

Interpretive Signs on Russian River Angler Trail



DON'T TAKE MY SOIL! Cottonwoods Hold The Corner

A Cottonwood For Everyone!

The big anchor provides nesting sites for bald eagles and ospreys.

Cottonwoods are a better source of Vitamin C than oranges.

Birds choose cottonwood roots to make their nests.

Rabbit tracks are homes for squirrels, chipmunks, woodpeckers, owls, and other animals.

Cottonwoods are a food source for numerous birds, moths, butterflies, and insects.

This area was replanted by the Youth Restoration Corp.

In cooperation with the US Forest Service.

What Happened to the Cottonwood Trees?

The Forest Service blasted their tops off with dynamite.

Heavy trunks and upper branches threatened to uproot the trees, killing them and destroying valuable soil-holding roots.

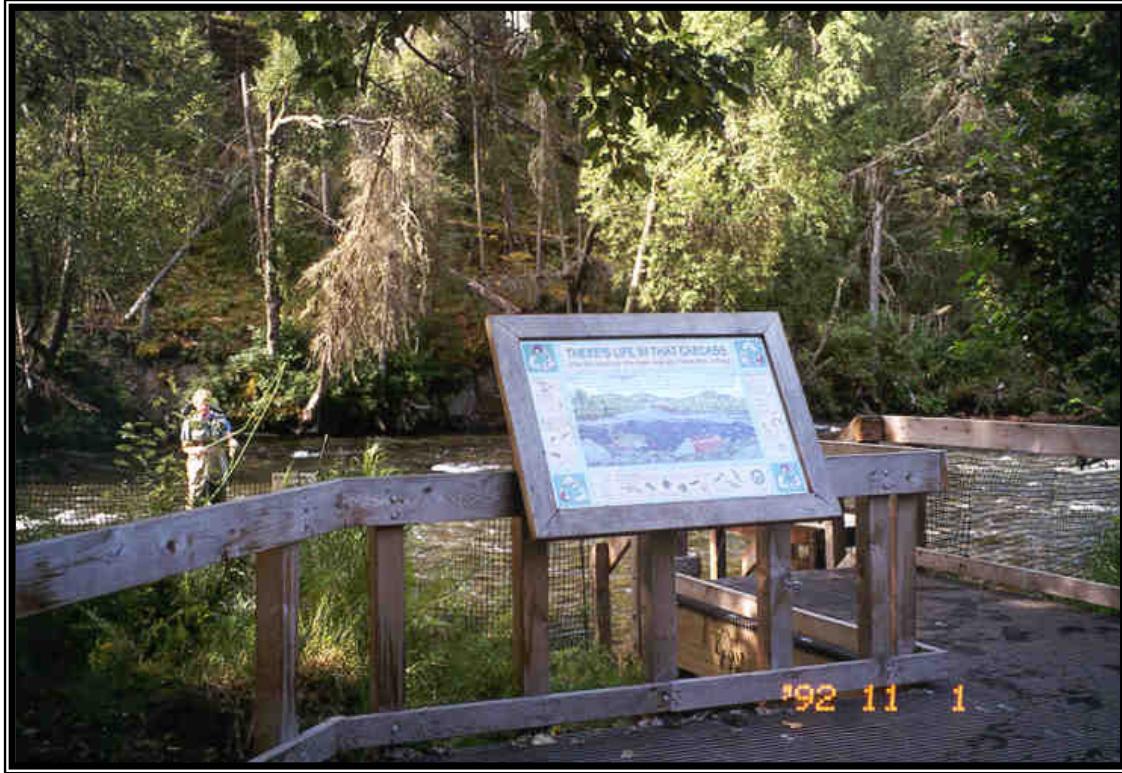
Blasting the trees kept them upright and most importantly saved the roots.

Pruning promotes vigorous root thickening (new shoot growth). It is the new shoots become tree which will hold the stream bank.

Can You Find Clues From the Planting Project?

- the bags used and root-filled geotextile have bags attached to reduce erosion.
- native grasses are planted along stream banks.
- willow stakes are pulled into soil to spread roots.
- Native grasses (Agrostis capillaris) were planted to stabilize soil and reduce erosion.
- Willow stakes can reduce erosion, prevent water infiltration and reduce high water damage.

Please stay on the boardwalk and use river access points to enter the river. Fish in the river to avoid trampling the stream bank. Your cooperation will help save this stream bank and protect the vegetation that fish need for habitat and cover.



THERE'S LIFE IN THAT CARCASS
Give life back to the river and give that fish a fling!

The fastest way to recycle a fish carcass is to throw it in the main current of the river! A carcass is food for other creatures like salmon fry, trout and Dolly Varden. Remaining pieces of flesh settle to the bottom of the river where bacteria break them down into valuable nutrients so algae and other plants can recycle them. Carcasses left to rot on the banks or in pools take longer to decompose and their stench may attract bears.

Nature's Consumers:

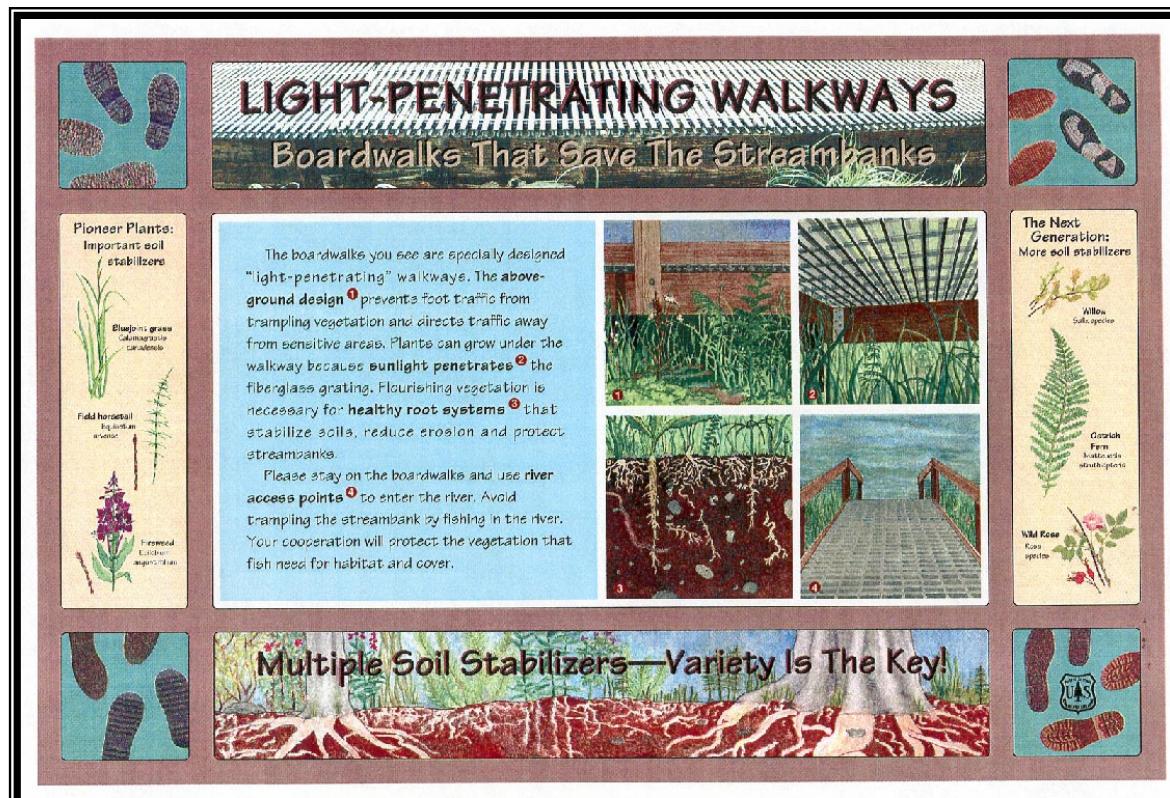
- Adult dragonfly
- Many insects are primary consumers (herbivores) because they eat algae.
- Mosquito nymph—A smaller, wingless version of the adult.
- Other insects are secondary consumers (carnivores) because they eat other insects or small fish. Insects are a source of food for salmon and trout.
- Dragonfly nymph
- Caddisfly larvae—protective coating of sand, twigs and debris is glued on by larvae; more debris is added as it grows

Nature's Recyclers:

- Bacteria and fungi break down dead plants and animals into raw materials necessary for plant growth.
- Without bacteria and fungi life would perish from a lack of nutrients.
- Calanoida bacteria (magnified app. 25,000 times)
- Fungi

Nature's Producers:

- Blue-Green Algae
- Diatoms—algae-celled forms of algae characterized by a cell wall of silica, the most abundant of all living things in water
- Euglenes—Flagellates which move by beating tiny whip-like extensions
- Volvocales—Flagellates which live in a colony similar to a hollow ball of jelly





BLACK BEAR

 Back: short, shiny, rounded, and dark
 Front: thick fur, grizzled, larger, more hair, straight hair

If you encounter a **BLACK BEAR...**
 Stay calm. DO NOT RUN! Quietly back away. If the bear has seen you, let it know you are human. Talk to the bear, wave your arms, and back away slowly.

If a **BLACK BEAR CHARGES** you...
 Stop tracking away, and hold your ground. Continue talking to the bear and waving your arms.

If a **BLACK BEAR ATTACKS** you...
 Fight back!

BROWN BEAR

 Large, shaggy fur, rounded, dark, grizzled, shaggy hair
 Front: coarse, long, fairly straight, and light

If you encounter a **BROWN BEAR...**
 Stay calm. DO NOT RUN! Quietly back away. If the bear has seen you, let it know you are human. Talk to the bear, wave your arms, and back away slowly.

If a **BROWN BEAR CHARGES** you...
 Stop tracking away and hold your ground. Continue talking to the bear and waving your arms.

If a **BROWN BEAR ATTACKS** you...
 Fall to the ground and PLAY DEAD!

WELCOME TO BEAR COUNTRY!

Bears are a vital part of the Russian River ecosystem. At any given moment you could encounter a bear. You can decrease your chances of having a negative bear encounter if you behave responsibly while:

CAMPING

- Never leave food unattended.
- Store all food (including coolers, stoves, dog food, trash, etc.) in a vehicle or bear-proof container.
- NEVER clean fish in the campground.
- Close dumpster doors, even if you did not open them.

HIKING

- Make lots of noise, especially where visibility is limited and near loud water.
- Watch for bear signs (scat, tracks, claw marks, etc.).
- Be cautious near bear attractants (cannisters, trash, berries, etc.).
- Use caution if hiking alone. Travel in groups when possible.

FISHING

- Clean fish IN THE RIVER ONLY.
- Never lay fish on the stream bank. Leave fish tied in the river before cleaning.
- Toss all carcasses into the current, including those found on gravel bars.
- Be cautious if fishing alone at night.

BLACK BEAR

 Back track: front track
 Track: large, deep, broad, flat, rounded, deep, broad, flat, rounded

BROWN BEAR

 Front track: back track
 Track: large, deep, broad, flat, rounded, deep, broad, flat, rounded

BEAR FACTS

Bears are unpredictable and dangerous. NEVER APPROACH A BEAR. Remember, a hurt human equals a dead bear. NEVER FEED A BEAR. A fed bear becomes a problem bear, then, a dead bear. It's up to you to act responsibly in bear country. For more information about bears, ask for a Bear Facts brochure at the contact station.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE