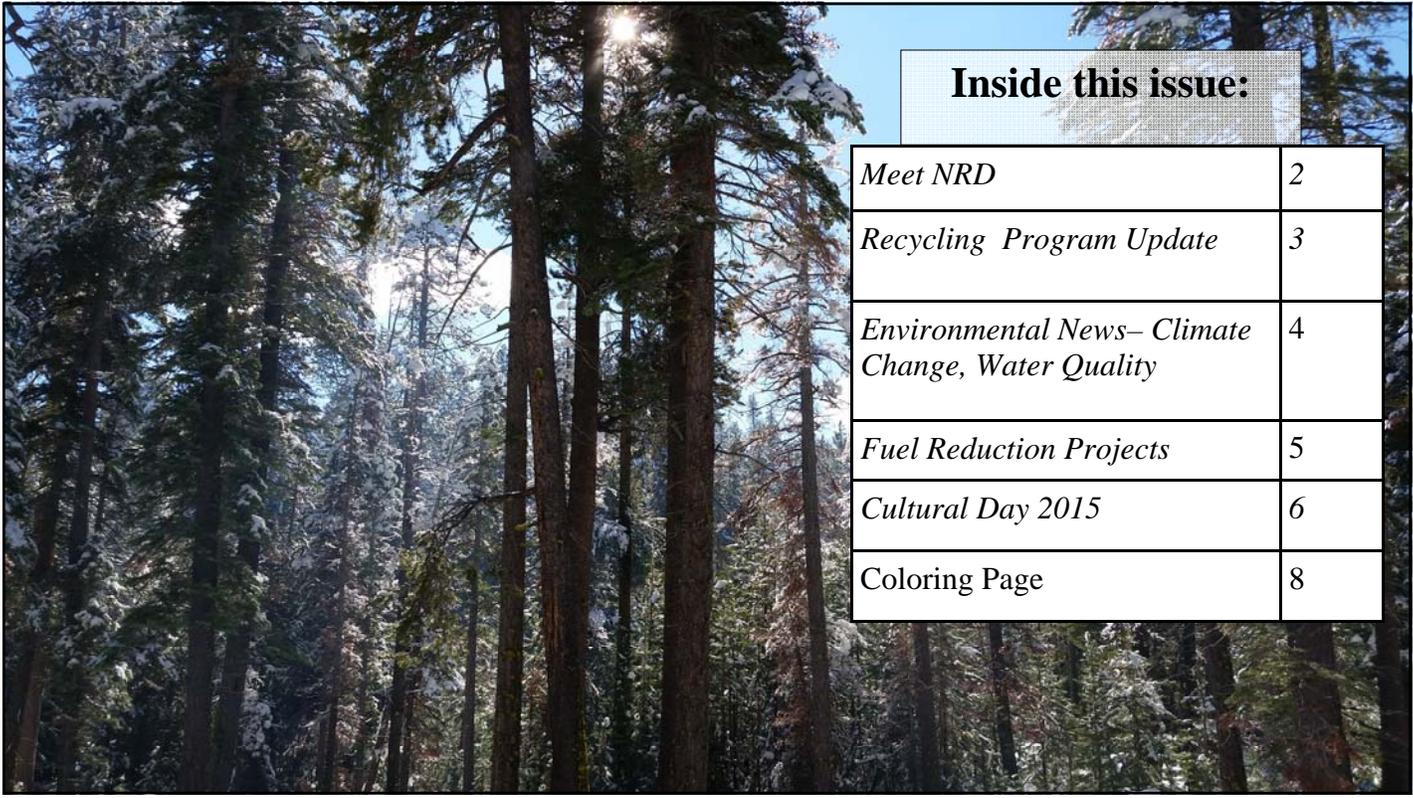




The Dirt

SIR Newsletter Insert
February 2016

*Cultural and Environmental News
brought to you by the Susanville Indian Rancheria
Natural Resources Department (NRD)*



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Winter is in full swing! Trees at Cradle Valley are dusted with snow in this photo from November 2015. See page 5 for information on recent forest management activities at Cradle Valley.

Meet the NeRDs...



Natural Resources Department Mission Statement:

To assess, protect and enhance the tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR in order to maintain a healthy community and to manage for multiple land uses.

If you have any questions or comments about the stories or programs in this newsletter please contact the writers:

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From left to right: Katie, Aaron, Melany, and Meredith

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Environmental News...

SIR Resident Recycling Program Update

The Susanville Indian Rancheria Resident Recycling Program has come to an end as of January 31, 2015. The SIR NRD would like to thank all the residents that have participated over the span of this project. We would like to encourage you to continue your recycling efforts! Below are some common questions:

MISC Material FAQ's

Where do I dispose of my used motor oil and filters?

Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (LRSWMA) has a used motor oil station located at its Bass Hill Landfill site. Lassen County Residents can bring up to 5 gallons of used oil per trip to this site and dispose of their used oil and used oil filters at no charge. For more information please call the Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority office at (530) 252-1273.

I heard about a Free Dump Day? How do I use my Free Disposal Day?

Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority currently offers a once-per-year Free Disposal Program for LASSEN COUNTY RESIDENTS. This program allows a Lassen County resident using one of the transfer stations to dispose of up to three (3) cubic yards of household waste, and four (4) car or light truck tires at no fee. This program is available at all Lassen County Landfills and Transfer Stations. Please call the Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority at (530) 252-1273 for more information.

How much does it cost to dispose of appliances?

Appliances such as stoves, dishwashers, dryers, etc are free to dispose of at the Bass Hill Landfill. Refrigerators and Freezers and any other items containing Freon costs \$17 per item to dispose of. For more information please call the Lassen Regional Solid Waste Management Authority office at (530) 252-1273.

Another option to dispose of appliances is to recycle them with Bullseye Recycling. Bullseye will pay you to recycle appliances with the exception of refrigerators and freezers and any other items containing Freon. There is a \$10 fee for items containing Freon. For more information on Bullseye Recycling services please call their office at (530) 252-1001.

Where can I take my Non-CRV recyclables?

Non-CRV recyclables can be recycled in a number of ways. If you are a subscriber to C&S Waste Solutions residential trash collection service, then chances are you already have a recycling container and can start placing your recyclables into the container that is provided.

Recycling is also available for residents that don't currently subscribe to trash collection service by taking your recycling to the C&S Waste Solution office located on Diane Drive. For more information please call the C&S Waste Solutions office at (530) 252-1200.

Where can I take my unused Paint?

When it comes to unused and left over paint, you can take it to the Susanville Paint Center located on Main St in Susanville. Susanville Paint Center has a limit of 10 gallons of paint per household per 2 week period. For more information please call Susanville Paint Center at (530) 257-6078.



Environmental News...

Climate Change Series: Update on Paris Climate Change talks



An international agreement was reached to limit climate change.

In December, 196 nations, including the United States, adopted an agreement to limit the world's rise in temperature to less than 2°C. However, each nation's government still needs to adopt the deal.

Details of the agreement include that developed countries will contribute money to assist developing nations switch from fossil fuels to greener energy, countries will be required to report on emissions, submit plans on how they will reduce greenhouse gases, and complete 5-year assessments on how successful their country is at reducing emissions.

Water Quality Series: Update on SIR springs

The NRD monitors the springs on the Upper Rancheria (UR) property each quarter. An annual report of current conditions was completed in December. Funding for this program is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Clean Water Act (CWA). There are seven surface water sampling sites that are monitored either at a spring directly, where the water is entering SIR property, or where water bodies leave the SIR. This sampling strategy allows for an analysis of changes in water quality potentially resulting from sources on tribal lands as well as an analysis of the quality of water entering the Rancheria.

Water quality metrics sampled include pH, temperature, nitrogen, total suspended solids, petroleum products, and coliform. Most springs have seen improvement in these parameters within the last year; vegetation was healthy and sites that had evidence of diesel fuel in previous years sampled clean. However, there are still water quality concerns due to drought, spread of noxious weeds, previous land-use actions, and current development. The NRD is working with the EPA to update the water quality management program and to develop baseline metrics. This information will help the NRD implement restoration where needed. Stayed tuned for more information!



Spring sampling at the UR occurred in January at two of springs that had flowing water.

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Environmental News...

Fuel Reduction Project at Cradle Valley



Favorable weather conditions (snow, rain, and calm wind) allowed the NRD and Forestry Crew a chance to burn some slash piles that were created at the Cradle Valley Property. Over the past year, the Forestry Crew completed thinning and pruning work. These projects were intended to promote healthy forest conditions, diversify wildlife habitat, and decrease fire risk. The limbs and small trees that were cut were then piled into slash piles. The crew worked over five days to burn over 150 piles in November alone. Some piles were purposely left unburned to provide good habitat for small animals.

Fuel Break on the 875



The Forestry Crew also worked on a fuel break to reduce fuels and fire risk along the SIR 875 property perimeter. This project included trimming vegetation and trees along the fence line and around the Upper Rancheria community to maintain and improve the fuel break. The slash was then piled and a line of bare soil was cleared around each pile. Burning these piles is scheduled to be completed this winter depending on climatic conditions.

Cultural News from the THPO...

Cultural Day 2015

There were over 70 people in attendance at this year's Cultural Day Event! Everyone enjoyed learning about native arts, culture, games, language, and food. We are looking forward to continuing this success at the next annual Cultural Day Event.

Without the help of Aaron Brazzanovich Jr, Meredith Gosejohan, Tim Kellison and Katie White this event would have not been possible, many thanks! A big thank you to the presenters and everyone who attended. Our traditions and culture warms my soul and heart! - Melany Johnson

Right: SIR THPO, Melany L. Johnson.



Above and right: Valerie Edwards, Master Artist for making and teaching how to make traditional moccasins.



Above: Brandy McDaniels, Master Artist for teaching and making traditional pine nut and bead necklaces.



Above: Clara Ives, Elder visiting with some of the children.

Cultural News from THPO...



Above: Master Artist, Brandon Guitierrez, (on the right), taking a lunch break between Paiute language presentations. He is learning to speak the Paiute language and is very active in cultural events.



Above: Michael Preston, presenting a power point of the traditional ways of all four Tribes of the SIR.



Above: Mervin Lent Sr., Master Artist, showing traditional hand game pieces. Joshua Lent is demonstrating how to hide hand game pieces.



Above: Mervin explaining traditional hand games and traditional instruments used, such as a clapper stick, made from the Elderberry bush.



Above: Elder Gordon Crutcher singing a traditional Round Dance Song while participants dance.



Environmental Coloring Page

SIR has a lot of important cultural and natural resources. Color your favorite!

