

Pacific West Community Forestry Center
Ninth Triannual Report: Submitted May 1, 2003

Introduction and Overview

This triannual report highlights activities from January 1 through April 30, 2002. During this period, the Center focused on improving PWCFC/NCFC understanding and collaboration, strengthening existing relationships, expanding networks, implementing existing projects, and preparing outreach materials and publications. Among the achievements of the Center during this reporting period were facilitating a productive meeting of NCFC/NNFP representatives with the PWCFC Advisory Council, brokering relationships between key USDA Forest Service personnel and a local cooperator working with Latino forest workers, completing a web-based sourcebook on Environmental Justice, disseminating the results of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative Assessment to key audiences, and partnering with the University of California Cooperative Extension DANR to plan a participatory research/civic science training conference for the University of California.

Problem Identification

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

- Environmental Justice Environmental Justice means equal protection under the law to live, work, and play in a safe and clean environment. The PWCFC works to increase rural and forest worker participation in water and forestry discussions, particularly focused on low-income and minority communities, and to document and share information regarding environmental justice in a rural context.
- The Ecosystem Workforce: Mobile and Local Many harvesters and workers in the woods have been invisible in forestry discussions, such as Latino restoration workers and Southeast Asian mushroom harvesters. We work to identify and build capacity in these underserved forest worker communities to address their own community-identified issues.
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge We partner with Native American tribes who are recovering and applying their traditional cultural and ecological knowledge in landscape stewardship.
- Socioeconomic Monitoring and Assessment We engage in primary, applied, and participatory research to help develop important lessons about community well-being and natural resource use and jobs.
- Civic Science Understanding and practicing civic science has become central to our work in the region. We are working to build the capacity of the underserved to participate, and to build the understanding and skills of researchers and agencies to practice civic science.

Problem identification within these focus areas occurred through AC meetings, conversations with AC members and regional partners, emerging regional issues, and the capacity building and needs assessment with local cooperators.

Two problem areas were highlighted during the previous reporting period: the salmon fish-kill on the Klamath River, and the need for a mobile ecosystem workforce assessment. These remain important areas for the Center. Other responsibilities precluded focused attention to these issues during the reporting period, but scoping will occur in the second half of 2003. First, preliminary discussions continued with AC member Sherlette Colegrove about the potential of initiating a participatory oral history study with Hoopa elders on changes in the river and salmon run over time. Second, AC member Cece Headley is a partner with the Ecosystem Workforce Program at the University of Oregon for an assessment of conditions for forest workers on federal lands. The assessment will analyze Covered Employment and Payroll data from the Oregon Employment

Department and conduct in-depth interviews with labor-intensive forest workers. The Center will continue to discuss knowledge gaps and needs around this issue, particularly for a participatory research component.

A third issue that has emerged through Advisory Council meetings and discussions with local cooperators has been the need to make connections to the Traditional Ecological Knowledge work in the southern Sierra. During the reporting period, a new community-based project was initiated with Qwina West of the Bishop Paiute tribe to document traditional knowledge of plants in the Owens River basin and make links to current scientific knowledge (see Work with Partner Communities).

(Bioregional) Advisory Council (AC)

An Advisory Council retreat was held January 30-31 in Davis, CA. There were 20 participants, including 10 AC members/technical advisors, 3 staff, 6 NNFP/NCFC staff and board representatives, and one local cooperator (in addition to two AC members who are cooperators). AC members took an active role in planning and facilitating the retreat. Discussion topics included improving the relationship between the PWCFC, the NCFC and community partners; progress and challenges community-based projects experienced since September; participatory research in culturally diverse contexts; review of the AC's Adaptive Learning Framework; and allocation of project funds for 2003. Retreat notes are attached.

Three conference calls were held with the AC during the reporting period. A primary topic of discussion was how to develop specific research plans beyond the general scope of work with local cooperators. The goal is to be responsive to NCFC requests, while maintaining allegiance to the communities and respecting their processes for developing, discussing, and sharing their knowledge. Conference call notes are attached.

In February, PWCFC staff brokered a meeting with AC member José Montenegro and the supervisor of the Plumas National Forest to discuss building capacity for engagement with the local Latino community (see Work with Partner Communities). In March, AC member Jose Montenegro and PWCFC/CIDERS intern Primo Sanchez met with staff to discuss methods for expanding the work of the Grupo de Trabajadores Hispanos and the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group.

In February, AC member Dick Hansis and PWCFC/FCR staff member Mark Baker met with the president of Humboldt State University to explore avenues for collaboration on civic science in the region. The president is very interested in partnering to convene a summit on civic science, and to engage on rural poverty issues and regional restoration work.

AC members Sherlette Colegrove and Carl Wilmsen (technical advisor) participated in the Cultural Diversity Working Group meeting in St. Louis in April.

AC member José Montenegro participated by conference call in an exchange for cross-regional learning with the AFRC in March.

AC members Kim Rodrigues and Gary Nakamura (technical advisor) initiated 3 planning sessions with PWCFC staff and other UC researchers for a state-wide workshop on civic science/participatory research to be held with UC Cooperative Extension advisors and specialists September 16-17.

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, and the Maidu Cultural and Development Group to build capacity in underserved communities and conduct participatory research projects. A new traditional ecological knowledge project was initiated with the Bishop and Big Pine Paiute tribal communities in the southern Sierra.

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 by creating a network of leaders: the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group (LFWLG). CIDERS is developing, piloting, and documenting a participatory methodology to build capacity for Latino forest workers and harvesters to identify their own needs, create a network of leaders to more effectively work with scientists and practitioners, and to design, develop, and implement initiatives in their local communities. Skill-building includes monitoring and evaluating progress toward goals. During the reporting period, the LFWLG project continued outreach with Latino forest worker communities in Portola, Aberdeen, and Forks. These meetings were focused on continued needs assessment and networking. In addition, CIDERS continued capacity building workshops with the Shelton, WA node of the network (described below). In February, Primo Sanchez began an internship with CIDERS/PWCFC focused on refining the methodology and expanding the on-the-ground work of the network. Center staff provided technical assistance to CIDERS/LFWLG on proposal development with the Ford Foundation. These efforts were useful in clarifying goals and progress of the work as well as building the capacity of CIDERS. Staff developed a concept proposal for USFS State and Private Forestry Region 6 for advancing work with Latino workers in the region.

The PWCFC partners with **Mason County Literacy** to work with Spanish-speaking floral greens harvesters and forest workers in Shelton, WA. The Grupo de Trabajadores Hispanos (GTH, Group of Hispanic Workers) meets weekly with the goal of increasing workers' access to information on relevant worker issues. The Center is partnering with them to develop their capacity to access research, information, and technical training and workshops they identify as important. During the reporting period the group continued implementing, monitoring, and evaluating their written Capacity Building Strategy. Intern Primo Sanchez worked with the group to refine and sharpen the strategy. They have planned a community information-sharing workshop with Labor and Industry to learn about relevant labor policies and laws. The group has begun to meet regularly with workers in nearby Aberdeen to share their methodology and lessons learned and to explore avenues for collaboration, expanding the LFWLG network (described above). Staff planned a meeting of the group with the American Forests Policy Director to take place in May.

The Center coordinates the **Crescent Lake Multi-party Monitoring Project (CLMMP)** in southeast Oregon. The Center provides fiscal oversight and coordination to help facilitate participatory monitoring of the social and ecological impacts of the harvest and to increase information sharing and collaboration among harvesters, community members, the Forest Service, and other stakeholders. The reporting period was the off-season for the project. Activities focused on editing the project report, initial planning with partners for the 2003 season, and leveraging the gains made with harvester-Forest Service information-sharing and collaboration to lay groundwork for similar collaboration with the sister monitoring project in Cave Junction. Staff developed a concept proposal for USFS State and Private Forestry Region 6 to advance participatory monitoring with harvesters in the region.

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 reporting period was between harvest seasons. Due to 2003 fires in the area, a very large Morel mushroom harvest is anticipated. The IBIG FAC plans to initiate multi-party monitoring for the Morel harvest, likely to begin in May. During the reporting period, the Siskiyou National Forest proposed to use the herbicide picloram to eradicate a spotted knapweed population. Harvesters were not notified of the plan or the comment process. Picloram is a highly mobile and persistent herbicide, making harvesters particularly vulnerable to exposure. At the request of the FAC and harvesters, the PWCFC advised harvesters about the preparation of a petition to request (1) that all harvesters who purchase permits in the Forest be notified in writing of the plan and (2) that the decision not be made until harvesters could participate in informational field-trips and face to face consultation. The PWCFC provided technical assistance to the FAC on strategies for broadening and increasing community participation in Forest Service decision-making and advancing more collaborative civic science processes. The FAC and the Center will work with others in the region (Collaborative Learning Circle, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa tribe) to increase information-sharing on alternative weed eradication strategies.

The Center partnered with the **Hoopa Tribe** in northern California to develop a case study of community forestry that will appear in the forthcoming book, *Forest Communities, Community Forests*, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. During the reporting period, the community review was completed and the case study was posted on the PWCFC website. Status of the proposed oral history project with the Hoopa Tribe on Klamath River water issues and impacts on salmon remained unchanged during the reporting period.

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 tribe in California. The MCDG is working to build a TEK network along traditional trade and kinship routes. During the reporting period, the MCDG engaged in a number of information-gathering activities. They collaborated with the Greenville and Susanville Rancherias to convene monthly summits of 9 mountain Maidu tribes. Through these summits they are identifying common community priorities and laying the groundwork for sharing TEK. The tribes identified creating a land management plan of Homer Lake, a Maidu sacred site, as a priority. The plan will include TEK elements. MCDG is taking the lead in gathering information on community priorities around land management. In addition, the MCDG is gathering public comment for the NEPA scoping process for a proposed fuels reduction project on their Stewardship Site. During the reporting period they conducted the written scoping process, and planned a public meeting and field trip for May 3. Finally, the MCDG continued their educational activities with youth to teach Maidu language and to teach Maidu Stewardship in the MESA class.

In March a project was initiated with local cooperator and AC member Qwina West. The **Bishop and Big Pine Paiute Tribal Communities** are documenting their traditional ecological knowledge of native plants in the Owens River Valley in California and linking their knowledge with current scientific knowledge. With the passing of an older generation of Paiutes, the unique knowledge that defines the Paiute people's relationship with the land is passing with them. With few tribal members fluent in Paiute, it is increasingly urgent that traditional behaviors and language are recorded. Tribal member Qwina West is working with local botanists Daniel Pritchett and Sally Manning to begin to develop a shared understanding of important local plants along the river flood plain of the Owens Valley. Mr. Pritchett and Dr. Manning work extensively with native plants of the Owens Valley and will provide current scientific names and knowledge about these plants. Mr. West is working with local elders in plant identification and providing translational stories. During the reporting period, Mr. West recorded over 10 hours of film of an elder discussing plants associated with the Owens River. Edited versions of the interviews will be prepared and presented to Sally Manning and Daniel Pritchett on May 31. During this orientation meeting, dates and locations for field discussions on the plants field will be schedule. The team

plans to locate and discuss the plants by the end of June. An expected outcome will be an understanding of the different perspectives of the plants between traditional Paiute knowledge and western scientific knowledge. Those differences and the understanding will be documented at the end of the field sessions.

Local cooperators submitted brief project reports and funding proposals for the January 2003 AC retreat. All projects were funded. Center staff are currently working with local cooperators to craft contracts and research plans.

Regional Center Research (Staff-directed research)

The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative Assessment examines the effectiveness of the socioeconomic companion plan to President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan aimed at assisting timber-dependent communities. The PWCFC contributed to the \$600,000 study. During the reporting period, dissemination of the assessment results continued through briefings and workshops (see Communications and Outreach).

Research associate Mark Baker, with regional partners including the North Coast Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment, Forest Community Research, and the Redwood Community Action Alliance, initiated an inclusive and participatory study of the restoration economy in Humboldt county in northern California. The PWCFC supported partnership building and proposal development; the Ford Foundation is funding study implementation. During the reporting period, Phase I of the study was initiated. Dr. Baker supervised 4 interns from Humboldt State University to compile a database of total annual restoration investment from 1995-2002. Investment streams are being analyzed. In addition, Dr. Baker initiated in-depth qualitative interviews with key informants for an analysis of the institutional infrastructure of the restoration economy in the county. Next phases of the study will include a workforce and contractor assessment and a focus on the community and tribal aspects of restoration. The study pilots methods that will inform future work for a broader mobile workforce assessment.

During the reporting period, PWCFC research assistant Beth Rose Middleton completed a web-based sourcebook on Environmental Justice. The sourcebook provides a primer on environmental justice and participatory research, a summary of laws and policies relevant to environmental justice, and a growing database of resources for communities facing environmental justice issues. The text was reviewed by an environmental justice working group at the University of California Berkeley. The sourcebook is available on the PWCFC website at www.pwcfc.org.

Communications and Outreach

Outreach meetings

During the reporting period, Center staff, research associates, and Advisory Council members 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 Second Annual Pacific Northwest Community-based Forestry Public Lands Policy Meeting;
- a meeting with the president of Humboldt State University to discuss civic science among underserved communities in the region and opportunities for collaboration;
- a meeting with a leader in the Latino community in Portola, CA to introduce the Center and to discuss potential avenues for beginning participatory research and capacity building with Latino forest workers in Portola;

- a meeting between Center staff, the Supervisor of the Plumas National Forest, and CIDERS director Jose Montenegro to explore building collaborative relationships with the Latino community in nearby Portola and potential workers in the Oroville area;
- a phone meeting with José Briseño, Region 5 Civil Rights Program Manager, about Latino forest worker issues and support for PWCFC work.
- meetings with staffers from Senator Feinstein's office and Senator Wyden's office about the work of the Center
- conversations with State and Private Forestry Region 6 Coordinator about support of Center projects in the region

Outreach materials

A new PWCFC website was designed during the reporting period and launched May 1. The new website includes description of program areas, the role of the Advisory Council, examples of both community-based and staff-directed research projects, downloadable publications, a microsite for a web-based sourcebook on Environmental Justice, links to other NCFC centers, and news. Writing and design of a brochure and newsletter were initiated.

Publications and information dissemination

During the reporting period, the report and results of the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative Assessment were disseminated. Jonathan presented the study methodology to the work group evaluating the effects of forest plan appeals (January 6-7). General study results and findings were presented locally, regionally, and nationally to the following: Rotary in Chester, CA (January 16); staffers for Senators Feinstein and Wyden and the lead staffer for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C (March 5-6); and the Regional Interagency Executive Committee, Forest Service planners and others in Portland, OR (April 1). The case study, *Against the Odds: (Re-)Building Community through Forestry on the Hoopa Reservation* underwent community review and was revised for publication. The case study is attached, and is available on the PWCFC website. In addition, the case study 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 2002 Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Project underwent a third round of review and revision. Final editing is currently underway and the report will be sent out for review by project partners and stakeholders.

The project report from the 2002 meeting of the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group was translated from Spanish to English during the reporting period. The translation is undergoing review and editing.

The *Environmental Justice Sourcebook* (web-based) was designed and will be launched May 2. The sourcebook provides a primer on environmental justice, a summary of current literature and relevant legislation, and a growing database of community and policy resources related to rural environmental justice. It is available at www.pwcfc.org.

Summary list of publications completed during reporting period:

- *DRAFT 3, Crescent Lake Mushroom Monitoring Report on 2002 Season*
- *Against the Odds: (Re-)Building Community Through Forestry on the Hoopa Reservation* (Final)
- *Environmental Justice Sourcebook* (web-based)
- DRAFT English translation of *Report on the First Regional Meeting of the Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group 2002*

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, Jonathan, Katie and AC members Kim Rodrigues and Gary Nakamura initiated 3 intensive planning sessions with the California Communities Program and other UC researchers for a state-wide two-day workshop on civic science and participatory research for UC Cooperative Extension advisors, researchers, and community members. The workshop will take place September 16-17. (Note: Initially a training session was planned for a UC conference in February. The conference was cancelled due to California state budget cuts.).

In addition, staff worked to connect community partners with technical assistance and funders, and helped strategize for productive agency relationships. Center staff facilitated discussions with AC member Jose Montenegro and the Plumas National Forest. Staff provided technical assistance with the CIDERS/Latino Forest Workers Leadership Group on proposal development. Staff and AC member Beverly Brown helped broker the relationship between CIDERS and the Ford Foundation, resulting in a two-year funding commitment for the LFWLG effort.

Staff assisted the Forestry Action Committee in facilitating harvester and partner participation in the Siskiyou National Forest comment period regarding proposed use of herbicides in harvesting areas, and helped strategize for next steps with the Forest Service (see Work with Partner Communities).

Other Activities

Center staff (with harvester permission) provided materials/photographs of underserved communities for 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.

National Responsibilities

Center staff participated in a variety of meetings and conference calls focused on cross-regional learning. In January, Katie Bagby participated in the NCFC staff meeting in New Orleans. In February, Katie and the coordinators of the Southwest and Northern Forest centers initiated informal calls to share ideas on how to address particular topics and/or tasks and to share lessons learned through the regional work. The AFRC coordinator will participate in future conference calls. The group planned a 3-day working session in May with the goals of (1) getting some of the regional lessons learned on paper, and (2) beginning to understand, document, and celebrate the different approaches taken to address similar issues according to regional needs and culture. In March, PWCFC staff and AFRC staff coordinated an exchange for cross-regional learning on Latino NTFP harvester issues, overlaps in our work, and shared policy issues. Forest Service researcher Marla Emery and AC member José Montenegro also participated. The Center thanks the NNFP for financial assistance for practitioner participation.

In April, Katie participated in the NNFP Cultural Diversity Working Group (CDWG) meeting in St. Louis to explore potential connections between the Center's work with the underserved and other NNFP efforts. Katie is participating in a CDWG subcommittee on place-based knowledge. Katie co-authored an article on community cooperation for the Forest Trust's quarterly report.

Jonathan and Katie submitted applications to participate in the community forestry Week in Washington. Staff conducted outreach to community members to participate, and is helping to make policy connections for the event.

The Center was represented on all EC conference calls for the reporting period.

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. During the reporting period research associates Mark Baker and Beth Rose Middleton worked on selected PWCFC projects and represented the Center at regional meetings (e.g., the Collaborative Learning Circle, the Second Annual PNW Community-based Forestry Public Lands Policy Meeting). Lorraine Hanson, Joyce Cunningham, and Amy Hafsrud provided staff support for the Center.

The 2003 budget and narrative were submitted on January 15. The 2003 workplan was revised according to AC review and discussions with staff, local cooperators, the NCFC coordinator, and the Forest Trust. The revised workplan was submitted March 4. Staff worked to finalize the new contract with the Forest Trust for 2003. That process was completed.

Staff and AC members participated in the NCFC external evaluation through interviews and commenting on drafts.

List of Attachments

- AC retreat and conference call minutes
- *Against the Odds: (Re-)Building Community Through Forestry on the Hoopa Reservation*