

## *Eel River Recovery Project Asks for Input on 2018 Action Plan*

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) 2018 Action Plan meeting will take place at the Willits Environmental Hub on Sunday January 14 from 10 AM to 3 PM followed by a potluck and BBQ in celebration of the ERRP Board. This will be ERRP's seventh year of operation and third year as a 501c3 non-profit corporation, and the group is anticipating growth, as they have numerous grants filed that cover a wide array of activities that will take place throughout the Eel River watershed.

ERRP has been a co-tenant at the Willits Hub with several other environmental groups since March 2018. Successful programs implemented in 2017 such as the popular Willits Goes Wild field trips and Outlet Creek monitoring will continue in the new year and Willits High School students will be involved. Students will be involved in real life science and helping take the pulse of their watershed using cutting edge scientific tools made available by ERRP at the Hub. If grant funding is acquired, ERRP will create a Salmon Safe Willits project to help nearby urban and sub-urban residents know about the health of their creeks and how they can protect them.

ERRP is also pursuing a Temper of the Times Foundation grant that would make much more information about Wilderness available at the Hub, with the long-term plan to make it a "Gateway to Mendocino Wilderness" where locals and tourists can find out about recreational opportunities. ERRP's biggest undertaking in 2018 in Mendocino County, however, will be in the Tenmile Creek basin, if a Proposition 1 Coastal Conservancy grant is awarded. The objective will be to work with land owners on increasing water storage to enable conservation and forbearance to get key tributaries back on the surface, similar to the successful upper Mattole River program. Additional opportunities being pursued are a U.S. Forest Service Citizen Science grant and with U.C. Berkeley as part of their 2019-2020 National Science Foundation grant.

The doors of the Hub will open at 9:30 AM with coffee, bagels and fresh fruit available. The ERRP Board meeting will begin at 10 AM. At 1 PM ERRP will conduct their annual public scoping. Citizens are invited to comment on existing programs and their effectiveness, and to bring new ideas about additional community needs. After the ERRP Board discusses the ideas brought up in the scoping session, the various elements of the ERRP 2018 Action Plan will be delegated to committees that will pursue resources and carry out the work.

At the end of the meeting at 3 PM there will be a BBQ and potluck to celebrate ERRP founding Board members that have helped create a stable and prospering organization. ERRP has a membership drive in Willits that began on January 1 to try and build local membership to 200, which will help cover costs of continuing operation at the Hub. Anyone joining will get a beautiful 2018 Eel River calendar, while they last. Join at the Action Plan meeting or stop by the Hub on any Saturday.

The Willits Environmental Hub is at 630 South Main Street not far north of Highway 20. Anyone with questions can call Robin Leler in Willits at 459-0155 or ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins at 223-7200. For more information, see [www.EelRiverRecovery.org](http://www.EelRiverRecovery.org) on-line or follow ERRP on Facebook.



**Eel River Recovery Project volunteers on December 21 Outlet Creek salmon reconnaissance field trip (l to r) Cathy Warren, Lyn Talkovsky, Bruce Hilbach-Barger, Kirk Lumpkin and Paula Crews.**