

Pacific West Community Forestry Center
Eighth Triannual Report: Submitted 6 January 2003

Introduction and Overview

This triannual report highlights activities from 1 September through 31 December 2002. The PWCFC's focus during this period was on strengthening existing relationships, implementing existing projects, completing project reports, wrapping up writing on several projects, and integrating the new coordinator into the Center's work. Among the achievements of the Center during this reporting period were brokering a formal agreement among the USDA Forest Service and mushroom harvesters and completing the assessment of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative.

Problem Identification

The Center continued to focus its work in the following priority areas:

- 1) The current ecosystem workforce and mobile workers (including mushroom harvesters, restoration workers, floral greens workers, and others)
 - 2) Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - 3) Environmental Justice
 - 4) Social and Ecosystem Monitoring, Evaluation, and Assessment
- These priority areas were again revisited and confirmed with the Advisory Council in September.

Problem identification occurs through conversations with AC members and regional partners, emerging regional issues in the news, and the capacity building and needs assessment that occurs with local cooperators. Problem identification has also been conducted through the recently completed Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative involving case studies of 35 communities, six of them tribal.

An issue that emerged during the reporting period was the salmon fish-kill on the Klamath River. The Hoopa tribe depends upon the Klamath salmon for cultural, spiritual, and physical well-being. The fish-kill was a focus on the agenda for the last Collaborative Learning Circle working session (postponed due to storms) and has been a topic of conversation with AC member Sherlette Colegrove of the Hoopa Tribe. Preliminary planning has focused on initiating a participatory oral history study on changes in the salmon run over time.

A second issue that came to the forefront during the reporting period is the need for an assessment of the restoration economy. At the annual NNFP meetings, Latino workers called for a participatory assessment of the mobile restoration workforce. PWCFC staff and AC members at the meeting affirmed that this is an important area for the Center to engage in. AC members Cece Headley and Beverly Brown had done initial scoping on an assessment, and will gather materials for the AC to examine during its January 2003 retreat. Funding the study is beyond the budget of the Center, but the Center will continue to seek to leverage funding with partners. In addition, on the North Coast of California, the PWCFC collaboratively developed a proposal with regional partners to examine the *structure* of the restoration economy in two counties (see Regional Center Research).

(Bioregional) Advisory Council (AC)

An Advisory Council retreat was held 12-13 September in Redding, CA. Nine AC members participated, one by conference call. Discussion topics included a review of current research projects and developing measurements for success that allow analysis of linkages between projects and identification of research gaps.

Five conference calls were held with the AC during the reporting period. Conference call notes are attached.

In September, Jonathan and Katie traveled to the southern Sierra Nevada (Bishop, CA) to meet with new AC member, Qwina West. AC member Susan Szewczak of the UC White Mountain Research Station hosted the meeting. The purpose of the visit was to become acquainted and to explore avenues for collaboration. Mr. West is a member of the Paiute Tribe, and is doing work in Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Follow-up meetings are planned in 2003. Local cooperator Farrell Cunningham participated in the meeting (see Work with Partner Communities).

Several AC members and technical advisors participated in the annual NNFP meeting in November: Cece Headley, Rebecca Smith, Jude Wait, and Carl Wilmsen. Jude Wait, Carl Wilmsen, and José Montenegro (by conference call) participated in the NNFP Cultural Diversity Working Group meeting.

AC members are participating in planning the semi-annual AC retreat to be held 30-31 January in Davis, CA. AC members invite NCFC/NNFP participation in the retreat.

Work with Partner Communities

The Center continued partnerships with CIDERS, Mason County Literacy, cooperators in the Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Project, the Illinois Basin Interest Group (IBIG) Forestry Action Committee, the Hoopa Tribe, and the Maidu Cultural and Development Group to build capacity in underserved communities and conduct participatory research projects.

El Centro Internacional para el Desarrollo Rural Sustentable (CIDERS) continued its work to help increase Latino forest worker communities' presence and participation in the community-based forestry dialogue throughout the region. Through participatory workshops, the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group (LFWLG) is building capacity among emerging leaders to design, develop, and implement community-based projects and initiatives. The group is developing formative and participatory processes to more effectively work with scientists and practitioners, as well as to evaluate progress toward goals themselves. During the reporting period, the LFWLG project focused on a second round of outreach with Latino forest worker communities throughout the region, revisiting the needs assessment that was conducted in May 2002, and facilitated several capacity building workshops with the Shelton, WA node of the network (described below). In October, CIDERS completed a research/capacity building plan for next steps with the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group. Center staff provided technical assistance to CIDERS/LFWLG on proposal development for foundation funding.

The PWCFC partners with **Mason County Literacy** to work with Spanish-speaking floral greens harvesters in Shelton, WA. The core group in Shelton – now called el Grupo de Trabajadores Hispanos (GTH) – continues to meet weekly to address worker issues, and the Center is partnering with them to develop their capacity to access research, information, and technical training and workshops they identify as important. In October, the GTH held a community event to bring together families from forest worker communities. In November, CIDERS/LFWLG facilitated a three-day capacity-building workshop with the group. Workshop outcomes included a written Strategy of Capacity-building that outlined guiding principles and values, characteristics of a desirable work model, norms of group participation, roles of members, and needed tools for designing and planning projects and for identifying and resolving conflicts. The session also produced a timeline and budget for accomplishing the objectives of the capacity building strategy. In addition, during the workshop, participants revisited problems identified by their needs assessment, and developed matrices to analyze causes and consequences, alternatives for solutions, and possible resources and partnerships to address issues. Another capacity-building workshop was held in December. The workshops have built a core group of leaders who (1) are

ready to visit and train other Latino forest worker communities in the region (expanding the LFWLG network) and (2) have skills to develop and implement their own local community based initiative.

The Center coordinates the **Crescent Lake Multi-party Monitoring Project (CLMMP)** in southeast Oregon. The participatory research project completed its third harvest season during the reporting period. This year the Center provided an on-site field coordinator to help facilitate collaborative relationships between harvesters, community members, the Forest Service, and other stakeholders. The monitoring process identified and documented harvester concerns. Of particular importance were logging in harvest areas and harvesting practices. The CLMMP worked with the Deschutes National Forest to conduct two educational fieldtrips with harvesters and community collaborators to look at current and potential silvicultural treatment/logging sites and their impacts upon habitat and the Matsutake mushroom harvest. Through campground meetings, sharing maps, and smaller meetings, harvesters and the Ranger District shared their interests and reached a formal agreement to drop several logging units in critical Matsutake habitat areas, to consider less invasive silvicultural treatments, and to consult with harvesters on all future actions relevant to the harvest. Secondly, monitors documented increasing harvester concern and conflict over raking and digging, a harvesting practice many harvesters and agency personnel consider to be unsustainable. Discussions were initiated with harvesters on both "sides" of the digging and raking issue and FS staff to engage in participatory monitoring of the effects of the practice on mushroom production in 2003. One of the monitors has begun informal mapping of digging and raking sites to monitor Matsutake production over time. A draft report on the harvest season was completed in December. Two Associated Press articles were printed on the Crescent Lake harvest and the project, as well as a television spot on Oregon Public Radio.

The PWCFC partners with the **Illinois Basin Interest Group (IBIG) Forestry Action Committee** in a multi-party wild mushroom monitoring project in Cave Junction and Brookings, OR. The 2002 monitoring season was slow, due to a very poor matsutake harvest. However, the project strategically built on the successes made in Forest Service-harvester communications during the Crescent Lake season, and Forest Service staff in Cave Junction and Brookings began to think of harvesters as an interest group to be included in decision-making. At a campground meeting in Cave Junction, FS staff brought maps and explained proposed forest treatments and related actions to gather comment from harvesters. Due to 2003 fires in the area, a very large Morel mushroom harvest is anticipated. The IBIG FAC will submit a proposal for AC consideration to conduct the multi-party monitoring for the Morel harvest.

The Center partnered with the **Hoopa Tribe** in northern California to develop a case study of community forestry. During the reporting period, the case study was completed. Community members will review it in January and February. In response to the devastating 2002 salmon fish-kill in the Klamath River basin, the Center and AC member Sherlette Colegrove initiated discussions of a potential research project to document oral histories among Hoopa elders related to Klamath River water issues and their impacts on salmon.

The Center partners with the **Maidu Cultural and Development Group (MCDG)** to support the restoration of Maidu Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its integration with Western Science for land stewardship. The Maidu, though federally unrecognized, are the largest Native American group in California. The MCDG is working to build a TEK network, along traditional trade and kinship routes. During the reporting period, Center staff and local cooperator Farrell Cunningham met with Paiute tribal member Qwina West to explore potential links between the work of the two tribes. Mr. West is doing work similar to the MCDG, restoring TEK and building networks along traditional trade and kinship routes. Follow-up meetings are planned for 2003. In October, the PWCFC and MCDG worked with the Collaborative Learning Circle to put on a local workshop on fire restoration contract opportunities and procedures. In December, the PWCFC and MCDG collaborated with the Greenville High School to submit a California state planning

grant for a Specialized Secondary Program focused on horticultural and greenhouse education. If funded, the PWCFC and MCDG will participate in planning to integrate the greenhouse curriculum with hands-on learning in TEK, resource restoration, and land stewardship. This will build on a current class on Maidu TEK and stewardship.

Local cooperators will submit brief project reports and research plans/proposals for 2003 funding for the January 2003 AC meeting. 2003 contracts with local cooperators will be finalized in February.

Regional Center Research (In-house research)

Jonathan and Katie completed a paper on lessons learned about civic science with underserved communities. The paper was submitted for the XII World Forestry Congress to be held in September 2003. The paper, limited by the WFC 8-page requirement, will be reviewed and expanded with participation of local cooperators for release as a PWCFC publication.

The final report for the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative Assessment was completed in December. The \$600,000 study was partially supported by the PWCFC. The assessment, through 31 case studies in 35 communities, examines the effectiveness of the socioeconomic companion plan to President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan aimed at assisting timber-dependent communities. Results and lessons learned were disseminated in a series of pre-release briefings with policy makers in Washington D.C. (detailed in Outreach and Communications below), a press release, through the PWCFC and FCR websites (www.fcresearch.org/neai/), and in hardcopy and CD-ROM formats.

Research associate Mark Baker, with regional partners including the North Coast Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment and the Redwood Community Action Alliance, completed a proposal for an inclusive and participatory study of the restoration economy in Humboldt and Trinity counties in northern California. The project is designed to produce outcomes, results, and conclusions that are of practical benefit to those who practice and support natural resources restoration, and to have wider applicability to help inform current debate and efforts to support restoration work nation-wide. The AC will review the proposal in January. The PWCFC funded partnership building and proposal development. Dr. Baker is currently seeking funding to implement the study, with initial commitment from the Ford Foundation.

Communications and Outreach

Outreach meetings

During the reporting period, Center staff engaged in outreach to communities and regional coalitions of community-based groups, agencies, and researchers to share about PWCFC/NCFC activities and to explore opportunities for collaboration. Meetings included:

- the Collaborative Learning Circle regional working session;
- the Shasta Tehama Bioregional Council;
- the Lead Partnership Group (LPG);
- a poster session at the Ford Foundation Environment and Development Affinity Group Meeting to present the work of the Center, and to highlight the work of the LFWLG;
- a visit with Paiute tribal member Qwina West to discuss Traditional Ecological Knowledge networks;
- outreach to a leader in the Latino community in Portola, CA to engage Latino forest workers in the CLC/Maidu fire restoration workshop, and for future collaboration;
- a meeting with the new Supervisor of the Plumas National Forest, who is interested in building collaborative relationships with Latino forest workers;

- meetings in Washington D.C. with Coop Forestry and the USDA Community Prosperity Working Group (a cross-agency informal group that includes CSREES participation) to discuss the NEAI project results, Latino harvester issues, and the work of the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group in the Northwest;
- individual meetings with district rangers from the Deschutes and Fremont-Winema National Forests (Oregon) to introduce the NCFC and the PWCFC in relation to the Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Program;
- a Diversity Forum with USFS Region 6 in Bend, OR; and
- a presentation at a public meeting with the Forest Service Region-wide Planning Team on socio-economic issues. 150 people were in attendance. Working with AC member Mike Chapel, staff presented work in the entire Center region.

Outreach materials

A tri-fold conference display was developed and presented at the Ford EDAG meeting and at the annual NNFP meeting. In December, planning was initiated with a Berkeley-based writing and design team to update the PWCFC website, develop a brochure, and develop a cover template for Center publications. Completed publications will be released with the resulting cover design. Design/development meetings will continue in January.

Publications

The final report on the Assessment of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative was completed and released in December. In November a series of pre-release briefings were held with policy makers in Washington, D.C. to share results and lessons and to discuss policy implications for rural development. A briefing was held with the USDA Community Prosperity Group, a cross-agency informal working group of which CSREES is a member. The CSREES was pleased that the Fund for Rural America (via PWCFC) participated in the assessment, and requested 25 copies of the report. Other briefings were with USDA Forest Service Coop Forestry/State and Private Forestry staff; U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration; Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; Netsource; the Vice President of the National Forest Foundation; natural resource staffers/counsel for Senators Feinstein and Wyden and Representative DiFazio; and the General Counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality. In December, a press release went out to 169 Associated Press outlets, and an AP article was printed. A report is currently being distributed through the PWCFC and FCR websites (<http://www.fcresearch.org/neai/>), in hardcopy, and in CD-ROM formats.

Two community forestry case studies were completed during the reporting period: *Against the Odds: (Re-)Building Community Through Forestry on the Hoopa Reservation* and *The Integration of Community Well-being and Forest Health in the Pacific Northwest: A Case Study of the Columbia Pacific Resource and Conservation District Council*. The final draft of the Hoopa case study will be sent to Hoopa community members for review in January. The Columbia Pacific RCD case is attached. The case studies will be released with PWCFC covers upon completion of the design process. In addition, the case studies will be included in the forthcoming book, *Forest Communities, Community Forests*, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers in Summer 2003.

A draft report on the Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Project was completed and underwent two rounds of internal review and revision. Final editing is currently underway and the report will be sent out for review by project partners and stakeholders.

Summary list of publications completed during reporting period:

- *DRAFT Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Progress Report on 2002 Season*

- *FINAL REVIEW DRAFT Against the Odds: (Re-)Building Community Through Forestry on the Hoopa Reservation*
- *The Integration of Community Well-being and Forest Health in the Pacific Northwest: A Case Study of the Columbia Pacific Resource and Conservation District Council*
- *Assessment of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative, Final Report*

Beginning 1 January, Center staff will track information requests and inquiries regarding publications and services.

Broker/Facilitate Relationships

Center staff and AC members are actively working to build bridges for future collaboration between research and educational institutions and underserved communities in forestry. A critical first step is raising awareness in these institutions of the issues underserved communities face in forestry, and sharing lessons on how to engage. During the reporting period, staff and AC members participated in discussion and planning for events and future collaborations. Jonathan worked with AC member Mike Chapel (USFS) and the California Biodiversity Council in planning for an environmental justice conference. Jonathan and AC members Kim Rodrigues and Gary Nakamura have planned a participatory research training with University of California Cooperative Extension to take place in February. AC member Susan Szewczak of the UC White Mountain Research Station is working to advance partnerships with the underserved and to lay the groundwork for broader acceptance and integration of more inclusive research methodologies into the University of California.

In addition, staff worked to connect community partners with technical assistance and funders, and helped strategize for agency relationships. Center staff initiated discussions with AC member Cece Headley and the MCDG to provide technical assistance and training on how to map and track acorn production on the Maidu stewardship site. Staff provided technical assistance with the CIDERS/Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group on proposal development and facilitated introductions between CIDERS and the Ford Foundation. Staff provided assistance to the Forestry Action Committee on budgeting and how to build on the institutional relationships and agreements made at Crescent Lake in order to establish relationships with key Forest Service staff in the Cave Junction and Brookings mushroom monitoring process.

Other Activities

Center staff reviewed plans and provided written comment for the development of a mobile learning center exhibit, “Sustainable Forests: Sustainable Communities,” to be implemented at Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding, CA. The exhibit focuses on multi-sensory learning on the diversity of what forests mean, why they are important, how they are changing, and how they can be sustained. Center staff recommended including voices of harvesters and restoration workers in the exhibit. The center will assist with contacting workers during project implementation.

National Responsibilities

Katie Bagby and Jonathan Kusel participated in the NNFP’s annual meeting in Montana 6-9 November. Katie facilitated an NCFC session with Tori Derr. Jonathan coordinated a panel on all-party monitoring that featured Center work; Katie presented, as did the Forestry Action Committee and the Maidu Cultural and Development Group. AC members Jude Wait and Carl Wilmsen participated in the NNFP Cultural Diversity Working Group meeting prior to the annual meeting. Jonathan, Katie, and AC member José Montenegro participated by conference call for a portion of the CDWG meeting.

The Center was represented on all EC conference calls for the reporting period. Katie participated in planning for the NCFC staff meeting to be held 21-23 January in New Orleans.

Administration

The Center is staffed by a team of Forest Community Research employees including Katie Bagby, full-time Center coordinator and Jonathan Kusel, FCR director and principal investigator. The new Center coordinator began work on 28 August. Research associates Mark Baker and Leah Wills work on selected PWCFC projects as appropriate. In addition, Jesse Hunter was employed during the reporting period as field coordinator for the Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Project. Lorraine Hanson, Joyce Cunningham, and Amy Hafsrud provide staff support for the Center.

During the reporting period, an internal evaluation was initiated with AC members. This will be completed in Spring 2003.

Katie and Jonathan responded in writing and in conversation to a letter from the NCFC that outlined concerns regarding PWCFC products and reporting. Significant time and effort were invested in facilitating AC participation in the process and responding to the letter and related inquiries.

The draft 2003 workplan was developed by staff and submitted to the NCFC on 20 December. It will be reviewed by the AC at the January retreat.

Requested materials were submitted for the NCFC external evaluation.

List of Attachments

- AC retreat and conference call minutes
- Printout of PWCFC tri-fold conference display
- NEAI Assessment final report
- Press release and AP article on NEAI Assessment
- Civic science paper submitted to World Forestry Congress
- *The Integration of Community Well-being and Forest Health in the Pacific Northwest: A Case Study of the Columbia Pacific Resource and Conservation District Council*
- Report on the first annual regional meeting of the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group, *Cambio Social a través del Enlace entre Líderes de las Comunidades Latinas Forestales en el Pacífico-Norte de los Estados Unidos*. (Completed during the last reporting period).