



Yurok Tribe doubles land base with purchase of Green Diamond property

Timber company selling tribe 22,000-plus acres of land

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The Yurok Tribe and Green Diamond Resource Co. finalized the purchase of 22,237 acres Thursday, doubling the tribe's land base.

The purchase is part of the tribe's efforts to re-establish indigenous territory along the lower Klamath River.

"The Tribe has long sought the return of ancestral land to create a salmon sanctuary and restore tribal cultural management practices, which benefit fish, wildlife and the ecosystem as a whole," Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas O'Rourke said in a press release.

Green Diamond Resource Co. Vice President and General Manager Neal Ewald said the purchase is a culmination of almost 23 years of collaboration between the tribe and the timber company, which began with the establishment of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act of 1988.

The act recognized some of the inequities between the



PHOTO COURTESY CINDY DIAZ/WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

This side stream is located on the more than 22,000 acres of land purchased by the Yurok Tribe. The tribe acquired the land from Green Diamond Resource Co. with the help of the Western Rivers Conservancy.

two neighboring tribes and included sections within the act that attempted to redress the disparities, and include limited transfers of forest service land.

"Our company is proud of our role in partnering with the Yurok and Western Rivers Conservancy to see this landscape moved into the tribe's stewardship," Ewald said in the release.

The land, more than 34 square miles, will become a Yurok Tribal Community Forest. The tribe said it will apply a sustainable forest management approach to the forest, protecting salmon, improving water quality and restoring meadows that traditionally supported subsistence hunting and gathering.

Additionally, the tribe plans to further enhance three tributaries to the lower Klamath

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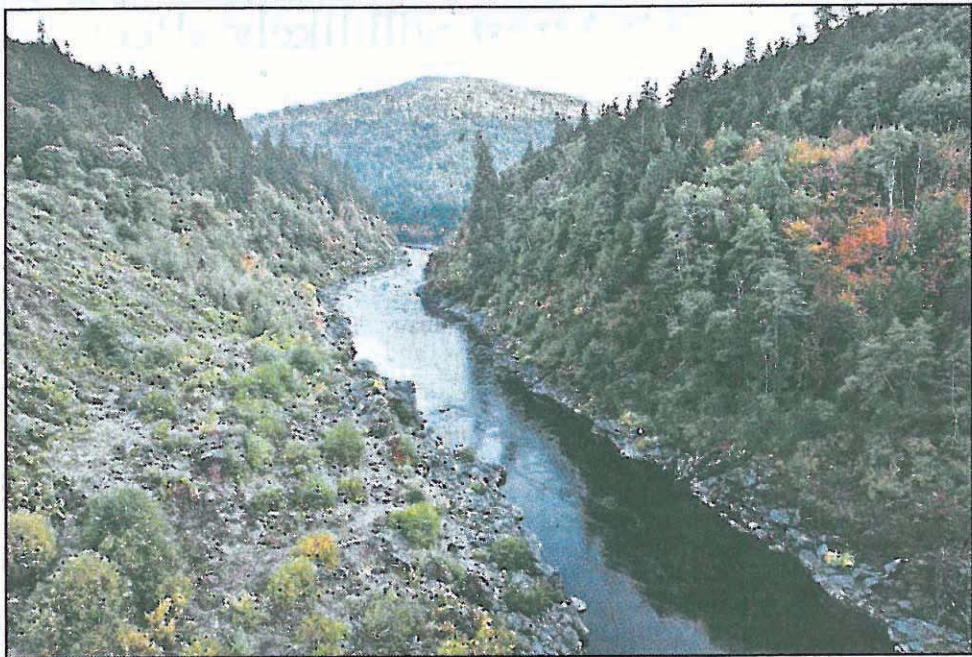
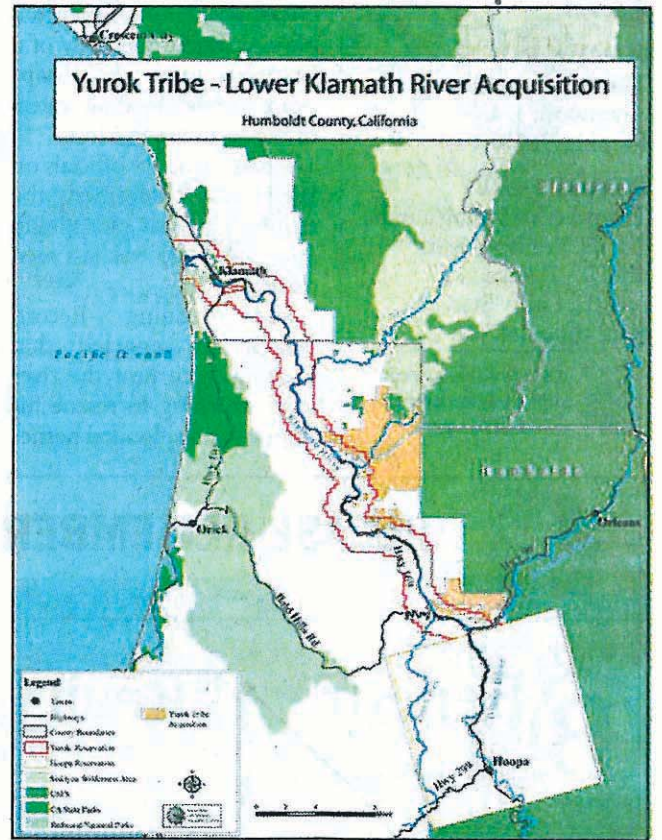


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The Klamath River frontage runs along the boundary of the more than 22,000 acres of land purchased by the Yurok Tribe from the Green Diamond Resource Co.

YUROK: This land purchase is the first phase of the tribe's plans for the community forest

FROM A1

River that flow through the property: Pecwan, Ke'pel and Weitchpec Creeks. These creeks provide vital cold water and spawning grounds for the many Klamath fish species.

The Yurok Tribe worked with the Western Rivers Conservancy to complete the purchase.

"This is an historic accomplishment to ensure clean, cold water for the Klamath River's salmon runs while re-

establishing a portion of the Yurok's 'homeland,'" Phillip Wallin, the president of Western Rivers Conservancy, said in the release.

This land purchase is the first phase of the tribe's plans for the community forest.

The tribe's future efforts also include plans for another possible land acquisition of nearly 25,000 acres from Green Diamond, and lobbying for the transfer of 1,200 acres on either side of the

mouth of the Klamath River from the federal government.

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