



## Watershed Stewards Program

Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Salt River Restoration Day

[Ferndale]. 60 volunteers showed up Saturday morning on January 30<sup>th</sup> for a Restoration event hosted by the Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD). The event took place along the bank of the Salt River near Ferndale and sought to plant native vegetation and pull invasive plants.

Volunteers planted about 200 trees and shrubs within a three acre area along the northeastern bank of the Salt River. Native species planted included red alder, black cottonwood, Sitka spruce, willow, twinberry, current, wax myrtle, cascara, California rose, and rush. Volunteers applied a thick layer of mulch around each planting to suppress competing weeds and also pulled about 4,000 square feet of invasive plants from the site. Watershed Steward Member and event coordinator, Emily Moloney said, "I'm very impressed with the diversity of volunteers that showed up. There were Boy Scouts, HSU students, CCC members, Ferndale residents, among others. Because of these volunteers, we were able to work toward the restoration of the riparian forest along the Salt River which has lacked diversity and proper function for decades." The restoration day concluded with a raffle and BBQ hamburger lunch.

The event work site is nested within the larger Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project administered by HCRCD. This project aims to restore the broader Salt River Watershed by restoring the Salt River channel and reconnecting it with the Eel River in order to restore hydraulic function, tidal marshland, and habitat for salmonids, while reducing extreme flooding events to the nearby residential and agriculture land situated in the delta. At the end of 2015, crews restored over 4.2 miles of the Salt River channel and 300 of acres of tidal marsh in the Eel River Delta. The larger project has also

installed tide gates, and will continue to remove of invasive plant species and reintroduce native vegetation. The project seeks to restore 7.4 miles of Salt River channel in total.

WSP and HCRCDC would like to thank all of their partners who made the event possible: Safeway, Ferndale Meat Market, Clendenen's Cider Works, Loleta Cheese Factory, Ray's Food Place, No Brand Burger Stand, the California Conservation Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local land owners. To learn more about the Watershed Stewards Program visit <http://www.ccc.ca.gov/work/projects/Videos/WatershedStewards/Pages/wsp.aspx>, and visit the Humboldt County Resource conservation district at <http://www.humboldtrcd.org/>.



Volunteers pulling invasive plants during the Salt River Restoration Day..



Volunteers beneath a rainbow at the Salt Restoration Day after planting and mulching 200 trees and pulling invasive plants.

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