

A RIVER HISTORY:
Conversations with Long-term Residents
of the
Lower South Fork Trinity River
Summer 1995



by

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for

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INTRODUCTION

During the years 1971-1980, I lived on an old homestead on the South Fork of the Trinity River. For many reasons, those years were a life-changing experience for me. I was completely enchanted by the beauty of the river and of the meadows and forests. Lacking a background in river sciences, and being unfamiliar with ecological disasters at that time, I was not aware that what I was looking at was just that - an ecological disaster. I had not seen the old fir forests before they were cut down, nor the river before the channel was filled with gravel. I grew up in the gentle rolling hills of Marin and Sonoma counties, where logging had ceased long before I was born. San Francisco Bay was still full of shrimp and crab, and the Russian River floods of 1955 and 1964 had been presented in the press as human disasters - loss of homes and property, and even lives - but not as ecological crises.

Our neighbors on the South Fork talked about the decline in the fish runs since 1964, and pointed out changes in the gravel bars and riverbed that had occurred during the high water of 1964. I sensed things weren't right because when people talked about the days when "you could walk across the river on the backs of the salmon" I could only try to imagine what that would be like - I was never fortunate enough to see fish runs of that magnitude. The runs of the '70's were marginal. It wasn't until I began to study the Klamath River system years later that I fully realized what had happened to the South Fork, the destruction that had taken place during the winter of 1964.

When I returned to the area in 1991, I was disturbed by the changes I observed. The river appeared to be devoid of life. Friends who are long time residents of the area said the river seemed to be dead, or dying. It wasn't just the fish that had disappeared, but most forms of aquatic life; amphibians and reptiles had become scarce, too. Even the eels were gone. I learned that by the late 80's there were those in the science community who believed, and perhaps continue to believe, that the South Fork is a lost cause, a "dead river" which will never recover from the devastation of the 1964 storms. I found this hard to accept, and began attending, first, Trinity Bioregion Group (TBRG) meetings, and then South Fork Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group (CRMP) meetings. I was relieved, and happy to find that there were scientists and resource professionals who were willing to put time and effort into finding solutions for the South Fork's problems.

While attending the CRMP meetings in Trinity County I observed that participation in the CRMP by private, non-industry landowners was not in balance with the number of professional and governmental resource specialists attending the meetings. While there is some participation and representation in the CRMP by upriver residents and landowners, there is almost no participation by residents of the lower river watershed.

It was suggested to me by one of the authors of the *Action Plan for Restoration of the South Fork Trinity River Watershed and its Fisheries* that it would be worthwhile to initiate an interview and outreach project of long term residents of the river basin. As well as an opportunity to inform landowners and residents about the CRMP, I wanted to gain a better understanding of

current social and environmental conditions in the watershed, and how those conditions compare to pre-1964 conditions.

The report I've assembled is based on conversations with long term residents of the lower basin over a two month period (August -September 1995). This is by no means a complete socio-environmental study, but could be used as the beginning of a pilot study. Some of the residents I wished to interview were not available during this time period, but would be worth interviewing at a later date.

In some cases I was successful in obtaining the specific information I sought. I was often surprised by what I heard, and by the views expressed by the people I spoke with. The conversations were informal, circular, and non-linear; I worked from a guideline, but let the conversations take their own course. The material from the interviews and conversations has been organized into several sections: excerpts from the conversations and interviews; comments and suggestions; a compilation of information gleaned from the interviews that might hopefully be useful to those doing watershed studies of the lower basin; and recommendations for the CRMP and other groups/agencies active in the basin. Maps are included to indicate the specific areas being discussed. Photos were taken to aid in visually identifying specific locations, and I've included a list of local people who are valuable resources as historians, photographers, and story tellers.

It was a pleasure for me to interview these long-term residents of the river. As they talked I was able to see the country through their eyes, as it was in their youth. Much valuable history in the form of journals and letters and old photographs of both the lower South Fork and the Trinity River region downriver from Burnt Ranch has been lost to fires and other catastrophes. Many "old timers" with stories to tell have passed away and it is my hope that a socio/ecological history can be gathered from those elders who are still around to share their stories and insight.

Amelia Berol
Arcata, California
January 1996

LIST OF LOCATIONS

1. **Confluence of the South Fork with the mainstem Trinity River**
2. **Sandy Bar**
3. **Madden Creek** (Campbell Creek)
4. **Swanson mine** (shown as Placer Mines on USGS map)
5. **Bussell/Ammon flat**
6. **Martin homesite**, currently owned by Nick and Ann Martin
7. **Westerberg/Cook homestead**, currently owned by Ken and Darlene McCoy
8. **John Schocker residence**
9. **The "PG&E camp"**, currently owned by Sierra Pacific Industries
10. **Canclini residence**, Martha and Guido Canclini
11. **Limestairs Post Office** - No longer a post office, and currently owned by Larry McCoy (no relation to K. and D. McCoy)
12. **The Holmes Farm**, Dr. Scott and Esther Holmes
13. **Mouth of Ammon Creek**
14. **The Jurin Ranch**, John and Phyllis Jurin
15. **Cedar Grove Ranch**
16. **Active slide area**
17. **Bradley property**, Alan and Julia Bradley
18. **Todd Ranch**
19. **Mouth of Mingo Creek**
20. **Mouth of Surprise Creek/Coon Creek**

BACKGROUND ON LISTED LOCATIONS

- 1. Confluence of the South Fork with the mainstem Trinity** - Martin Road, on the west side of South Fork Bridge, leads to the old Martin family homesite. Here, on the west bank, is where the main village site of the Tsnung'we people was located. It is a private property, but on the east side of South Fork Bridge, on Hwy. 299, there is a public access trail leading to the confluence of the rivers.
- 2. Sandy Bar** - Originally, access was very close to the beginning of Friday Ridge Road - a road went behind the sawmill and led to a river location that is downstream from what is currently known as Sandy Bar. This road was closed 10-15 years ago. River Mile 1 - 1.3.
- 3. Madden Creek, formerly called Campbell Creek** - was renamed because there is another Campbell Creek in the Six Rivers District. (It flows north from Brannon Mountain and joins the Trinity River between Willow Creek and Hupa Valley.) Most local residents still refer to Madden Creek as "Campbell" Creek. A large homesite was located on the north side of the mouth. (See Section III, Geology and Soils, 1.) River Mile 1.5.
- 4. Swanson mine** (shown as Placer Mines on USGS map) - The only large placer gold mine in the lower basin. Hydraulic mining washed ancient river gravels into the Trinity rather than the South Fork. Water for the placer mine was transported across the South Fork from Madden Creek by pipe. (See Excerpts, T. Thomas interview)
- 5. Bussell/Ammon flat** - This was homesteaded by John Coon, T. Bussell's grandfather, over a hundred years ago. He came into the area looking for gold. The woman he married was a Mattole River Indian who, as a child, was one of two survivors of the Mattole River Valley Indian massacre. Some of the orchard and grapes he planted still remain, but the house he built burned in the late 1970's. Teresa Bussell has lived there most of her life. Her late husband, Ozzie Bussell, was related to the Ammon family.
- 6. Martin homesite** - above the Westerberg property (same access road.) Teresa Bussell's parents (Hendersens) lived here until the early 1940's. They sold the property to T. Thomas, who lived there from 1946-1986. Tommy's wife, Helen, is full-blooded Hupa and a tribal member. Lincoln Martin's son and daughter-in-law, Nick and Ann Martin, are the current owners, since 1986.

7. **Westerberg/Cook homestead** - Oxcil Immanuel Westerberg came into the area in 1906 and homesteaded 160 acres on both sides of the river. He is said to have studied law at Harvard, and is highly regarded by all who knew him. His partner, Bill Cook, joined Westerberg in 1908 or 1910. They first lived on a flat on the Humboldt side of the river, accessed from Friday Ridge, and later moved to the Trinity County side. They built a suspension bridge to connect the two sides of their property; M. Wooden has old photos of the bridge. It was dismantled in the 1940's. Fig and apple trees and a stone house still remain from the original homesite on the Humboldt side, and Westerberg's charming two-room cabin on the Trinity property is still standing. The large sheep barn they built about 1915 was burned in a fire in 1988.

Westerberg kept records for the U.S. Weather Bureau for 40 years, dating back to 1919. I am trying to locate those records; they were still on the property when the current owners, Ken and Darlene McCoy bought the property in 1987, but there is a chance the records were in the barn when it burned. There is a possibility that UC Davis has a copy of the records. (See Limestairs Post Office, next page) Westerberg is also said to have had a collection of Indian artifacts that he found on the property during the years he lived there. It is believed he gave the collection to a museum.

The McCoy's purchased the property in 1987. Although a resident of Denver, Colorado, Ken is from an old Hyampom family, and was one of the Hyampom school children who worked on the 1966 Hyampom oral history book. (Mary Arey has an original copy. Her husband, Dick Arey, was also one of the kids who worked on the book). River Mile 4.5 to 5.5 (Mahala Creek).

8. **John Schocker 's home** - John's parents owned this property when he was young; although he did not live there when he was growing up, he has been living there now for over twenty five years. John is very knowledgeable about the South Fork and should be interviewed when possible. River Mile 6.
9. **The "Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) camp"** - currently owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. This 40-acre section of SPI's square mile holding was not logged during the recent timber harvest as it has important archaeological sites. River Mile 6.5.
10. **Canclini's home** - The only remaining suspension bridge on the lower South Fork, beyond Underwood Creek, is at the Canclini property. It was called Limestairs Bridge and was used as a mule crossing for homesteaders who lived across and further up the river. It is marked "Footbridge" on USGS maps. A USGS Gaging Station was here until 1964. The Canclini's bought the property from George Nelson in the early 1950's. The 60-acre property extends across both sides of the river and there are remains of an old homesite and orchard in the meadows on the Humboldt side. A good place for botanizing. River Mile 7-8.

11. **Limestairs Post Office** - The old Post Office was in existence from about 1918 until sometime in the 1940's. Lavella Bradley's grandparents, Merton Edward and Ida Marion Shore, obtained the property as a homestead in 1915. (See Mining) Once a week, O. Westerberg brought mail in on his mule from the Salyer Post Office for South Fork residents.

The property, which is southeast of the Canclini home, was later bought by George Nelson. His son-in-law, George McCready, put in a vineyard in the early 1970's which is currently uncared for but of interest because the grape varieties were reportedly chosen for their suitability to the local climate by an agriculturist at UC Davis. Francis Roth, a former resident of the Westerberg homesite, told me that Westerberg's weather records were sent to Davis to assist in choosing the best varieties for the vineyard; the records were later returned but a copy may be on file at the University. The property is currently owned by Larry McCoy, of Arcata (no relation to K. and D. McCoy).

12. **The Holmes Farm** - The Holmes property was homesteaded at the same time as the Shore place (see #17- Bradley property) by Ed Shore's mining partner, a fellow named Weldon. The Holmes have owned the property for the past 14 years. River Mile 8.25.

13. **Mouth of Ammon Creek/Low-Water Bridge** - Ammon Creek is still called Whitesides Creek by some locals; a miner named Whitesides lived here in the late 1800's. The creek, which enters the river across from the Holmes farm, was once a good spawning tributary but was severely devastated by the '64 storms and has not recovered.

Some people still refer to the lovely meadows to the southwest of the mouth of the creek as "Lorensen's flat". Lorensen built the bridge that crosses the river here known as "low water bridge". (See Interview with Peter Canclini). For many decades a popular area for swimmers and boaters, public access from South Fork Road to Low-Water Bridge has been cut off by the current owners. River Mile 8.25.

14. **The Jurin Ranch** - This is the original homesite of the Carpenter family, and is still referred to sometimes as the Carpenter Ranch. The Jurins are related by marriage to the Carpenter family. The ranch has the biggest section of flat agricultural land in the lower basin. John Jurin is a long-term resident who should be interviewed. River Mile 10.

15. **Cedar Grove Ranch** - An old road leads from Low-Water Bridge to the Cedar Grove Ranch. The ranch is often referred to as "Super's", for Cal Super, the former owner who developed the ranch.

16. **Active slide area** - See Geology and Soils, #6.

17. **Bradley property** - Homesteaded by Walter Shore, Ed Shore's son; the property now belongs to Walter's grandson, Alan Bradley and his wife, Julia. See Geology and Soils #7.
18. **The Todd Ranch** - Another large agricultural flat, the ranch belonged to Dr. Max Todd for many years. The Forest Service currently manages a right-of-way that gives public river access and camping here. A good spot for botanizing as the river bank is quite lush and diverse in vegetation. River Mile 11.5.
19. **Mouth of Mingo Creek** - George Gaynor's homestead. The current owner, Patrick Colvern has been living there for 20 years, and is a good "river watcher" who should be interviewed. River Mile 12.5.
20. **Mouth of Surprise Creek/Coon Creek** - The area has become a popular US Forest Service (USFS) river access area in recent years. Coon Creek was reportedly a good little spawning tributary until 1964. The lower portion now flows into Surprise Creek and is inaccessible to fish because of the steep waterfall at the mouth. River Mile 14.0.

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEWS

Charles "Tommy" Thomas

Tommy came to the South Fork area as a young man, in the 1940's. He worked as a building contractor for many years and supervised the construction of the Trinidad Marine Lab. He is now in his 70's, and has just returned to the area after being away for 10 years. He was our closest neighbor when I was living at the Westerberg place during the 1970's, and was still spending quite a bit of time at the river during those years. He was a great neighbor and friend to us.

E: So, you grew up in Sausalito?

T: Yes, born and raised in Sausalito.

E: When did you first start coming here?

T: In 1939, and then in the summers of 1940 and 1941. When the war broke out I enlisted in the Navy. I'd been up here on vacation and the old couple that had the place, I knew real well. And I said jokingly if they ever wanted to sell, to let me know. Well, I was making \$50 a month - of course, at that time 20 acres and a house and all the furniture and shed with all the tools and two barns: \$3000. I bought it in 1944 but I was overseas...I didn't get up there till '46 when I got discharged - March 12, 1946.

It was great in those days. Well, the Forest Service - there were four people then. They were local people and it was like one big family. Everybody helped each other then. I just fell in love with the country, I was avid about hunting and fishing and it was here. It was just fantastic in those days. And the river, the South Fork, it could rain hard, but before there was any logging or anything, it would clear up right away. The Trinity stayed muddier a lot longer in those days. But since they started logging there's nothing to hold the silt from coming down and deep holes have filled up as I remember. Where I used to catch salmon, so much silt came down that it just filled the deep holes up.

E: So you remember when that started changing? When did they start logging?

T: Well, it seemed like (it was) when Pat Veneer came in. There was a little bit of logging up at Super's. In fact, we built that bridge that goes across there by the doctor's (low water bridge -Dr. Holmes). A bunch of us built that. There was a little stud mill down there and we built that bridge and there was just a little logging up at Super's. But the big logging started when Pat Veneer came in, and they built roads back in to Simms Mountain and all back through there. Then they really started in. Jensen, when I worked for him in the mill, said to me, "It will be 20 years." Everybody moved in and they just cleaned the country out.

E: So the logging companies came in on private lands?

T: Now this was mostly, [but] there was [also] a lot of Forest Service land. And Walter Gleason owned quite a bit of land, like the Ammon Ranch and some of that. But it was a lot of Forest Service land.

E: Did Gleason do a lot of logging?

T: He owned a lot of property. He got a lot of property way back cause he had money, he was a millionaire. In those days nobody here had anything. So the Ammon Ranch, he got that for a song, and got a lot of timber. He owned quite a lot of timber back in that country.

E: Who was Pat Veneer?

T: They were an outfit that came down from Oregon. They built that first plywood mill. They leveled all that off and built that big pond in there and everything. They started that and it changed hands two or three times. They were the original ones who put the roads into that back country - Simms Mountain and in there.

E: Then, did you start noticing a difference in the river right away?

T: It took awhile. When they were logging way back it wasn't bad. That didn't seem to bother it for awhile cause they were so far back in there. But eventually there was a certain amount of it had to come down... the creeks get full of debris and stuff and then when they bust loose, why it just, it has to come down there's so many steep canyons and the water has to go someplace. It's going to take a certain amount of silt and dirt with it when it goes.....then they started logging where you look across from the bluff in places right near the river. And then the silt started coming down when we got heavy rains. There was nothing to hold it. The brush was gone and everything else...that mud would just be streaming down those side hills. I talked to the Forest Service and they said, "No, that didn't cause it". In my mind it did. When you get all that silt coming down and all the brush and timber is gone there's nothing to absorb it. It filled up them holes, all my favorite fishing holes. It just wasn't the same after they started logging and we had all them heavy rains... and the river stayed muddy for a long time after a heavy rain instead of clearing up like it did when the mud wasn't coming in... the country was a mess in them days.

E: So what about the salmon. When did that start changing?

T: Well, it was good into the '60's. I think I noticed it about the end of the '60's. When we put this power line down, towards Hupa, that was in the '60's as I remember. We put it in from Hupa to Weitchpec and I worked on that line and looking down in those holes it was just packed with salmon. All kinds of them. Seems like in the '70's it started going down.....I think it's a combination of so many things. The seals are eating tons of fish, the foreign fishing vessels coming in, they're not supposed to take salmon but they do. And the erosion has a lot to do with it, where they used to spawn. And the dam up here (Lewiston), that had a lot to do with it. I used to go hunt up on Scott Mountain and we'd go way up and follow the Trinity up before the dam was in and the salmon would just be packed up there where it was real shallow. Well, that's all gone now, they can't get up there to spawn. It's a combination of things.

E: So from what you saw, the upper Trinity was an important spawning area?

T: Yeah. And the South Fork used to be real good. There used to be hundreds, you'd go and watch them. There were the trout, the young salmon and steelhead that are grown up enough to go to sea. You'd go up there in the evenings and sit there and they'd just be jumping all over the place, feeding.

E: Where?

T: Campbell Creek, up the South Fork - even the Indians used to come up there. There were so many fish that went up the South Fork that they set up camp there. They'd dry them for their winter meat supply. Then Westerberg, of course, this was probably going back nearly a hundred years ago, when he came here, he said they were just jammed in below the place (the Westerberg homestead). The salmon were just packed in there. He's the one who told me stories, he bet he could walk across their backs and get to the other side. But I don't know about that!

E: In his lifetime, during his years here, did he see a big change, between 1906 and 1961?

T: Well, yeah - there weren't nearly as many as when he first came here. But there was still a lot in the '40's when I came here, it was fantastic. That's one reason I moved here because I loved to fish and hunt. This was an ideal place...I didn't think things would ever change - I didn't think the salmon would ever disappear.....the spring salmon, the river is usually high and cold and they just move right up. That was the best eating salmon cause they were firm and fresh and right out of the ocean. Then the summer when it got hot, the fish were trying to find these deep holes to lay in, to get some cold water, they'd get down deep in the holes and then they got kind of soft because they didn't travel. They were trying to stay cool and they probably traveled at night. The summer run wasn't near as good as the spring, that was the best eating salmon. Then you'd get a fall run of course. That's when the steelhead followed them up.

E: Did you have favorite fishing holes that changed after a heavy winter?

T: That riffle where we used to swim, and then down there at the end there was a big deep hole (Westerberg's). It was just fantastic salmon fishing. Then, I used to go up above Canclini's along in there and then by the old Sundheimer place way up where Dr. Todd lived. I used to walk up there and sometimes two or three of us would walk up; Les Ammon - we'd go up and spend the night. We'd take some fishing poles and some flour and coffee. Go up one day and fish and just take our time coming back. Camp overnight. It was just beautiful in those days, there was no logging and everything was just pretty, all the timber.

E: Huge old-growth fir?

T: Yeah, it was all just beautiful.

E: Did you ever go as far as Hyampom?

T: No. I'd go up four or five miles, where there used to be another swinging bridge, way up there four or five miles.

E: Did anybody live up there?

T: There were people named Williams. In fact, they had the grocery store in Salyer for awhile, Everett and Gladys Williams. They lived up there. They had a great big old horse named George - they'd load some lumber on George and they'd go up there. They lived down below and worked the mills while they were building their house. And they'd load George down with a few boards and they'd go up and work on their house and they finally got it built, across the river there. You had to wade across; then, the bridge that was way up there another four miles or so, the Forest Service wanted to take it down, so Everett bought it off the F.S. for a dollar. Then, he had to move it. They floated it down, I helped them some. We floated it down to his place and finally put it up. I don't know if it's still there or not. The flood damaged it, the water got pretty high.

E: What was it like after the '55 flood? Did that affect the river badly?

T: Well, there wasn't too much logging then. Sometimes if you get a lot of high water it will clean the river out pretty well. That (flood) didn't seem to affect things too much.

E: Do you remember what the river was like after '55?

T: I remember during the flood it was really something, but when it dropped, I imagine there was a lot of silt that come in and a lot of it stayed.

E: It seems like people talk about the '64 flood a lot more than the '55 flood.

T: It was really something, I couldn't believe the force of the water and what it done. (In '64) I took a backpack and walked to Willow Creek. I had to go up around the hills in certain places. I couldn't believe Willow Creek, it was just devastated. That store and courthouse was out in the middle of the street, and that restaurant there where used to be Big Red's (Lu's now). I worked in it, I was working for Art Dickson, and we got the job and the silt was that high inside of it. We had to clean it out. Then I worried about Helen (Tommy's wife, Helen, is a Hupa Indian woman and a member of the Tribe). Helen was worried about her mother. We couldn't get word so I took a backpack and went down. I had to go over a cable here where the Willow Creek bridge is and on down the hill. Then I got to Knight's and I couldn't go on so I had to go around. There's an old road that went around the mountain and it was snowing and I got up there and there was an old 4-wheel drive that the PG&E crew was trying to get through. And I caught a ride with them almost to Hupa. Then I walked down there. It was really something.

E: Was Hupa Valley flooded?

T: Oh yes, a lot of places. The lower places. A big creek come down and Helen's homeplace, it just about took everything out from under it.

The Swanson Mine

T: ..where the road goes up the hill, to the left there's a great big mine up there, the old Swanson mine.

E: You mean on South Fork Road?

T: Yeah. You just come off the highway, you get right to the top where you level off, you know the road goes up that way. There's a huge mine. I used to run one of those big giants - they washed that whole mountain side down.

E: Down into the Trinity?

T: It came in through flumes. Then they had holding pens in Donahue's field, that first field to the left when you start up (South Fork Road). They leveled off so the water would be clear when it went into the river. The old days, they just had a flume that went over the road; they had a big wooden flume when I first came here (1939) and it just went over in the river, but then the Fish and Game and everybody got after them. So they built holding pens there and they'd run it (gravel and sediment) into the water and then trickle it (from one pen) into another. By the time it went into the river it was clear. They took water clean over from across the (South Fork) river, Campbell Creek. They piped it down; they had a pipeline and flume that came across the river, where the old plywood mill was, just above it there were big pipes across there. Well, that came down from way up on the mountain on the other side and we built flumes up there and they had this pipe. It came down and then up, and they had two pumping stations up there. They created their own electricity. They had big generators and you turned them on and that forced the water up and it came out of these big nozzles - great big giants.

Interview with Teresa Henderson Bussell

Teresa is in her early 60's and grew up on the South Fork Trinity, where she has lived for most of her life. Her grandfather, John Coon, immigrated to the area in the 1880's and homesteaded the area known as the Bussell/Ammon flat. Her husband, Ozzie Bussell, was the owner of the Willow Creek body shop. He collected old cars, hence the well-known South Fork Road "car lot".

T: When I was in grammar school, in the winter, there was snow on this ground - 18 inches, 2 feet, whatever, off and on all winter long. It never occurred to us it would be any different. Now, it's a rarity, so you know that the climate has changed.

E: When was that, Teresa?

T: I started school in 1935. So, going through the 30's and into the 40's when I was going to high school over in Weaverville.

E: You went to high school all the way over in Weaverville?

T: I boarded over there.

E: And when did the climate start changing?

T: In the late 40's and 50's there started being less and less snow in the winters. Once in awhile we have a cold spell and some snow now. A flurry in May or something. But not the snow on the ground we had back during the war years.

E: What changes in the river have you noticed?

T: We don't have those big floods like we used to. I don't mean flood, I mean high water. We never thought of them as floods because it's a deep canyon here. We just thought of it as normal winter high water. We used to climb the bluff down here in the summer and swim. One of my brothers and I dragged the diving board as high up as we could get it, and put it behind the bedrock up there. Cause the water never got that high. Except in '64 it did. That whole canyon was 30 or 40 feet up there. It was huge. We didn't call it a flood, though, because there weren't people living along the river.

E: Did the water get high almost every winter?

T: Yes, when I was growing up.

E: Do you recall any droughts when you were growing up?

T: No. There were long summers where the only thing you had were thunder showers. Those big beautiful clouds would build up and then you'd have a real nice warm thunder shower and it would be over. There were no droughts, though, no. You just took it for granted that winter was going to be wet and cold and fun for a kid.

E: Did the river stay higher all summer long? Is the river a lot lower now in August than it was when you were a kid, in August?

T: Yeah, the river's smaller, it has been for years. The drought made it ridiculous. You look from our bluff down at that little trickle. Places that we used to dive and swim, now you can wade across.

E: What about the water temperature in the summertime, did it used to be colder, too?

T: Sure, cause there were all those big deep holes. Over where they call it Madden Creek, but we call it Campbell Creek, over on the way to Sandy Bar, that huge big hole where the creek comes in, it made a big hole between the creek and the river back in the 30's. The fish were so thick there.

E: Did you fish?

T: No, I didn't need to. My brothers did. And my husband liked trout fishing. He wasn't a salmon fisherman.

E: Do you think that the fish population dropping off went along with the climate change, or did that happen later?

T: It started happening at the same time. Unless it was something out on the coast, pollution or something. I think the climate had a lot to do with it. The water is too warm. And then when the South Fork gets so low, there's not a direct channel into the Trinity. There's a channel but it's a shallow channel that is spread out and it isn't that accessible for the fish. When it's low the water flow isn't strong enough to cut that channel back down.

E: So the water channel was a lot deeper then at the mouth when you were a kid?

T: Yes. And our swimming hole down here where we swam as kids all filled in. It is beginning to work its way down now through all that silt and stuff. And out below Schockers, where John Schocker lives, we used to swim there and the big deep holes all filled in. You can look at the mountain and see all the slides that came down. We went up right after the '64 rains...up there across from Carpenter's we could look and see the big crack in the mountain. The whole section broke both sides of the mountain clear down the creek. It must have plugged the river temporarily.

E: Where is that? I'm not sure where that is?

T: Up near the end of South Fork Road. The Jurin's place, across the river. This whole big section just moved. You could see the big scar there, but I haven't been up there in years...

E: Now, where did you go swimming from here?

T: Straight down. The trail - if you can call it a trail - went straight over the bluff. We didn't have a trail. What the boys did is they nailed or tied the grapevines, the big wild grapevines to the trees down there so we had something to hang onto. Otherwise we just slid and skidded down. When you're a kid and you run and work all the time, you're never still, while you're in good physical shape. I was telling somebody the other day what a hard childhood I had. We had to work out there in the garden every morning. We had to pull so many rows of corn and so much whatever. It was a terrible life cause we got the sun all afternoon (she's being sarcastic, reader). But, we had to WALK. Sometimes we'd walk to Sandy Bar where we'd meet the other kids, otherwise it was just the Ammon kids and us.

E: How did you go to Sandy Bar? Did you walk down the road?

T: Part way, and then we'd cut across the fields and down the side. There used to be a huge big mining pipe where the Salyer mine, the Swanson mine, got their water power over there on Friday Ridge. They had a big pipeline that they'd hung across the river so we used to scale across that. Walk across or crawl across. I probably didn't walk across, I'm scared to death of heights! I don't know how I did it, but I did. That was a long time ago.

E: Did you have a big family?

T: I was the youngest of six.

E: How many brothers and sisters?

T: I had four brothers and a sister. My sister was the oldest and I was the youngest. I just came back from her place the other day. We went on a trip, my cousin and I, and stopped there. And she gave me a handful of letters that she had saved. I lost everything that I had like that when the house burned. So she gave me a handful of letters because she thought Anita, my daughter, might be interested.

I didn't even know the older brother. I was only nine when he went into the Navy and he was killed in the war, so I wouldn't mind reading those letters. And there were other letters the boys wrote, but to each sister it's going to be different. There's eleven years between us. And they're all gone.

E: You had another brother who died in the war?

T: He was in the war, in a plane crash. He died in Lake Washington. Seems so strange, I was talking to Mr. Westerberg after it happened cause he still lived here. And he was a well educated, well read, well informed man and he evidently either knew someone up there or had lived up there cause he said there's never, ever been a body recovered from Lake Washington.

E: Where is Lake Washington?

T: Just outside Seattle, east from Seattle.

E: Did you used to go down to Westerberg's place? Did you go swimming there?

T: Sometimes we went swimming there, and sometimes we went down to get eggs or chickens.

E: Everyone speaks really well of him.

T: Yeah, I loved him as a person; he was fascinating. He was so educated. I don't know what university he left his collection of Indian things that he plowed up. Every time he'd turn the ground he'd find arrowheads or bowls, or pounding stones. He had a whole roomful.

E: And he left it to a university?

T: I'm not sure where. I was kid enough not to bother to ask. His name was Oxcil Immanuel if you need to know. He came in 1906. He helped build the South Fork Road. That was his first money-making job.

E: Did he come here alone?

T: Yes. I don't know if Mr. Cook came in 1908 or 1910. It was a couple of years after. They each had their own house. Didn't they still have both houses there when you went down there? Were you the first ones to live there after?

E: No. First the sportsmen bought it who dug out that meadow. We called it the "meadowlake".

T: It wasn't a meadow, it was an orchard. It was a big beautiful orchard and they tore it all out because they were going to make a lake out there. They were going to put water in there and have ducks and make a sportsmen's lodge down there.

E: And then of course it wouldn't hold water. The soil is too porous.

T: It's like the pond down here where the mill was, the ground just doesn't hold; you'd have to seal it.

Interview with Gary Carpenter

The Jurin Ranch was formerly known as the Carpenter Ranch, as it was homesteaded by Gary's grandmother, Sarah Carpenter. Gary grew up on his father's homestead, which is the adjoining property east of the ranch. He was born about 1940 and now lives in Salyer and is the minister of the Salyer Church. He emphasized the importance of the tributaries to a river's fisheries, and the need for balanced management.

G: I've looked at this country and believe me I've given an awful lot of thought about the fisheries especially. What happened in 1964, and yes, a large part of the damage in 1964 was caused by careless logging, there's no question about that, but how that affected fisheries is I believe a lot different than what a lot of people believe.

Every one of our tributaries to the river served as an incubator for young fish. The steelhead used to run in Campbell Creek, they call it Madden Creek now. They would go clear up to where the diversion was, which is a couple miles up the stream, and spawn. And then all during the summer, in the South Fork itself, which was relatively warm, right at the mouth of Madden Creek, it wouldn't be uncommon to see a couple thousand steelhead trout. What happened during the flood that made such a radical change was that all of the tributaries that served as the incubators were stripped. They became real wide gullies and so much dirt and logs came down those strips that they just stripped all the overgrowth, the vegetation that shaded the stream and kept it cool. And also all the deep holes and pockets where the adult fish would go in and spawn were all taken out. So each one of those streams became like a freeway, being basically flat. So we lost all of our incubators. And when you lose all the incubators then you no longer have return fish that use those channels. I could name stream after stream that happened to. The Willow Creek itself, which is a large stream. Horse Linto Creek used to be just a beautiful stream covered with vegetation and totally shaded in the summertime. So cold that you wouldn't dare put your foot in it in the summertime, and now they swim in it. It's nice and warm and there's no shade on that stream.

E: Would some devastation have happened regardless of logging?

G: It would have happened to an extent, but not nearly as severe. Culled logs at that time would pile up in the stream beds at the bottom of the mountain. They weren't required to pull them out and so, there were just an awful lot of logs. At the time, prior to the flood, it actually enhanced the fishery because they created pools and pockets and they created shade and cool water. We were really enjoying it. Every time somebody would log in a new area and open a road we would go up there and discover a creek. Cedar Creek is an example; the logging in there just created all kinds of pools and small dams where the fish piled up. And so there were a lot of them and we

thought it was great. Well, we learned after the flood that when you get an over abundance of water why it moves those things and when it did it just gutted them all. I believe that what happened in 1964 we're just now beginning to come out of.

And I believe that we spent millions and millions of dollars in the river beds, but you can't control what happens - the river bed in itself is so much bigger than we are that all the efforts that we put into the river bed, this bank planning and all that they've done up near Weaverville - a good example of what I'm talking about is what was done in Hawaii when that volcano was moving down. They spent a million and a half dollars constructing a wall to prevent the lava from overflowing, and the day they declared the wall complete the mountain went 'foof' and so much for that wall. And that's kind of what happens when we mess around in the river. You're not going to create spawning beds in the river. The salmon will find one, they know far better what they're looking for than we do. But where we could be putting a lot more effort would be in the tributaries, the incubators.

There's a number of tributaries on the South Fork just in this lower ten miles that are still blocked to salmon spawning migration. The one they call Whiteside Creek, which on the map they call Ammon Creek cause it originates in the Ammon meadow up there, when I was 10 or 12 years old I would walk in on the old trail that went to the Cedar Grove Ranch to the Super Ranch, which would take me probably a mile and a half from the river and I would catch by use of a spear 10-15 pound salmon out of that creek. Now there's no way for them to even get up there. That's when the adults could come into spawn, and they would spawn up that creek. And then in Coon Creek, which is the one up beyond my Dad's property, for 2 miles up that creek, it wasn't uncommon at all to go up there me and my sisters or whoever I happened to have around, we would go up there and catch by hand an 8 or 10 pound salmon. One of us could stand in the middle of the creek while the others would drive them around. And now the fish couldn't even begin to go up there because of the change of the entrance that goes in there.

E: So if there was going to be some work done on the lower South Fork that would make a difference then it would be clearing out those creeks?

G: It would be in the tributaries

E: Now, which creeks? There's Madden of course, and Whitesides Creek, and you just mentioned Coon. What about Surprise Creek?

G: Well, Coon and Surprise basically come together right there at the same - Surprise Creek is nothing. Coon Creek is actually the one. And what they call Mingo. But you see, a person would have to be a little careful what you talk about doing work in - in other words, the biggest mistake we made is when we went in and cleared all the creeks. Thinking that we were enhancing the habitat, we ruined them, destroyed them. The fish need those waterfalls and those pockets. You don't need to go there and make a freeway out of it. The water turns warm.

E: Have they done that?

G: Following the flood we spent millions of dollars cleaning out all those tributaries, and they just went in and destroyed them.

E: Made it even worse?

G: Ten times worse. The water would run 30 degrees warmer in the summertime. Anyone of them would have been like a bathtub. You can't raise fish in that. I'm just saying that a person has to be somewhat cautious as to what they do, do what repair work is necessary to allow the fish to make their way up that stream...but if you take out 3 miles of spawning stream just how many salmon in your mind that you reduced our flow by. You can figure that every salmon is carrying in excess of 2,000 eggs and you block the spawning beds of 75 salmon. That makes a big impact. So every little tributary, even if you can just give them 200 feet to spawn, give the salmon two hundred feet to hide in the hot weather. And make that water ten degrees cooler where it comes into the river it will continue to incubate the river. To keep those temperatures down makes all the difference in the world. You'll feed the fish hawks on the suckers that live in warm water, but if you take away the sucker fish, ducks are going to eat your steelhead and salmon.

E: Did you fish when you were a kid?

G: I fished everywhere. I spent my life half on the river.

E: What about the different types of salmon? Were there Coho in the South Fork?

G: No. The silver salmon was actually introduced into the Trinity, because when I was a youngster we had what they call a summer salmon, which is nothing more than an early run Chinook salmon. The silver salmon - very very seldom would anyone ever find a silver salmon. They were not a common salmon to run this river. They became that way because they were introduced, and then the silvers became a real run. Everybody was excited about it. But as far as fishing the river, the shad used to run real heavy. Nobody ate them, they were just kind of like a junk fish. And naturally there was always the lamprey in there and the Indians ate them. No one else did. No there was, this would sound crazy and everybody would tell me I'm crazy, but I caught them so I know. There was occasionally a fresh catfish that you would find that somehow or other survived the winters and would stay close to the edge of the bank. But I did catch several catfish and those weren't the bullheads that you'd get.

E: Where did you catch them?

G: Right around Salyer. Right there below "Frakes" was a spot where the river would divide and leave quite a big back eddy in there. And just about every summer you'd find half a dozen catfish down in there, and they would weigh up to two pounds. But primarily the steelhead and the Chinook was your main fish.

The Carpenter Ranch is my grandmother's homestead. And then my dad took his brother's homestead right directly on the hill just east of the one his mother had there. Then he also acquired the Dick Hennessey homestead. So we lived up there, I lived up there practically all of my life until I turned 18. Some of my early years, up until I was 4 or 5 years old, we would spend the winters in Salyer and the summers up on the ranch. Then we moved up there and made it our primary home place. Spent every day on the river.

E: What years were those?

G: I'm 55. One thing that I always found interesting too was that Grandma, Sara Carpenter, spoke of a number of years when she was younger - now I couldn't tell you how many years she spoke of - when there were no salmon. So you see, it happened before. What caused it at that time I have no way of knowing. But she spoke of those years when the salmon didn't run. And also years when there were no deer. My dad told me of the years when there were no deer. Two years in a row, he always pointed out more than anything else. Even though they lived basically in the wilderness, there were still no deer. They had to travel from the South Fork clear up to what they call Starvation Camp up on the Simms Mountain, which was the backcountry to them. They'd go up there for two weeks and kill nothing. So that tells me there were other traumatic things that happened.

E: Do you have any idea what years that was? When was your grandmother born?

G: I believe she was 93 years old when she died, and I believe that was in about 1950. So she would have been born about 1857 or 58, somewhere around there. Evelyn Cruise, my cousin, could probably be far closer on those dates. She lives here in Salyer, up on Salyer Heights.

My dad told me that in 1932, which was not that long ago, they had a freeze that froze the South Fork over for two or three weeks. Now I've never seen it totally frozen over and I've seen it down to zero.. It rained real hard during the freeze and the entire mountain up there, our mountain if you've ever seen it is quite bare, just a big meadow, but it goes clear to the river. He said it rained hard enough that the rain when it hit the ground froze and made that entire mountain a solid sheet of ice. And they lost several cows that slid on that ice from all the way at the top of the mountain clear into the river. And then broke through the ice when they hit the river down there. And he said the rocks and everything were covered with ice.

Interview with Peter Canclini

The interview took place at the Canclini residence on South Fork Road, May 7, 1995. Peter, who was born in 1953, has been familiar with the lower South Fork all of his life. In the early 50's his parents, Martha and Guido Canclini, bought a 60-acre property along the river at the 7-8th river mile; they have both been familiar with the river since they were children. Guido's father had property on the Trinity River between Salyer and Willow Creek, and Martha spent her early years in Salyer. The Canclini's were for many years the owners of the Canclini Shoe and Boot Repair shop in Arcata; their main residence was in Arcata, but Peter spent much of his childhood summers at the river residence. They all currently divide their time between Arcata and the South Fork.

E: Do you mind if I ask you some questions about the river, Peter?

P: Yes, I'm taking a sunbath, please don't bother me.

E: I want to ask you about the 1964 flood....did you do a lot of fishing as a kid?

P: Yes I did, I fished often and vigorously. I used super dupers quite often.

E: What are super dupers?

P: They are a bent metal lure, usually a golden color with red tips.

E: Did you catch much?

P: Yes, often times in the pre-64 period I remember going to one given hole and being able to catch a limit of native trout in the 6-8 inch range when I was maybe 9 or 10 years old.

E: Did you catch steelhead or salmon?

P: Mostly steelhead. There were good runs in the fall. The fall runs were the ones I was primarily aware of. The trout would be small in the spring. We'd catch ever larger fish all summer until in September/October they'd be 10, 11, or 12 inches long.

E: What about the salmon - did your Pop catch them?

P: Yes, but we often fished other rivers (the Klamath and Trinity) for salmon. But there were a lot of fish in the South Fork. You could see their darkened forms in the deep pools that were frequent on the river in those days. There were also freshwater clams, crayfish, lots of suckers and the eel runs were prolific. Every mid-summer they'd be an obnoxious sight to me at that time, their greasy carcasses slung over snag in the river. But now I miss them! Don't know what you got till it's gone.

E: Describe what the floods did to the shape of the river and the river bottom.

P: In 1965 I walked out onto a river bar that was a shocking experience for me. The magnitude of the flood of '64 my young imagination had trouble grasping. But in 1965 I saw the tangible evidence of what it had done. Like God's karmic scouring pad, it had just ripped through the river bar that I knew and loved so well, obliterating the tiny spring-fed corner pools and the water-plant pockets in the sand bar islands, and the sapphire clear blue water was largely gone. Instead there were tons of gravel that had filled up the whole gorge to maybe 20 feet deep. It resulted in a monolithic sandbar down the middle with a river running down the center of it. It was my first environmental catastrophe. I was quite shocked at what had happened to my beautiful South Fork playground.

Beneath the bridge - it was referred to as Limestairs Bridge on maps of the area - there was a U.S. Geological Survey water gauging station made of 4-5 foot diameter corrugated heavy duty steel, with a conical top on it about 30 feet tall. On the side it had a gauging stick where the water depth could be measured on an externally-mounted scale. Before the '64 flood we used to look up and see a piece of wood, that had been caught there in the '55 flood, driftwood near the top of the scale, maybe 17-20 feet off the ground, and we marveled that the river could have been that high ever. In the spring of 1965 when we got over the shock of our familiar river being completely altered, we looked up and saw that the gauging station still stood there, miraculously,

but the piece of driftwood had been knocked loose and swept away in the much higher, much more destructive waters of '64. The torrent was amazing.

E: How about the banks of the river, the areas where you used to spend time in the summer, how were they changed?

P: Most everywhere that I hung out was completely buried and just covered with this homogenous layer of gravel bar that just hid the spots I used to frequent, that were the nicest spots. And after subsequent years passed, some landmarks began to emerge as the river dug out around them - rocks that had been lost sight of.

E: How long did it take for those rocks to start re-emerging?

P: There was a group of favorites of mine about mid-way down our property, I called them the "moonrocks" cause they're kind of green and they were kind of lava-looking hard stone. Three of them were together, the largest is maybe 12-15 feet in diameter. It took about 15 years before they started to emerge. Now they're dug out almost completely. The original contours of the river are reappearing, but the fish runs are not a shadow of their former selves. Even the suckers are way down. Steelhead and salmon are rarely seen.

E: Did the flood leave a lot of sand behind or was it mostly rock? It sounds from what you're saying like it left a huge flat gravel bar. Was there a lot of sand left behind too?

P: No, not that much sand. Where before the river seemed to be dug down to the rocky bed, with gravelly areas and sand bars, in a nice variety, in the wake of '64 it was just a long gravel bar with the river snaking down the middle and sometimes running against the banks. Those were the nicest places, where it dug out against the bank, but there was very little resemblance to the river I knew before.

E: Do you remember whether your favorite places as a kid for swimming were sandy bottomed or was the river bottom all rocky when you were little?
When we came in 1971 it was very hard to find a sandy place to lie on or to swim in. Everything was covered in 4-6 inch diameter rocks.

P: I did like the sandy parts myself. (Before '64) there were lots of areas where you could find sandy bottoms, and sandy areas near the edge of the river where you could get in and then swim over to the deeper rockier sections.

E: And the real deep pools basically disappeared? They all filled up with gravel?

P: Yes that's true.

E: Did you notice a decline in the fishing right away, the next fall? Was it that immediate?

P: No, I didn't notice a change immediately. It took awhile. But now you just plain don't see them around. It's like the river is still recovering from the blows that were dealt in '55 and '64. And the river seems warmer, a lot warmer.

E: So do you remember the river staying fairly cold all summer or did it warm up during the summers, before 1964?

P: O yeah, it warmed up but it seems like it was generally colder than it is now. One thing I've noticed that's perhaps relevant is that the algae growth seems to be much more pronounced nowadays than it used to be, which would go along with elevated temperatures.

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*August 14th, at the Canclini residence on the South Fork Trinity*

**E:** I'd like to ask you more about what you remember as a child, about the river before the '64 floods and the changes that you've observed after the flood. Let's start with wildlife. What kind of animals did you notice as a kid playing by the river?

**P:** There were freshwater clams. I was interested in clams because I dug razorbacks on the coast near Trinidad. Seeing the freshwater ones when I was a kid was really interesting. Also, there were a lot of the orange variety of crawfish, we called them crawdads. Seeing them was a pretty regular occurrence.

In mid-summer the eel runs were pretty amazing. I remember seeing them swimming around in the spring and early summer. Then, as they started to die, I'd see them draped over sticks and rocks in the river and along the river's edge as the river dropped; the dead, greasy carcasses of eels were everywhere down the river. Lots of them. Their disappearance later was very obvious.

**E:** Where did you find the clams and crawdads?

**P:** Crawdads usually like to be where they can hide, it seems. The clams were in soft sand on the edge of some of the deep holes. The river colors seemed to be almost a clear bluish purple - a higher degree of clarity and the pools were deeper in those days, with more lush growth and clumps of grasses. Some leaves would get large enough to use as hats (Indian rhubarb). We used them as hats as little kids. Water ousel were back in the little cove, bobbing up and down. There were always river otters here and there, and ducks have been around, too, mergansers and other ducks, as long as I can remember.

**E:** What about today - all these animals you've mentioned, do you still see any of them - the eels, the crawdads, the clams, the otters?

**P:** My father sighted an eel or two swimming around this spring, which is a heartening sign. We found some clamshells that indicate that there are some freshwater clams somewhere down there. I haven't seen any yet alive but some of their shells have been found, and they must be post-64. There's still mergansers and ousels around.



**E:** Do you see turtles?

**P:** Yes, there's river turtles here. There's a group of people who were marking them, putting a number on the shell to facilitate their studies. I found some of the turtles with the numbered shells in the river.

**E:** Can you recall at what time things started to decline in numbers?

**P:** The eels and fish just outright disappeared. I don't remember exactly when. In 1964 I was only 11 years old. But I remember the river was filled in to an amazing degree beneath the bridge. I couldn't believe what happened to my river. It was pretty depressing.

**E:** How long did it take before you started seeing pools again?

**P:** After 4 or 5 years the river started to work its way down through the river bar. I started seeing old familiar rocks that I'd sat on or that I'd seen turtles perching on. It's been slowly, incrementally digging back down to the old existent channel. We do have some Kodachrome slides in pretty good condition from pre-64. I'll show you. Some of the river channel is pretty well resembling pre-64 configurations.

The river's continued digging down to its old - it seems like its looking quite a bit like it used to. A frame of reference of mine is directly beneath what is known as Limestairs Bridge, the lower Hyampom Trail suspension bridge which is on our property. Beneath that bridge is a swimming hole we used. I have memories from before the flood of clumps of sedge grass or cutgrass that grew in the nooks and crannies of the rocks. The rocks are reappearing, the grasses are reappearing in the same areas. Thirty years they have been buried under gravel layers. It seems like the river grasses and the overall configuration is starting to re-emerge as it was in the pre-64 period. I don't know if the overall depth of some of the holes is as it was in those days, but the river is looking a lot like it used to and I'm glad of it.

**E:** What about the water itself, the water clarity? A couple of summers ago your mother was talking about a milky substance, sediment, in the river quite a bit.

**P:** Well, this summer is odd because the river was very intense, there was a lot of rain this year. The water flowed at a higher level than I've seen it since 1964. That accounts for a lot in itself.

Apparently, serpentine runoff that makes a milky appearance in the river comes in opposite the Jurin property down from the Friday Ridge side. I traced it to this creek, which was putting out what looked like a Milk of Magnesia substance coming down the mountain. We don't know if it was an illegal mining operation, operating in the hills against the law or if it was a natural occurrence, but this river's special to me and I sought to find out what was going on. I took a sample of the substance to the coast. It wasn't even tested. The person at the testing place told me it was serpentine runoff and there's really no need to test it. It's natural stuff, naturally occurring. I still don't know why it comes down. It seems like, literally overnight, the river can appear clear one day and be milky the next. It's as if the tiny feeder creek up above on the other

side of the Jurin Ranch goes down through different bands of the serpentine, influencing the clarity of the river below.

**E:** Did you notice as a result of the '64 storms any large landslides? Are there other areas here where there tend to be slides?

**P:** There is a large mine just down river from our property, approximately opposite our down river boundary with Sierra Pacific, PG&E camp we used to call it. It was a mine utilizing water off of a creek on the other side of the river. And just above there, there was a pretty good slide back in those days (1930's).

**E:** Do you know if that area is still eroding?

**P:** It appears to have not changed in the last 5 or 10 years. It appears to be stabilized. Bare but not sliding.

There was a nasty landslide (that can be seen) as one comes in off 299 and heads up South Fork Road where you first come out into the gorge and can look across the river. You will notice after you travel just a few hundred yards, you'll notice on the right there's a very large slide. It appears to have been precipitated by some fast and loose logging practices on the hillside. Some admirably brave tree planters planted it a couple of years ago, and their tree planting job looked tough and hot. But I'm hoping for its success but the land looks so barren stripped of topsoil. I hope the trees survive but its hard to be optimistic.

**E:** What about the tree planting the CCC did here on your property? What do you think the rate of success was for that?

**P:** Last winter brought outrageously high rains and flooding and a lot of the seedlings were washed out of the ground. I talked to some of the planters and the idea was to restore some of the native species that are characteristic on a river bar like this. The basic problem is they planted too near the river. It seems like they would have known that the river - it had been quite a drought period, but it's a reasonable possibility that the river is going to rise someday. Maybe it's a crapshoot in their eyes or what, but they planted quite near the river. The trees paid a high price because most all of them that didn't die in the drought got swept away by high water.

## COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

**Max Rowley** came to the Willow Creek area in 1936 and worked for the Forest Service for 30 years. He is retired and has hosted a PBS show on the history of Six Rivers country (Willow Creek/Orleans/etc.).

With regards to the winter of 1964, he told me that even in the Indian legends there is no historical evidence of there having been a flood year in the past 1000 years to compare to the 1964 storms. Village sites were flooded that had never been flooded before, and some of the sites are believed to have been in use for at least 6000 years, possibly as long as 8000 years. He does not think that much recovery of the riverbeds and channels has occurred and that it will take many hundreds of years for full recovery to take place without more active human intervention.

He left the area during W.W.II and said he observed no change in the fisheries when he returned in 1953. He considers the 1955 floods to have been similar, locally, to other high water years in the past, with little negative impacts on fisheries.

With regards to timber harvesting he believes the Forest Service made some serious mistakes in the past - bad practices such as clear cutting in known slide areas should not have been allowed. He believes logging should not have been allowed in main drainages, and that there are other values besides timber which need to be considered - wildlife and aesthetic values in particular. "There is a right place and a wrong place to log - I always felt they came too close to the river in the watershed." He spoke about the fact that the Forest Service was not given a choice in these matters; orders to harvest were mandated from Washington, and Forest Service employees who objected were told to do their job or someone else would be found to replace them who would do the job.

**Lincoln Martin** made the comment, with regards to commercial fishing, that the eels have disappeared in spite of the fact that they were never commercially fished. He does believe, however, that over fishing has contributed to fisheries declines and said that ocean fishing "is like having a doe season - can't kill the mamas and raise deer". He believes sea lions (a common belief) are a factor in fish declines, and that they should be hunted in proportion to fish catches. In other words, he doesn't believe a balance can be maintained between fish, sea lions, and humans if we catch salmon but don't hunt sea lions, given the high human population.

Martin also commented that it appears to him that Trinity River feathering projects to create more spawning habitat are unnecessary. He believes that the South Fork and the mainstem Trinity have recovered sufficiently from the effects of the 1964 storms to provide ample spawning habitat, and that over fishing rather than lack of habitat is the main cause of continuing declines.

**Dal Senter** had this to say:

Dal "Are we talking about salmon? OK, what happened to the salmon is they just got fished out. When I was a boy I lived in Tillamook, Oregon. They had a little stream there called the Wilson River. And you could literally walk across the back of the fish in that river when I was a boy. There was that many fish, everybody in the country catching them. You could take a gaff hook

down there and load up a pick-up in no time. Ten years ago I was north and they had a fish survey on the same little stream. The total count that year had been 3 fish. That's in my lifetime...there's a lot that can contribute to this. That's a real short creek, I don't know how many miles it is long. Say it's 10 or 15. And somebody could have, at night, put a drift net around the mouth of that with a big boat, and went up stream. They could just drive up. And all it takes is one box of detergent. Just sprinkle across the fish and its dead. You'll never get another fish".

Teresa Bussell: "Remember how mad they got when Pete Gambi dynamited the hole down there at Campbell's? One man couldn't begin to use all that was down there".

Dal: "Oh god no. But people didn't think of it. And you can't blame the commercial fishermen anymore than you can blame the people like Pete Gambi. Everybody had a hand in it. You can't lay the blame on anybody. The loggers tore the land up, Pete Gambi used dynamite, the fishermen over fished it, and somebody dumped some soap suds in it. Everybody, loggers and everybody has done it. They had a real good program going here about ten years ago. Remember when they had the Boy Scouts and all them hatching the eggs in little places. They'd run water into these little basins and then, the fish started to come back. We were really catching them. Something happened and they stopped the funding or they lost interest ...I don't know what happened".

**Guido Canclini** blames commercial fishing: "They had everything going on in those days they have today, except they didn't have the commercial boats out there. They had canneries right there on the boats and all that. And they can't figure out what the hell happened to the fish. You can't catch millions and millions of fish out there and expect the fish to replenish themselves". He is in favor of fish farming, "If they did like Weyerhaeuser does up in Washington up there, they have their own bay and they plant them. They stock the fish". Guido also mentioned the fact that while salmon fishing on the Klamath River this year he was sickened by the numbers of dead salmon he saw floating down river after having been caught and thrown back because of sizing regulations.

**Jim McCoy** said that he and his son spend some time on the river a few days every summer rescuing fingerlings that are trapped in back pools that are drying up. He suggested that a program might be initiated that would involve kids acting as volunteers who would go spend some time every summer doing this. He said that he and his son alone rescue about 300 fingerlings in a day.

Residents voiced disapproval over methods used by the California Department of Fish and Game over the years in fish management with regards to catching and marking of fish, weir counts, and exclusion of marked fish that had wandered into a territory that was not their native stream. These remarks were made regarding practices which I am not familiar with, so I was unclear as to exactly what was being talked about. It is a definite concern, however, with some residents.

Numerous residents complained about activities of the Forest Service in the past; approval of timber sales in inappropriate areas, poor roads maintenance, boundary lines adjustments, and poaching by individuals employed in the Forest Service. It would be worthwhile for some meetings to be arranged in which local residents could meet with Six Rivers National Forest

people, facilitated perhaps by CRMP members, to discuss the boundary issue, past grievances, and current policies and plans for the lower South Fork.

## **RESULTS: A Compilation of Material from the Interviews**

### **Geology and Soils**

**Erosion and Landslides:** Historic and ongoing occurrences, effects of 1964 storms on individual properties, recovery since 1964

1. Phyllis Jurin grew up on a homestead at the mouth of Campbell Creek (Madden Creek). She told me that much of her family's homestead was washed away in 1964 - the house, orchards, and outbuildings. She told me that she returned to the homesite last year for the first time since 1964, and that very little recovery has taken place.

Her cousin, Lincoln Martin, told me, "The house set right on the bank of the creek, away from the river flow, but the creek came right around there with a big sweeping turn". He went on to describe a large whirlpool that formed where the creek's high waters flowed into the mainstem of the river, eating away at the bank. What remains of the old homestead and meadow can be seen above the large gravel bar on the north side of the mouth of the creek. The property is reportedly part of the Walter Gleason estate now. (W. Gleason, deceased, was a lawyer who amassed a large estate of properties on Friday Ridge and other parts of the basin during the 1930's - 50's.)

2. Teresa Bussell told me that a large slide occurred across the river from the Bussell/Ammon flat during the 1964 storms. She said it continued to erode for some years but began to heal during the drought years. There are a number of recent (within last 5 years) clearcuts near the vicinity which concern me, between the *3rd and 4th river miles*. Retired forest service ranger Max Rowley told me he believes the cuts should not have been allowed. The Forest Service told me it was on private lands and to talk to the California Department of Forestry (CDF) about it; when I called CDF they passed me around and I never got the information I wanted. All I got was a reassurance that if it happened, it must have been "within regulations". I have since learned that the cuts were part of the *Mahala Sale*, a USFS timber sale.

3. Slides which occurred in 1964 on the western side about the *5th river mile* appear to be revegetating and healing.

4. The Canclini family talk of an old mine at about the *7th river mile*, near their northern (downriver) boundary and on the Humboldt bank, that used to contribute sediment but appears to have healed over. The mine belonged to Ben Kinsey.

5. A slide which occurred on the west bank at the *8th river mile*, between Canclini and Holmes properties, appears to have stabilized and is revegetating.

6. There is a large open scar, an ongoing washout on an unnamed creek upstream from the Jurin Ranch. It can be viewed from the South Fork Road a little beyond the turnoff to the Jurin Ranch, at the *10th river mile*. Down river people noticed the river periodically turning milky white during the summers 1991-1993, and wondered why the serpentine flow worsened during low

water years. The Six Rivers Forest Service office in Willow Creek has been investigating the possibility of illegal mining activity in the area. The river stayed clear during the summer of '95. This is the **largest active slide** on the lower mainstem of the river.

7. Lavella Shore Bradley (83) reported that her father's (Walter Shore) homestead lost 10 acres of steep slope during the 1964 storms. She said the slide temporarily dammed the river. She mentioned an earlier slide that occurred on the northeast side of the property, adjoining the Cedar Grove Ranch, in 1917 or 1918, which has since healed. The property is located on the Humboldt side, on the south side of Cedar Grove Ranch, and now belongs to Lavella's son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Julia Bradley. They have been living there for two years.

I am not sure whether this is the same slide that is described in entry #6, but I suspect it is. T. Bussell spoke of a large slide that occurred in this area in 1964: "...up there across from Carpenter's we could look and see the big crack in the mountain. The whole section broke both sides of the mountain clear down the (length of the) creek. It must have plugged the creek temporarily." This area was aerial seeded by the Forest Service in 1993.

### **Present Channel Conditions**

People mentioned that certain stretches of the river are beginning to resemble pre-1964 conditions. Bedrock is re-appearing in areas, and holes are deepening. However, some areas reportedly gained more sediment in the past winter (1994-95) than was flushed out.

The caretaker at the Jurin Ranch noticed that the smaller holes in the river filled in a bit, gaining more sediment than they lost. The large hole at the bend just downstream from Dwight Streamfellow's land appears to be clearing out, and deepening.

The area around the waterfall at the mouth of Surprise Creek, appears to be accumulating more sand.

The large gravel bar at the Westerberg place may be accumulating more deposits; the channel changed during the past winter (1995), according to the McCoys, because of a large fallen tree in the middle of the channel. In another area, new holes and bedrock have appeared that were not there 20 years ago.

The Canclinis pointed out large (12 feet in diameter) boulders that were completely buried for over 15 years following the winter of 1964. Under the bridge on the east bank a boulder outcrop has reappeared in recent years, and the Canclinis believe the area upstream from the bridge for 1/3 of a mile is quite similar now to pre-64 conditions. Downstream, the Canclini's showed me a large 4-5' boulder that sits on a ledge above the sandy beach where they swim. It is 8-10' above the mid-summer water level. Apparently in the late 60's, this rock was in the middle of the stream channel, which indicates quite a change both in the depth and direction of the channel.

On the other hand, some of those interviewed are not optimistic that the channel leading to the mouth of the South Fork will be able to flush itself out without artificial assistance, and suggested limited gravel mining.

From what people say it appears that the hole at the mouth of Madden Creek is still small compared to what it was before 1964.

It would be helpful to compare pre-64 aerial photos with existing conditions in order to determine whether areas are improving or just accumulating more gravel and sediment that is being flushed down from the rest of the watershed. Gravel bars along the lower two miles might be increasing in size.



## **Sediment Deposits Along the Riverbed**

The following are those areas which currently have the largest deposits of fine sediments along the river banks:

1. Sandy Bar and the mouth of Madden Creek, both banks
2. Areas between *3rd and 4th river miles* (below Bussell)
3. Sierra Pacific lands, formerly the "PG&E camp", east side
4. Canclini property, east bank below bridge and downstream
5. Numerous between the Holmes and Canclini properties
6. Surprise Creek, east bank, just downstream from waterfall

Gravel bars are of course very numerous, but the largest accumulations appear to be in the following areas, in order of size:

1. Sandy Bar /Madden Creek area
2. Westerberg property
3. Schocker property
4. Canclini property
5. Streamfellow property (just north of the Jurin Ranch)

## **History of, and Changes in Land Use Patterns**

### **Native Americans**

The lower South Fork was populated by people of the Tsung'we tribe, and there are a number of sites which are important archaeological places. Land use by the Tsung'we were the typical low impact patterns of most native peoples of the Klamath basin. They depended on the anadromous fish runs, the deer, and the acorn for primary food sources. The mouth of the South Fork, at the bottom of Martin Road, was a permanent village site. Important fishing areas and gathering places each had their name. The Saxy-Kidd place on Friday Ridge, the mouth of Madden Creek, Sandy Bar, the Westerberg place, the old PG&E camp, and the Jurin ranch have all been mentioned as being significant, either as home sites or gathering places. Probably all the large flats along the river were home sites. Members of the old Indian families were forced by soldiers to go to live in Hupa during the early years of the 20th century. They escaped and returned home whenever they could. Some of these home sites were taken as white homesteads, other places were passed on through the families. White miners coming into the area often married the daughters of Indian families, gaining land rights but keeping the land in the family at the same time. People moved around quite a bit within the basin.

### **Mining**

Mining on the South Fork was minimal, and was not an important factor in land use patterns. It drew people into the basin, but was not what kept them there. Lavella Bradley's grandfather, Merton Edwin Shore, came into the area seeking gold. He did not find much gold, but took a homestead and moved there in 1915 from Trinidad, with his family; his mining partner, Weldon, homesteaded what is now the Holmes property. Apparently they found enough gold to "get by on," but what gold they found was from the Trinity, not the South Fork. The Shores ran a post office, known as the Limestairs Post Office. (This was just northeast of the Canclini's property.)

The only large mine was the Swanson mine, near the beginning of South Fork Road. (see Interview with T. Thomas) It impacted the mainstem Trinity at Salyer, but not the South Fork. I was told the mine was closed in 1942, and later became part of the Gleason estate. George Hadley is the current caretaker of the property.

A smaller mine, known as the Kinsey mine, was operated during the 1930's by Ben Kinsey. It was situated at the northern edge of the Canclini property in a ravine on the Humboldt side of the river. It was very small and closed operation in the early 40's. (All gold mining was ordered to be closed down by the federal government during World War II.)

### **Logging**

Commercial logging did not begin in the lower basin until the late 1940's; people attribute this to the difficulty of logging in such steep terrain with the limited technology of pre-war years. The technology that was created during the war made it possible to go into the basin and begin cutting on a large scale. A boom era was ushered in, which lasted until the late 60's. By the time I

arrived, in 1971, most of the mills in the lower South Fork and lower Trinity basins had closed; the old growth forests were nearly all cut in a matter of 20 years. (See Interview with T. Thomas)

The immediate impacts of logging mentioned by those interviewed were:

*The aesthetic devastation of the forests.* The lower basin was rich in old growth Douglas fir forests. The forests were historically open, spacious, and easy to travel through.

*The muddying of the river.* People reported that logging drastically affected the clarity of the water in the mainstem river. Before the logging era, the South Fork became clear again several days after a storm, as opposed to the prolonged muddy spring waters that began to occur with the logging; this has continued to be the norm to the present day.

*Loss of property.* Because of the poor economy in the basin, many homesteads were bought out by logging companies; some people could not afford the rise in their taxes due to increased land values. Others agreed to allow road building and logging on their lands as an alternative to losing their land.

*Increased job opportunities.* Many went to work as loggers, millworkers, or/and road builders, and enjoyed the economic benefits of the boom.

The long range impacts of logging practices became evident after the 1964 storm events, and are still being reaped:

*Destruction of the tributaries as spawning habitat.* None of the tributaries in the lower basin has recovered from the scouring effects of the '64 storms. Long time residents who were avid fishermen and women claim that salmon and steelhead could be found in many of the small tributaries in the lower basin.

*Loss of mainstem habitat and spawning grounds .* As much as 25 feet of gravel was reportedly deposited in the river bed in places during the 1964 storms. People say it looked as though the river bottom had been leveled by a large caterpillar tractor. Favorite fishing holes, swimming holes, riffles, and even familiar boulders all disappeared.

*Erosion.* Slides and erosion were frequently cited by residents, from steep hills and logging roads. People complain about continuing erosion on Madden Creek road.

## **Recreation**

Swimming and boating have been the traditional recreational uses of the lower basin. Sports fishing was popular through the late 60's but ceased with the decline in anadromous fisheries; people found it more worthwhile to fish the Trinity or the Klamath. Swimming, on the other hand, was and continues to be popular. During the mining era, people recall the Trinity River as being too muddy to swim in, so the South Fork was preferred.

Sandy Bar was a popular meeting place during the 1930's and into the 1960's. What was formerly known as the "PG&E camp" was a popular swimming and partying area during the 70's; while

both areas see some use now, the Forest Service is not encouraging overnight camping in these areas because of Indian archaeological sites that have been identified in these two areas. Areas which are seeing increased usage are the Surprise Creek and Todd Ranch public access areas. Due to the lack of toilet facilities residents are concerned about the increase in usage in those areas. The condition of the road is also a concern for some. (See

### **Recommendations)**

Rafting and kayaking have become increasingly popular, and controversial, in recent years. River access for boaters has become limited since access to "low water bridge" was cut off by new owners two summers ago. (See #13, Background) Using Surprise Creek or the Todd Ranch as access for kayaking is considered inappropriate for non-experts because of dangerous stretches leading to the Jurin ranch. Members of the Tsung'we tribe are not in favor of a proposed land swap between the Forest Service and Sierra Pacific Industries, which would put the "PG&E camp" under Forest Service management. Forest Service personnel told me it is unlikely the swap will occur as the archaeological status of the land would make its purchase too costly.

### **Wildlife and Habitat**

#### Birds:

Bald eagles, osprey, kingfishers, "water ousel"(dippers), blue herons, Canadian geese, mergansers, California quail, grouse, stellar and scrub jays, woodpeckers, turkey vultures; occasional snowy egrets, canvasbacks, mallards; seasonal songbirds and woodducks

The above species are the ones most commonly mentioned and observed. **Blue herons** are much rarer now; one resident who grew up in Hyampom (born 1958) said they were so common in his childhood that people used to shoot them and referred to them as "shitsacks" because of their large appetites. There appear to be two on the lower 12 miles of river at present time. **Bald eagles** are frequently seen at the Canclini, Schocker, and McCoy properties; it is uncertain whether they are from the Todd Ranch nesting site or have chosen other nesting sites. There are Canadian geese and a variety of ducks living at the Holmes property (there are man-made ponds) which sometimes wander downriver. There was a sighting of a pileated woodpecker this summer. Quail are abundant (see Bobcats).

#### Reptiles and Amphibians:

Western fence lizard, Western skink, Northern alligator lizard, salamanders; aquatic and tree frogs, toads, bullfrogs, aquatic garter snake, rattlesnake, king snake, Western pond turtle

Many people mentioned the general decline in all species of reptiles and amphibians over the past decade. During the drought (1987-1993) **frogs** and **toads** nearly disappeared but hatched abundantly this year along river's edge. **Aquatic garter snakes** became rare during the drought but are reappearing now as well. The **rattlesnake** population has declined drastically; no one I spoke with has seen any in this decade in the lower river basin. During the '70's they were

common enough to be "part of the neighborhood". One had to be on the alert for them, and certain areas were known as rattlesnake gulches.

Some people claim that **bullfrogs** were introduced into the Willow Creek area in the 1920's by two Italians, Gambi and Canclini. They stocked ponds along the Trinity River about two miles east of Willow Creek with the bullfrogs, and raised them for food. One person said they brought them from Montana, another said they brought them from Louisiana. Who knows? Guido Canclini will talk at length about the bullfrogs and claims to have found one that measured 21 inches from toes to toes, about 40 years ago.

#### Mammals:

Mountain lion, black bear, mule deer, striped skunk, ring-tail, raccoon, fisher, river otter, wolverine, gray fox, jack rabbit, Western gray squirrel, chipmunk, California ground squirrel, coyote, bobcat

The **mountain lion** population has increased here as in other areas. During the years I lived at the Westerberg property there was an old lion that was seen occasionally between Charles "Tommy" Thomas's and where I lived. Tommy said it preyed on the large herd of deer which lived on his property. There were no others that we knew of in the lower river basin. T. Bussell, a life long resident in her 60's commented that they have never, in her lifetime, been so numerous nor so aggressive as in the past year. One showed itself in the yard behind her house last summer but has not returned. Two have been shot out of necessity (self-defense) in the last two summers by residents further upriver.

**Bobcats** are rare now. No one mentioned seeing or hearing any in the past decade. An old timer told me that you can tell when there are bobcats around because the quail disappear. I have found this to be true. Bobcats were commonly seen and heard during the early 70's, and there were fewer quail. By the end of the drought of the mid-70's bobcats were no longer present and the quail population had grown. The quail are currently very abundant.

**Fisher** have been seen in the past 2-3 years, and what is believed to be a **wolverine** was spotted on South Fork Road near the Ammons (summer 1993).

**Coyote** seem to have died out in the area. When I first lived on the South Fork I fell asleep every night to the sound of their hunting cries across the river (Humboldt side.) They disappeared during the mid-70's.

**Otter** are less populous but still present. Some people suspect there are **beavers** in the area, because of the toothy cuts found on willow stems along the river, but none have been seen and I haven't seen any dams.

The large meadow, where previous owners during the early 1960's attempted to construct a lake, (Westerberg property), has been taken over by a colony of "prairie dogs" (**California ground squirrels**). The owners, said to be speculators, tried to establish a sportsmen's retreat. The sandy porous soil would not hold water and eventually the owners gave up and sold the land. In the

meantime they had completely disrupted the meadow by pushing all the topsoil, and more, aside which created a ridge that surrounds the "meadowlake". When Westerberg and Cook owned the property (1906-1961) they had a large walnut orchard in the meadow.

#### Fish, Shellfish, and Crustaceans:

Spring and fall chinook, coho, summer and winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, green sturgeon, river clams and crawdads

I was unable to obtain information that is not already known with regards to anadromous fish populations. T. Thomas discussed the high occurrence of spring chinook 1940's-1966, but no one interviewed was able to give me precise information with regards to the presence of Coho. M. Rowley advised me that people were fishing for subsistence and were not paying attention to species types. Most of those who fished for sport preferred to fish for steelhead. Winter steelhead were extremely abundant in all creeks and in the mainstem.

Springtime eel roasts were a yearly event with Indian families. Dead eels were so abundant in the river in mid-July in the '70' s that it was unpleasant to swim for a period of several weeks.

People say that while the fishing in the 60's and early 70's was not comparable to that of the 40's and 50's, one could still catch trout for dinner fairly easily. It appears from talking with people that the drought of the mid-70's may have been the final death blow to the South Fork's anadromous fish runs, the lamprey being the last population to disappear (in the 80's). Two people (J. McCoy, M. and P. Canclini) reported seeing very young green sturgeon in the river by their properties about 1987, but not since then. T. Ammon told me sturgeon are scavengers and feed on the bodies of spawned eel and salmon.

The mouth of Madden Creek was an important fall salmon netting place for the Indian people. Just beyond the mouth of the South Fork, in the Trinity, was an important "eeling" place. P. Canclini pointed out a large hole between Canclini and Holmes property which also held high eel populations into the mid-70's.

People frequently mentioned the mouths of creeks (all of the creeks) as generally being "jammed" with fish during summer and fall.

**Large holes,** former large holes mentioned specifically were:

1. The mouth of Madden Creek, and up and down the river for a half mile in each direction;
2. Westerberg property, especially below the recently logged Doug fir glade (below Westerberg's cabin);

3. The mouth of Mahala Creek and in general between the Westerberg and Schocker properties;
4. Under the foot bridge at Canclini property;
5. The "eel" hole mid-way between the Canclini bridge and Low Water Bridge (east bank, abundant Indian Rhubarb on bank);
6. Holmes property (mouth of Ammon creek).

Though no one mentioned it, I suspect the area at the "PG&E" camp just downstream from the beach area was once quite a large, deep hole.

### **Riparian Conditions**

Most people stated that streamside vegetation has not returned to how it was in the lower South Fork before the flood. Indian rhubarb is most often mentioned as having been lush and abundant, overhanging from banks. Grasses and willows were thick along the water's edge in many areas which now hold only gravel or sand. The Todd Ranch access area is an unusually lush area. Upstream from the Canclini bridge is an area with springs and lush growth - grasses, willow, Indian rhubarb - that P. Canclini showed me as an example of typical pre-64 conditions. The mouth of Ammon Creek was once lush and is actually more barren now than it was in the 70's. See Plants section in Appendix.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS and SUGGESTIONS**

**1. Continued outreach efforts.** A series of informal meetings which address various river restoration issues would be helpful in closing the current information gap between those actively working on restoration and those who live in the basin but are not involved. There appears to me to be a certain amount of misinformation floating around, and mistrust based on past transgressions. Each meeting would focus on a specific issue; meetings should be held in the evenings, perhaps once a week during the late winter or spring of 1996. Topics should include; hatcheries ( to do or not to do); erosion problems/gravels and sediment buildup; what the CRMP is all about - goals and objectives; the USFS - clearing up the past, describing current policies. It would be beneficial in many ways to create a sense of community effort towards doing whatever can be done on the South Fork to enhance recovery efforts. At this point there is a very "us and them" attitude towards government which inhibits most residents from getting involved.

**2. What is the current rate of recovery?** It would be worthwhile to determine, if possible, at what rate the river bed in the lower portion of the river is clearing itself of gravel and sediments, and whether the channel actually is accumulating more gravel in places, as some believe. Is this information already known? This is a topic that would be good to discuss at one of the meetings recommended in Item #1.

**3. Investigate the slide area across from the Jurin Ranch.** Six Rivers National Forest may know by now what is going on, and whether anything can be done about the slide.

**4. Investigate the reconstruction of the old Hyampom trail.** Restoring the old Hyampom trail between the end of South Fork Road and Underwood Creek would create an interesting hiking and backpacking trail for people interested in seeing that section of the river. That stretch of the river is only accessible at this time to skilled boaters.

**5. Find Oxcil Westerberg's weather records and Indian artifacts collection.** At this point I am fairly convinced that the original copies of the weather records were destroyed when the barn burned in 1987. I will attempt to see whether UC Davis has a copy somewhere. It would also be worthwhile to find out what happened to the artifacts collection. (I'll report back to the CRMP about this.)

**6. Initiate a volunteer spring and summer rescue program for juvenile fish, as suggested by Jim McCoy.**

**7. Provide outdoor toilets at U.S.F.S. access areas (Todd Ranch, Surprise Creek).** This is justifiably a big concern with some local residents, given the increased usage these areas are receiving in recent years.

**8. The CRMP should be aware of the conflicts that exist with regards to river access.** I touched on this briefly in the report. There is a conflict of interest going on between recreationists and landowners that needs to be addressed, particularly with regards to long-term planning.



## **LIST OF INTERVIEWEES**

The following is a list of the people I spoke with or/and interviewed for this report:

1. Danny Ammon
2. Les Ammon
3. Toby Ammon
4. Lavella Bradley
5. Alan Bradley
6. Teresa Bussell
7. Peter Canclini
8. Martha Canclini
9. Guido Canclini
10. Gary Carpenter
11. Skip Gilmore
12. Phyllis Jurin
13. Lincoln Martin
14. Jim McCoy
15. Frances Roth
16. Max Rowley
17. Dal Senter
18. Merilee Carpenter Siebens
19. Charles T. & Helen Thomas
20. Margaret Wooden

## APPENDIX A

### Plant Species Found in the South Fork of the Trinity River Basin

The South Fork of the Trinity River was inventoried for plant species at three locations. The locations were at the confluence with the mainstem, the Canclini's property and the old Todd ranch at river mile 11.5. Most of the species listed represent what was observed at all three locations along the South Fork.

The survey was conducted by Randi Anderson and Susan Garrett on September 21, 1995

#### Trees:

*Alnus rhombifolia* (white alder)  
*Arbutus menziesii* (madrone)  
*Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash)  
*Quercus kelloggii* (black oak)  
*Quercus* species (live oak)

#### Shrubs:

*Amelanchier alnifolia* (serviceberry)  
*Baccharis pilularis* (coyotebush)  
*Holodiscus microphyllus* (oceanspray)  
*Rhus diversiloba* (poison oak)  
*Salix sessilifolia* var. *hindsiana* (sandbar willow)  
*Salix* species (willow)

#### Herbs:

*Anaphalis margaritacea* (pearly everlasting)  
*Artemisia douglasiana* (mugwort)  
*Asclepias speciosa* (common milkweed)  
*Brassica nigra* (black mustard)  
*Centaurea solstitialis* L. (yellow starthistle)  
*Chenopodium botrys* or *ambrosioides* (Mexican-tea)  
*Eremocarpus setigerus* (turkey mullein)  
*Hypericum perforatum* (Klamath weed)  
*Heuchera micrantha* (alum root)  
*Melilotus* species (sweet clover)  
*Mentha arvensis* (field mint)  
*Mentzelia laevicaulis* (blazing star)  
*Plantago* species (plantain)  
*Potentilla* species (cinquefoil)

*Rumex salicifolius* var. *salcifolius* (willow dock)  
*Senecio* species (butterweed)  
*Solanum sarrachoides* (nightshade)

**Woody Herbs:**

*Ageratina occidentalis* (joepiweed)  
*Epilobium canum* (california fuschia)  
*Ericamera nana* (goldenbush)  
*Xanthium strumarium* (cocklebur)

**Sedges:**

*Carex angustata*  
*Cyperus strigosus* (false nutsedge)  
*Cyperaceae* species

**Rushes:**

*Juncaceae* species

**Grasses:**

*Agrostis gigantea* - intergrade with *stolonifera* (bent grass)  
*Crypsis schoenoides* (swamp grass)  
*Echinochloa crus-galli* (barnyard grass)  
*Eragrostis ciilanensis* (stink grass)  
*Eragrostis pectinacea* var. *pectinacea* (love grass)  
*Panicum capillare* (witch grass)  
*Panicum oligosanthos* var. *scribnerianum* (millet grass)  
*Poa secunda* ssp. *secunda* (pine bluegrass)  
*Polygonum lapathifolium* (willow weed)  
*Polypogon maritimus* (beard grass)

## APPENDIX B

### FUTURE INTERVIEWEES

The following is a list of desirable people to interview but was not able to be contacted during the time period of this study:

John Jurin: rancher, logger, owner of the Jurin Ranch

John Schocker: long-term resident

Patrick Culver: long-term resident

The following are people who were spoken with whom it would be worthwhile to contact again for further studies:

Charles "Tommy" Thomas

The Canclini family

Gary Carpenter

Danny Ammon, Ammon family historian

Lincoln Martin

Dal Senter

Jim McCoy

Margaret Wooden: photographer, historian and President of the Willow Creek Museum has a large collection of old photos of the Trinity and South Fork regions

Max Rowley: historian and retired forester