

Carmel River NEWS

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From the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC)

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Reminder: watershed paintings for sale!

Plein-air artworks painted
during October 2013 for the
Carmel River Festival &
Feast are still
[available](#). A portion of the
proceeds goes to support the
work of the Conservancy.

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Conservancy President Named to Advisory Committee

Bill Thayer, newly elected to the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board, has appointed Carmel River Watershed Conservancy's President Lorin Letendre to the MPWMD Carmel River Advisory Committee. The appointment was confirmed by the Board of Supervisors at the meeting on February 13th. The Carmel River Advisory Committee has been a standing Committee of the MPWMD since 1980 and is charged with providing recommendations to the District Board of Directors with regard to the management of the Carmel River and its riparian corridor. It meets quarterly, and accepts comments by the public at the beginning of each meeting.



CRWC President Lorin Letendre (right) gives a watershed tour with other agencies.

Happening in Your Watershed

Watershed Management Plan to Receive Update



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The Action Plan Subcommittee of the Carmel River Task Force convened on Friday, January 17th to discuss progress made on an update to the 2005 Watershed Assessment and the 2007 Action Plan. The revised plan will work two-fold to characterize existing watershed conditions and to identify and prioritize activities most beneficial to the watershed as a whole. It is intended to be a practical tool to guide watershed coordinators, resource managers, policy makers and local stakeholders in protecting and restoring water resources.

To accompany the Carmel River Watershed Plan, CRWC intern Brittany Ajroud and CSUMB Research Coordinator Gabriela Alberola are building an active database of projects and programs in the watershed that includes a periodic status update and contact information for identified project managers. The database will contribute to the publication of an annual report providing a snapshot of the activity taking place within the watershed as well as an itemization of the more than 50 projects aimed at restoring the health of the Carmel River.

Look for the Carmel River Watershed Plan and accompanying Project Report on our [website](#) June 1st.

Good News for the South-Central Steelhead



At the end of 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a final [Recovery Plan](#) for the distinct population segment of South-Central Steelhead. The plan

represents an ambitious effort to restore steelhead runs to historic levels in several major watersheds, including the Carmel River.

The largest threat facing South-Central Steelhead is the presence of dams and diversions that alter stream flow characteristics and prevent steelhead from accessing historic spawning and rearing habitat. In order to restore lost connectivity between the ocean and upstream habitat, the Recovery Plan identifies the removal or physical modification of dams and major barriers to passage along with the restoration of stream flows as high-priority actions. In addition to these steps, a targeted recovery strategy requires site-specific studies and monitoring programs.

For steelhead in the Carmel River, three major dams impede access to approximately 50% of the watershed. Removal projects are already underway for the San Clemente and Old River dams, while a feasibility study is being completed on either removing Los Padres dam or improving steelhead passage. Even with all the good news, steelhead face an uphill battle – 2012 fish counts [estimated](#) 470 wild adult steelhead

spawned in the Carmel River while a population exceeding 4,000 is needed for NMFS to consider delisting.

Upcoming Earth Day Event

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy is partnering on this exciting event, is open to the public, and we hope you can attend: The Sustainability Academy is partnering with Earthbound Farms to bring you:

'Green Drinks' on Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, 2014
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Green Drinks is a networking opportunity for anyone, including folks interested in stewardship and sustainability, regardless of affiliation.

Earthbound Farm Stand
7250 Carmel Valley Rd.
Carmel, CA. 93923

There is an entrance fee of \$10, which includes delicious appetizers, drinks, and local wine provided by Earthbound Farms.

Proceeds benefit The Sustainability Academy, a local non-profit whose mission is to accelerate the mainstream practice of sustainability on the Central Coast of California.

This special event is also supported by other local entities, including Eco-Carmel, the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC), and Sustainable Carmel.

For more info, contact Michael Waxer
at michael@carmeldevelopment.com