

SALT RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

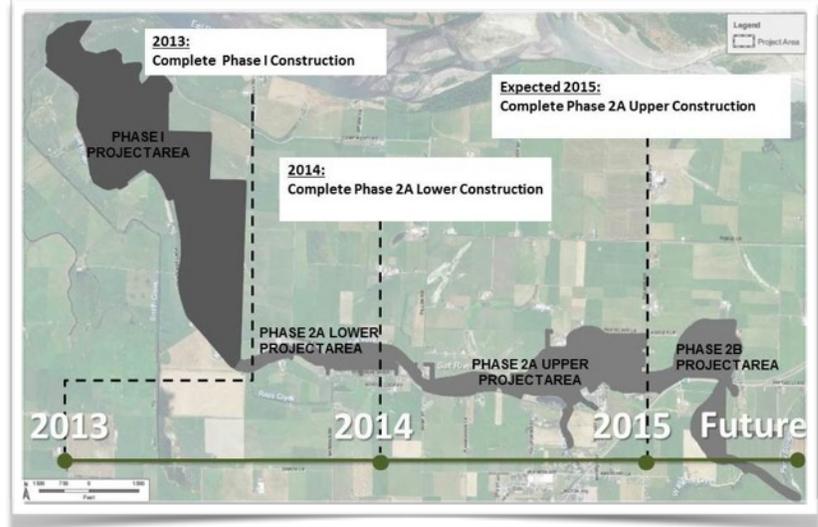
Restoring a historic waterway while preserving an agricultural heritage

Who are we?

The Salt River Watershed Council (SRWC) board includes: Jay Russ (chairman), Dennis DelBiaggio (vice chairman), David Carr (secretary/treasurer), John Vevoda, Don Hindley, Jim Becker, Jay Parrish, Denver Nelson, Joe Russ, Carol Lee and Ann Barbata.

What is our purpose?

The SRWC encourages long term cooperative watershed management practices to sustain, protect and improve water quality, drainage, aquatic and riparian habitat while contributing to long term economic, agricultural and community sustainability.



Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is underway!

Work on the first phase of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project began in May, 2013. Five months later, slightly over two miles of setback berm was built, two miles of the lower Salt River channel was restored, and a 300-acre tidal marsh area was constructed. Phase 1 reached from the mouth of the Salt River at





Who are our partners?

The SRWC has an on-going relationship with the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD).

The HCRCD is the lead agency on this project. This project is a multi-year, multi-agency, landowner-driven endeavor that takes a holistic, watershed-wide approach to address sediment, fish passage, flooding, and drainage issues in the Salt River Watershed of Ferndale. Increasingly frequent flooding, reduced drainage capacity, and sediment deposition has negatively impacted water quality and the ability of local landowners to effectively utilize their lands for agricultural purposes.

its confluence with the Eel River to Reas Creek.

In July of this year, Phase 2 of the project began just above the Dillion Road bridge. This construction will join the first phase restoration at Reas Creek in October. Over 100,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the channel this year. A large cofferdam has been installed to keep tide water from reaching the lowest end of the construction work.

As a direct result of this restoration project, eight dungeness crabs, 40 coho salmon and six chinook salmon were observed in the newly restored channel this year.

Over the course of the next years, the overall project goal is to clear and widen the Salt River channel to the confluence at Williams Creek. Once the channel has been completely restored, it will be the responsibility of the SRWC to monitor and maintain this natural resource.

How can you help?

There are a number of ways in which you can help the SRWC:

- Attend our monthly meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm at Firemen's Hall.
- Volunteer to join a committee (fund raising, education and outreach).
- Stay informed about this project by "following" our website at www.saltriverwatershed.org and receive email updates.

salt river watershed

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