ancestors lived for centuries creating a strong bond with the land which is our home, and our resource for survival. Growing up I've always enjoyed hands-on tasks and having responsibility. Being enrolled in the Resighini Rancheria, I applied for the Natural Resource Technician position. Under my job responsibilities I ensure all the residents and their environment are safe. Such jobs include being part of the Tribal Marine Stewards Network, water testing, species documenting, and natural resource preservation which manages our resources for the future generations.

Tribal Member, Tylor Jones

Tribal Marine Stewards Network

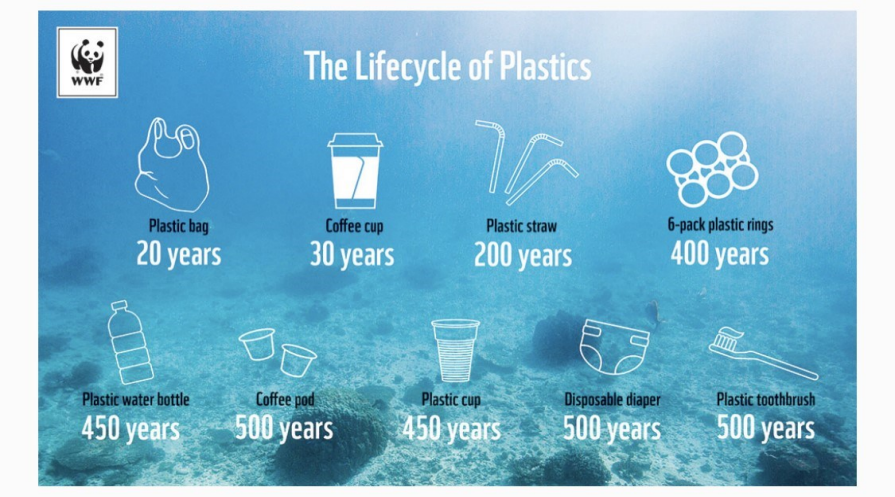
The NR Department staff have been actively participating in the Tribal Marine Stewards Network (TMSN) and building the program internally. The TMSN is a partnership of four Tribes, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Kashia Band of Pomo and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust. Resighini's projects include night smelt monitoring at Freshwater beach, and we are getting ready to do 3-D monitoring of rocky intertidal areas and doing interviews with cultural practitioners to build our Traditional Knowledge Database that will inform our natural resource management.

Staff worked closely with Humboldt State's Fisheries Department in the Spring and Summer, and spent many late nights in the surf trying to catch some pretty elusive night smelt! The Department staff have also been participating in monthly TMSN calls where the Tribal partners check-in and share information about our respective projects and trainings.

BIG NEWS: Resighini received a BIA Tribal Climate Resilience grant to partner with the SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography in San Diego, CA to begin our 3-D rocky intertidal monitoring project. We are very excited about this next step!

Ocean Stewards Youth Camp

This year's Ocean Stewards Youth Camp had to be postponed due to COVID-19 but we are hoping to reschedule as soon as it's safe. We have many exciting activities to share with the youth, including beach outings and learning about the work we do in the marine environment. Below is a highlight of one of the presentations that we will share with our Tribal youth when we convene the camp.



Plastic is on example of marine debris that is detrimental to the ocean environment.

Contact Us

Give us a call or send us and email for more information and please visit the website!

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