

**Pit River Watershed Alliance**  
**USDA Forest Service National Watershed Demonstration Area**

**2002 Annual Report**  
**(FY02)**

**I. Partnership Overview**

See attached Pit River Watershed Alliance 2002 Overview.

**II. Partnership Goals**

See attached Pit River Watershed Alliance 2002 Overview

**III. Accomplishments**

**A. Actions**

The 2002 accomplishments on the Modoc National Forest are listed in the Pit River Watershed Alliance 2002 Overview under "Modoc National Forest FY02 Restoration Actions". Investments in progress by non-Forest Service Alliance members are listed under "Other (Non-FS) Pit River Alliance Investments in Progress".

**B. Environmental Consequences/Outcomes**

Through the RCD grants, and leadership contributed by personnel from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, in FY02 the Alliance completed its first full year of baseline monitoring of water quality parameters at six stations along the main stem of the Upper Pit River. The members of the Pit River Alliance collaboratively agreed to these monitoring parameters. Parameters monitored this year included: Flow, Temperature, Nutrients (nitrate, phosphate, ammonia and chlorophyll A), Pathogens (Total and fecal Coliform bacteria), Sediment and Chemical (Dissolved oxygen and pH). Next year, monitoring funding has been secured to expand this monitoring to thirteen major branches of the Upper Pit River. This monitoring program will provide critical environmental indicators to link partnership goals, actions and consequences over time.

In addition, in FY02 the contract was awarded for a complete Pit River Alliance Watershed Assessment. The private company VESTRA was awarded this contract. The contract specifications were collaboratively developed by the Alliance, and the contract was awarded through a collaborative selection process of the Alliance. This contract will bring together the existing data in the watershed, including information from public and private ownerships, and begin development of the collaborative database for the Alliance. As part of the contract, VESTRA will identify "focus areas" for the Alliance towards watershed restoration. The Final Report for the Assessment will be completed in 2003.

These two projects, the Alliance Water Quality Monitoring Program and the Alliance Watershed Assessment are two cornerstones of the Alliance's future focus. In addition, this year through collaborative funding "The River Center" was created in Alturas, California. This center will provide educational information and activities for the entire Alliance area. An interpretive display is currently being completed at the Center, and many activities were already based out of the Center in 2002. One of the key partners in The River Center is the Modoc County Board of Education, which sees the Center as a key component for environmental education in the local schools.

#### **IV. Challenges and Change**

The Alliance is continuing to embrace new members, and one of the challenges for FY03 is to build a database that will make easily accessible to everyone the statistics on "income", investments and outcomes across all ownerships in the Alliance area. It is anticipated that the Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Area, or the River Center, will "house" this database.

#### **V. Future Actions and Opportunities**

In FY03 the Pit River Watershed Alliance will develop a revised Business Plan for 2005-2009. The Alliance will review the findings of the Watershed Assessment and begin development of a Strategic Plan based in the findings of the Assessment. The Strategic Plan will be collaboratively developed by the Alliance members, and is expected to be completed in 2004. During 2003, the Alliance database development effort, as well as already planned on-the-ground restoration efforts across ownerships will be accomplished. Projects planned and accomplished in future years will incorporate the outcomes of the Strategic Plan.

#### **VI. Partnership Budget/Costs**

See attached Pit River Watershed Alliance 2002 Overview.

#### **VII. Partnership Contacts**

See attached Pit River Watershed Alliance 2002 Overview.



# Pit River Watershed Alliance

## 2002 Overview

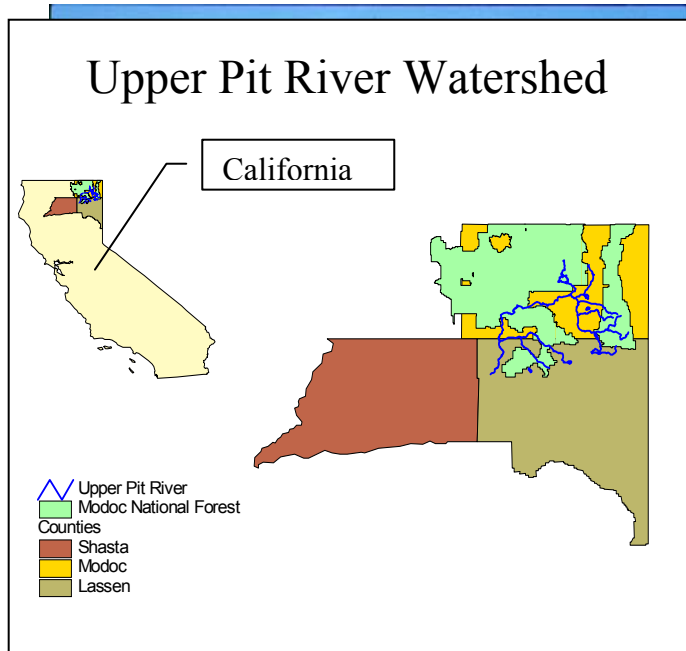
Situated in northeastern California, near the Oregon and Nevada borders, the Upper Pit River Watershed includes over 3 million acres. The watershed which includes numerous ownerships, supplies almost 20% of the water to the Sacramento River. The watershed is vital to the culture, environment, and economics of the State of California.

Watershed restoration projects within the Upper Pit River Watershed have been ongoing for the past ten years. The Pit River Watershed Alliance was formed in 2000 to strengthen efforts across all ownerships towards restoring watersheds in the Upper Pit River Watershed. The Alliance is a collaborative, non-regulatory group of private and public interests that want to enhance water quality and aquatic habitat in the Upper Pit River Watershed. The North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation & Development Area provides oversight for the Alliance.

The Alliance area includes four Natural Resource and Conservation Service Districts; Lake, Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, and Siskiyou County Boards; and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Service. Most of the area is within California Congressional District 2.

**MISSION**  
**Foster partnerships that achieve integrated long-term cultural, economic, and environmental health of the watershed through active community participation.**

### Watershed Restoration Priorities



A view of the Upper Pit River Watershed Alliance area.

The Alliance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes the framework for a collaborative watershed restoration/enhancement effort within the Upper Pit River Watershed. The MOU identifies key objectives and program emphasis for the next five years:

- ❑ Develop education around the watershed
- ❑ Comprehensively assess Watersheds
- ❑ Monitor results using a common database
- ❑ Secure funding for restoration projects
- ❑ Implement 'ready to go' restoration projects, such as the Modoc National Forest Upper Pit River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project.

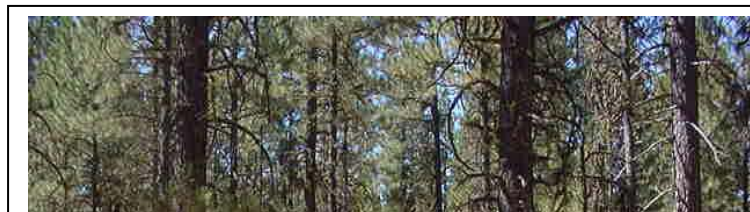
## MODOC NATIONAL FOREST: Upper Pit River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project



### **Photos of Restoration Activities in 2002**

*Photo at left captures the process of prescribed fire used to reduce under story fuels and reduce fire intensity, while encouraging the growth of grass and other wildlife forage.*

*Photo below shows a completed thinning project and fuels reduction project.*



## **Modoc National Forest FY 2002 Restoration Actions**

In 2002 the Upper Pit River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project accomplished the following projects on the Modoc National Forest:

- ❑ 1675 acres of Prescribed Fire to reduce fuels
- ❑ 635 acres of wetlands were enhanced
- ❑ 57 nesting islands were constructed
- ❑ 2 dikes constructed
- ❑ 11 miles of fence constructed
- ❑ 100 acres of aspen enhancement
- ❑ 4000 acres thinned for forest health and fuel reduction



Delivering rock to build waterfowl nesting islands.

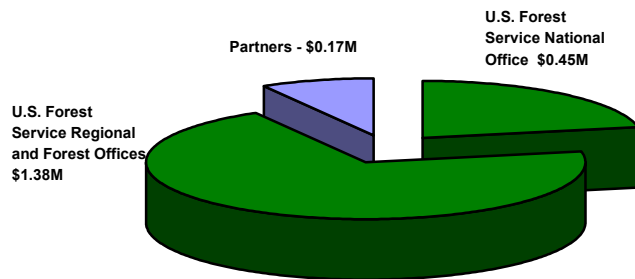
## **Modoc National Forest Partnerships**

In addition the Forest partnered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to develop 6 wildlife water sources and to burn 600 acres to improve wildlife forage. The California Department of Forestry provided crews to do restoration work. The Pacific Southwest Research Station partnered in technology development and use. Grazing permittees also contributed materials and labor on restoration projects. The Modoc Resource Advisory Council served as an active partner in wildlife and riparian restoration projects. General Partnership support for Forest Service Projects totaled \$173,200.

## **Forest Service Restoration Investments**

## **Forest Service Investments**

In FY 2002 the Modoc National Forest committed \$450,000 of earmarked funding from the Washington Office, plus \$1,431,400 of appropriated funds for projects within the Upper Pit River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Project.



## **Other (Non-FS) Pit River Alliance Investments**

In addition the Pit River Watershed Alliance obtained the following financing:

- \$550,000 grant for Upper Pit River Watershed Assessment, watershed monitoring, an Alliance watershed coordinator and support for the River Center. The River Center will become the focal point for watershed information within the community.
- \$2,750,000 RCD grants for private land restoration.
- \$37,000 Modoc County Title III grant for the River Center.
- \$125,000 Modoc County Education Grant for the River Center.
- \$110,000 Bureau of Land Management investment in Juniper Management Strategy.
- Countless volunteer hours by individuals and various organizations.

## **Sharing the Alliance Story**

The Modoc National Forest and other Alliance members presented information on the Pit River Alliance Watershed Demonstration Area to the California Biodiversity Council on August 28, 2002 in Alturas, CA. The Forest Service Pacific Southwest Regional Leadership Team received a presentation about the Alliance on November 4, 2002 in Sacramento California



## **Current Alliance Members**

Big Valley Water Users Group, Bureau of Land Management, Cal Trout, California Waterfowl Association, Central Modoc Resource Conservation District, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Water Resources, Fall River Resource Conservation District, Goose Lake Resource Conservation, Lassen County Farm Bureau, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, Modoc County Board of Supervisors, Modoc National Forest, Modoc County Farm Bureau, Natural Resource Conservation Service (Alturas), Natural Resource Conservation Service (Redding), Natural Resource Conservation Service (Susanville), North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation & Development Area, Pit Resource Conservation District, Shasta County Farm Bureau, Sierra Pacific Industries, Modoc-Washoe Experimental Program.

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