



Spring 2008

Vol. XVII No. 2

Message from the District Manager - 2007 Annual report

This Annual Report highlights many projects the District worked on in 2007. We use the annual report to assess our strengths and to improve the delivery of conservation assistance to our constituents in Trinity County.

We seek to build sustainability into our funding. We are a special district that relies entirely on grants and agreements – from the summer day camp to our South Fork Trinity River restoration work. We established the Trinity County Resource Conservation District Fund under the Trinity Trust and the Humboldt Area Foundation. You can support District programs that have helped you and your community through a tax-deductible donation or by including the District in your estate planning.

A number of important projects stood out in 2007 and the Weaverville Community Forest is one such project. We implemented our first forest health project, generating over 700,000 board-feet that went to the Trinity River Mill and making 200 acres near Weaverville more fire safe. We also proceeded with smaller projects suggested by local residents through community meetings. These were funded with stewardship funds (timber harvest receipts) set aside by the Bureau of Land Management to be used within the Weaverville Community Forest.

The “Lewiston 4” project is the next salmon habitat restoration project planned for the Trinity River. It will proceed in summer 2008 in part because the District got a \$575,000 grant from California Department of Fish and Game to help Trinity River Restoration Program fund these projects near Lewiston. The District became a lead agency for the project's environmental documents, hosting public workshops and hearings.

This annual report illustrates the wide range of our conservation work. Behind every one of these projects are many talented and dedicated staff, volunteers and our many grantors, such as the Trinity River Restoration Program, the State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game and Trinity County. This report is a tribute to all of them.



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FOREST HEALTH / FUELS REDUCTION

Trinity County Fire Safe Council

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council, which the District has coordinated since 1998, continues to work to improve cooperation and coordination in all aspects of wildfire management in Trinity County. Members of the Fire Safe Council include US Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Volunteer Fire Departments, Trinity County, the Watershed Research and Training Center, Bureau of Land Management, Trinity RC&D Council and private citizens. Together, these groups are working to involve the residents and landowners of Trinity County in fire prevention and response preparation in order to best avoid catastrophic fires in the future. One of the goals of the Fire Safe Council is to involve the whole community in working to protect their property as well as their neighbors' by being aware of the risk of fire damage and taking some simple steps to help prevent it. During 2007, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council continued to work with the Volunteer Fire Departments to develop ingress/egress plans for fire safety and continues to work with Trinity County on Fire Safe elements of the Trinity County General Plan. As a result of the success of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council's planning process and education and outreach efforts, the RCD continued to obtain funding for a wide variety of fuels reduction projects during 2007 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. New projects this year include the Community Chipping project with funding from the North Coast Air Quality Management District and fuels reduction work in the Weaverville Community Forest with funding from CalTrans.



Biomass Utilization Coordination



Funded by the US Forest Service in early 2007, the Trinity County Biomass Coordinator is working to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildland fire through fuels reduction projects and the development of local woody biomass utilization in Trinity County.

Through collaboration and cooperation, the coordinator is working to develop a landscape-scale woody biomass utilization process in Trinity County, educate landowners on the benefits of fuels reductions, timber stand improvement and forest restoration, demonstrate to potential end-users about available technology in regards to biomass utilization and work to develop value-added products from small diameter timber and woody biomass

This project is working to educate people that play a key role in woody biomass utilization and through demonstrating a sample of value-added products that can be created from biomass, create an interest in pursuing this effort further. This project is the first step of many if biomass is to move towards implementation.

The Gazebo Project (pictured at right) is an example of biomass utilization, as the materials for the gazebo are considered "sub-merchantable" (not large enough to be sent to a mill). Developing a value added product helps to reduce the cost of doing fuels reduction as the biomass that was once either burned or chipped is now considered to have value and can be sold for the development of products such as the gazebo. The Gazebo is a kit developed by The Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork as a prototype for roundwood construction. The materials in the kit all came from fuels reduction projects within Trinity County and were processed at the Hayfork Small Diameter Sort Yard.

FOREST HEALTH / FUELS REDUCTION

Weaverville Community Forest

The Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Project is planned to be a multi-year project on approximately 1000-acres of densely forested BLM public lands adjacent to the town of Weaverville. The Stewardship project will meet both the Weaverville community and BLM management objectives for multiple use resource management, reducing hazardous fuels near communities, and improving overall forest health. Several community meetings and on-site field trips have been conducted and a cooperative agreement and initial stewardship forest plan has been developed. This initial project operation and management plan was designed to implement initial fuels treatment work on some of the highest fire risk areas near the Timber Ridge subdivision. Revenue generated from this treatment will then be used to complete future projects on BLM lands within at the community forest such as: additional sustained yield forest health treatments, road and trail maintenance, patrol, sign maintenance, cultural inventory and interpretation.



TCRCD developed a detailed initial harvest treatment plan for mechanically thinning approximately 200-acres of lands within the Weaverville Community Forest and adjacent to the Timber Ridge subdivision in 2006 and implemented this plan in the summer of 2007.

The timber harvest plan included flagging boundaries (property, sale area, harvest area, stream management zone, and special treatment area), delineating logging systems, roads, and landings, preparing silvicultural prescriptions, marking trees, cruising marked trees for gross and net volume, preparing a cruise report and draft sale area map, and preparing harvest specifications, such as slash treatments, road watering standards, etc. (include description of work to be performed and the value).



A negotiated sale agreement for approximately 450MBF was entered into between the TCRCD and BLM based on the above and was amended twice to accommodate changes in the timber market and a desire to make adjustments to the mark. The TCRCD subcontracted the forest health timber harvest to Stan Leach Timber Inc. Work began on June 18, 2007 and the logging project ended on October 3, 2007. A total of 786 MBF were harvested and delivered to Trinity River Mill in Weaverville from the 219-acre Phase I. No work was performed in riparian areas. Total payments to the TCRCD were \$334,866.30; to the subcontractor were \$248,426.57 and to the BLM for deposit into the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship Account were approximately \$111,116.81. Most of the project slash was chipped and removed from the forest, being taken to biomass facility in Anderson, CA. 13 loads were removed.

Other accomplishments for the year include:

- **Installed gates to control public access and protect against vehicle -caused erosion,**
- **Signage installed,**
- **Invasive weed survey and management undertaken,**
- **A Christmas Tree planting project was implemented by BLM in the winter of 2007 (approximately 8,000 Douglas Fir seedlings along the PG&E right-of-way,**
- **Two informational kiosks were refurbished and new, Weaverville Community Forest Information was installed at the kiosks at Mill and Oregon Streets**

WATERSHED PROJECTS

South Fork Trinity River Watershed

In 2007 the RCD completed its eleventh year of implementing road restoration projects in the South Fork of the Trinity River Watershed. This year 41,692 cubic yards of road fill was excavated from 32 stream crossings along 6.61 miles of Forest Service roads in the Hyampom, and Hidden Valley compartments. Road crossings over creeks if not maintained or adequately sized pose a high risk to anadromous fisheries in the South Fork.

The RCD has been implementing road-related, sediment reduction projects in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed since 1997, including road upgrades. Upgrading roads reduces the potential for sediment to reach streams and keeps the roads drivable by redesigning the drainage of the road, especially through the installation of larger culverts that can withstand 100-year storms. Over 190 miles of roads have been treated with 99 stream crossings upgraded, 239 stream crossings excavated and over 166,261 cubic yards of soil excavated from the stream courses.

To date, about \$4.9 million has been spent on restoration work in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed. The District will return to the South Fork in 2008 with funding amounting to over \$950,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board, the US Forest Service, California Department of Fish & Game and Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee.

**Before, during and after
stream crossing excavation at
MM 5.90 on 1S11 road.**

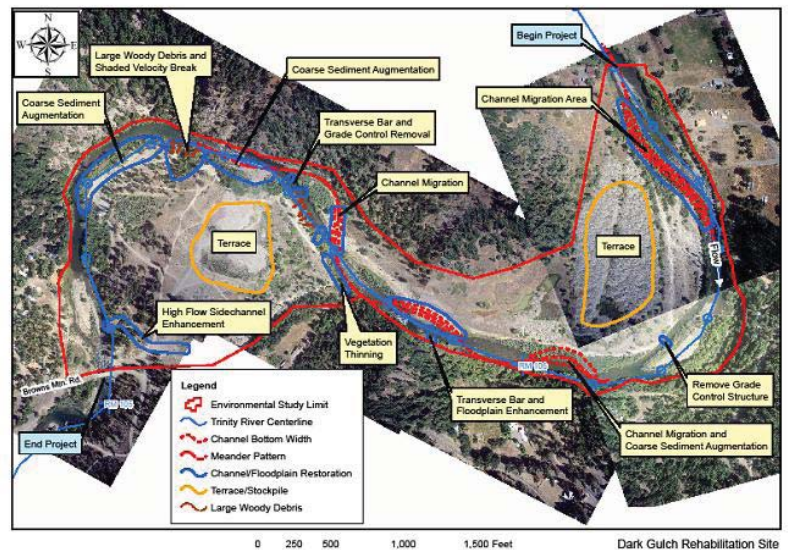
View upstream—October 2007



WATERSHED PROJECTS

Lewiston 4 & Dark Gulch Channel Rehabilitation

The District obtained a \$575,000 grant from the California Department of Fish and Game to assist the Trinity River Restoration Program with their Lewiston 4 and Dark Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project. The District is acting as lead CEQA agent for this project and is facilitating public hearings. This grant provided needed additional funds for this \$2.27 million project that will be implemented during the summer of 2008. The project includes removing riparian berms, addition of coarse sediment, constructing side channels, incorporating large woody debris, and removing instream barriers to improve spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous salmonids.



Trinity River Watershed Council

The District facilitated the Trinity River Watershed Council during 2007. The formation of a cooperative partnership between residents, private and commercial landowners, local, state and federal agencies has evolved as a process to seek common solutions to protect and restore the health of the Trinity River watershed.



This Watershed Council offers participants the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process at the local level and to evaluate and implement projects of mutual interest. This partnership will result in the ability to accomplish long-term watershed management planning and project implementation at the watershed scale across land ownerships and boundaries. The signatories of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognize the value of coordinating land management and planning activities among public agencies at all levels as well as between these agencies and private landowners. Each party is independent, has its respective responsibilities, and yet recognizes the need to coordinate for the successful delivery of conservation programs related to our natural resources.

The mission of the Trinity River Watershed Council is to facilitate an inclusive, community-based process to maintain, restore, and enhance the ecological health of the Trinity River watershed through cooperation, project planning and implementation, responsible stewardship, and education.

A significant accomplishment of the Trinity River Watershed Council was to prioritize potential restoration projects designed to reduced sediment delivery to the Trinity River.

NATIVE HABITAT



Revegetation utilizing native plant species took place at the Weaver Basin Wetlands with mitigation funds from CalTrans and along streams for post fire rehabilitation with funds from US Forest Service.

Species planted included willow, cottonwood, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine. These critical site plantings were implemented on tributaries to Weaver Creek that were in both the Junction Fire (2006) and Oregon Fire (2001).

RECREATION AND TRAILS

A variety of recreation and trails projects were undertaken by the District during 2007. Wilderness Trail Clearing-Phase III was completed with nearly 100 miles of trail cleared for the USFS. Phase IV was approved for an additional 100 miles to be addressed during 2008. Other projects worked on during the year included bridge installation over East Weaver Creek as part of the Weaverville Basin Trail system, and completing a virtual brochure for the historical mining landscape of the West Weaver Creek area for the Bureau of Land Management.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education is an important component of District activities. Our efforts are not limited to adult and community outreach and education. We are committed to serving the youth of our community and have resource professionals available to augment teachers' curriculum in the classroom or in the field. Outreach efforts include participation in community events such as the Trinity County Fair and the Salmon and Heritage Fruit Festival.

The District's outreach and education programs for the year 2007 included:

- California and National Envirothon, a resource management competition for high school students
- Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717
- CARCD Speech Contest
- Expanded educational programs including monitoring efforts
- Developing CreekWatch Volunteer Monitoring program
- Tours of Watershed Restoration Projects for Humboldt State University Students
- Participation in, and facilitation of, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council
- Summer Day Camp for children
- Successful information booths about RCD Projects at
 - Trinity County Fair
 - Children's Festival
 - Salmon Festival
 - Fire Safe Day
- Collaborate with AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project to deliver watershed and fisheries based science curriculum to K-12 students in Trinity County
- Update website www.tcrd.net with topical information
- Quarterly Newsletter, the Conservation Almanac distributed to all Post Office boxes in the County
- Facilitate the Trinity River Watershed Council
- Developed and distributed informational brochures
- Articles in the Trinity Journal about RCD projects and programs
- Political advocacy—letters to state and federal legislators, and others urging them to act on behalf of RCD programs and policies

Summer Day Camp

During the summer of 2007, the District again held Summer Day Camp for children K-5th grade over a period of 5 weeks. It provided working parents with a safe place for their children to have fun activities and high school teenagers with summer employment as camp counselors. Activities included journaling, community garden, nutrition, games, arts & crafts, and swimming.



Teaching Campers how to identify a healthy stream

Environmental Education Camp

Sixth graders from Weaverville Elementary School go to Bar 717 Ranch for their Environmental Education Camp. This camp has a unique approach of using resource professionals who work and live in our own communities as camp instructors.

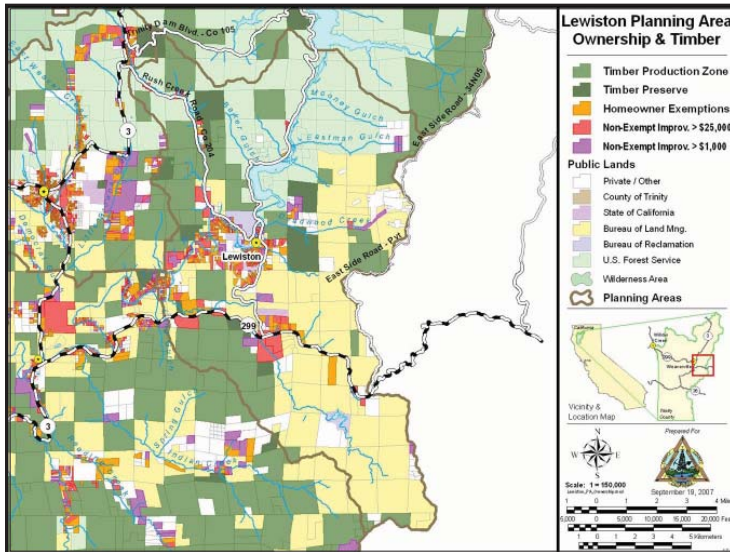


Practicing using binoculars for bird watching

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

In 2007, the District GIS work involved a wide variety of projects including updating Trinity County's General Plan, supporting Watershed Restoration throughout the county, technical assistance to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and planning for the expansion of the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship project. Another GIS-specific grant that was approved in 2007 is to update the spatial data layer for the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that integrates features from numerous organizations representing all the RAC funded projects in Trinity County for 2007.

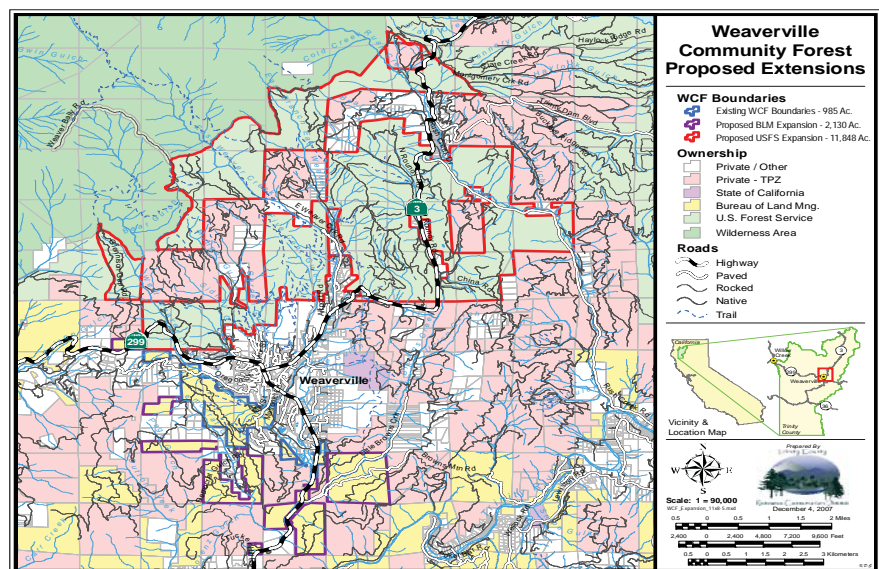
Trinity County General Plan



In assisting the Trinity County Planning Department with the preparation of its General Plan Update, many varied GIS tasks were completed during the course of the project such as; creating Planning Area boundaries loosely based on the watersheds containing each of the major community populations, updating the county-wide parcel layer and private ownership database, extensive research and collection of natural resource and administrative spatial data, detailed analysis and data display, and hardcopy and electronic map layout.

Weaverville Community Forest

GIS support was critical in the planning process of expanding the existing 984 acres of Weaverville Community Forest (Bureau of Land Management Lands) to include approximately 12,000 acres of US Forest Service lands that have been approved by the USFS Regional Forester as a Stewardship Area for inclusion in the WCF



ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Directors have maintained a strong commitment to support the efforts of our many partners, who recognize that locally-led activities can yield multiple benefits. Programmatic plans and initial implementation strategies are developed with Board approval. Under the Board's direction, District Manager Patrick Frost, guides activities that provide assistance to landowners throughout Trinity County. An important element of delivering assistance is securing adequate funding. The Board and staff have worked diligently at many levels to sustain funding to continue to meet the District's mission.



Board Directors (left to right): Greg Lowden, Rose Owens, Mike Rourke, Colleen O'Sullivan (Board Chair), Patrick Truman

RCD Establishes Conservation Fund

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District Fund was established in 2007 in association with the Trinity Trust with the Humboldt Area Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to support the mission and ongoing work of the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. This fund can help the District provide programs and achieve the goal of community guided conservation. This fund provides residents with a meaningful way to invest in local conservation of our natural resources. Tax deductible donations to this fund can help the District extend its programs and increase effectiveness.

Donors can create an enduring legacy that perpetuates a commitment to conservation by supporting the RCD Fund through a gift in ones will. Please give thought to this new opportunity for contributions to community-based conservation programs through the District's Conservation Fund.

Local Affiliations

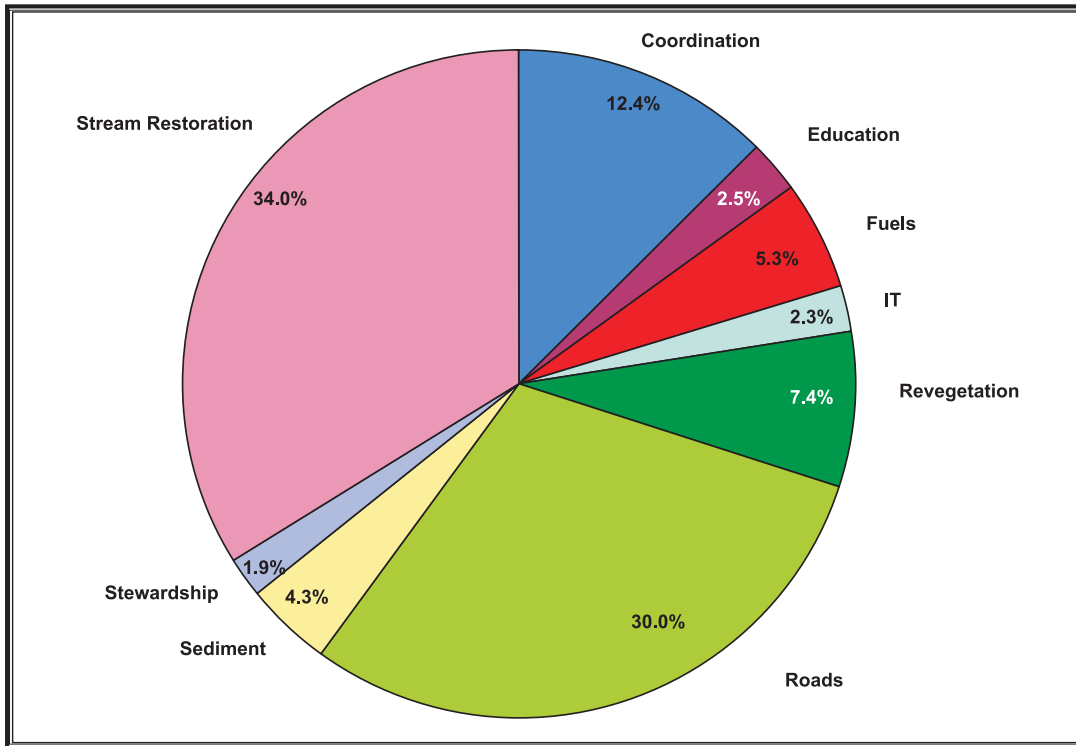
Director Patrick Truman served on the Northwest California RC&D Council. Director Lowden works with the Weaverville Basin Trail Committee. Director O'Sullivan took the lead in the development of a Community Forest in Weaverville and is chair of the General Plan Advisory Committee. Staff continues to coordinate the Trinity County Fire Safe Council, and maintained active participation in the Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative. District Manager Pat Frost, has been appointed to the Trinity River Adaptive Management Group and the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee and serves as Past-President of the Weaverville Rotary and as a Board Member for the Human Response Network.

State, Regional and National Affiliations

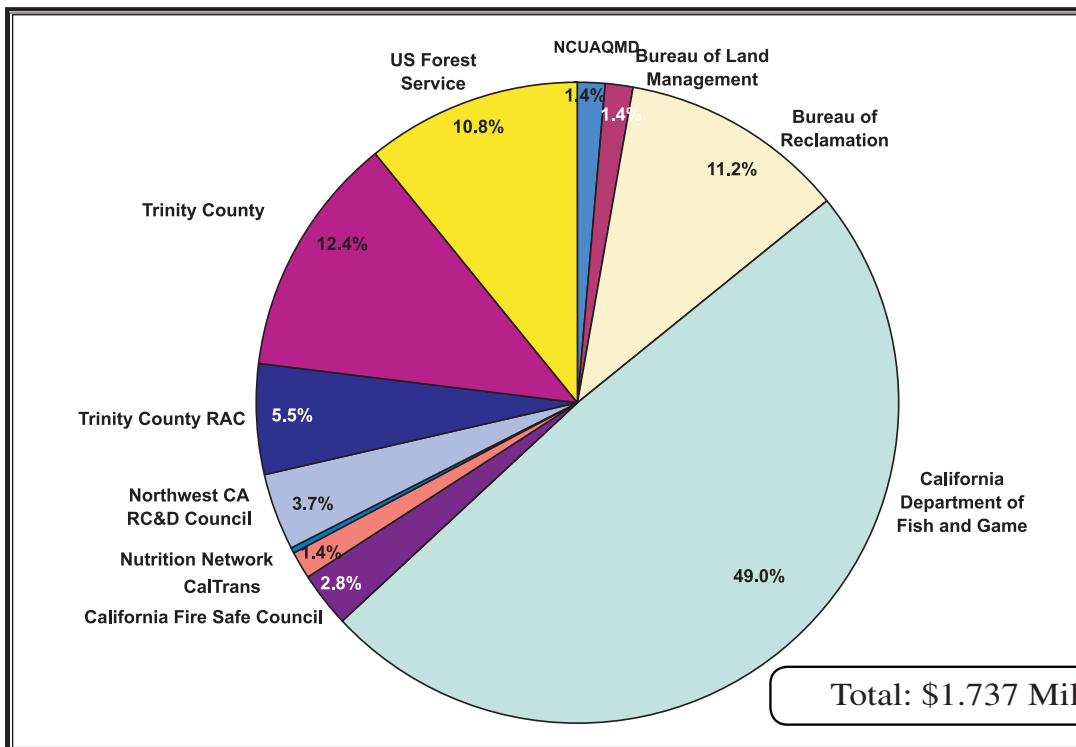
Board Chair Colleen O'Sullivan serves as the north coast area chair to the CARCD. Patrick Truman serves as president of the CARCD.

NEW PROJECTS 2007

Projects by Type 2007



Funding Sources 2007



TRRP Current Events

Lewiston-Dark Gulch Channel Rehab Project Starts this Spring

The Project started in May with the addition of 3,500 tons of gravel added to the upper river by conveyor belt to mid-channel locations where it is most needed for spawning and juvenile fish rearing habitat (see photo). Construction will begin in the summer to improve juvenile fish rearing habitat by creating low velocity habitat areas, reopening side channels, adding large wood, lowering the floodplain, placing more gravel in the river, and replanting native vegetation.

Future TRRP Activities

In cooperation with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the TRRP recently initiated development of an environmental document entitled "Completion of Phase 1 Channel Rehabilitation Projects with Planned Phase 2 Channel Rehabilitation and Sediment Management Projects." This Master Environmental Assessment /Environmental Impact Report (Master EA/EIR) will be site specific for next year's (2009) eight channel rehabilitation construction projects and programmatic for the 23 Phase 2 projects that are scheduled for 2010-2012. The Master EA/EIR will also address fine and coarse sediment (gravel) management needs between Lewiston and the North Fork Trinity River. Concepts and rehabilitation designs for the last of the Phase 1 Projects, (also known as the "Remaining 8" group of sites) is now in process within six separate project areas along the river between the Old Bridge and Douglas City. It is expected that the Master EA/EIR will streamline environmental compliance needs so that future TRRP projects, which use proven designs and construction methods, will be more easily reviewed by the public and regulatory agencies. More information on the Remaining 8 sites and the Master EA/EIR is available at: <http://www.trrp.net/implementation/remaining8.htm>



Conveyor system adding gravel at the Sawmill site, upper Trinity River.

Staff News

Ed Solbos, Implementation Branch Chief of the Trinity River Restoration Program retired May 2, 2008. Ed came to the Restoration Program in April 2002 from the Sacramento Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, where he was Regional Engineer for six years. Prior to that time, Ed was Area Manager for the Lahontan Basin in Carson City, NV for four years and Project Manager for the Trinity River Basin Field Office in Weaverville from 1986 to 1991. We will miss him greatly and we wish him a wonderful retirement!

Joe Riess, Civil Engineer, left the Trinity River Restoration Program on March 14, 2008 to accept a position with a private engineering firm. Joe contributed substantially to our accomplishments over the past 3 years and will be missed greatly, but he and his wife Tiffany will remain our neighbors here in Weaverville.

We want to welcome two new members of the TRRP staff. Jennifer Faler, joins us as the Implementation Branch Chief, and David Bandrowski was recently hired to replace Joe Riess and joined the office May 11. You can read more about them in the summer issue of the Conservation Almanac.

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093



Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

TCRCD Office

Number One
Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
FAX 623-6006
E-mail: info@tcrd.net
Internet: www.tcrd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district whose board of directors volunteer their time.

The TCRCD Vision

TCRCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economic diversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

The TCRCD Mission

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation programs.

**TCRCD Board of Directors are
Mike Rourke, Rose Owens, Patrick Truman,
Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.**

The RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work. The RCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The RCD provides information on the following topics:

- **Forest Land Productivity**
- **Watershed Improvement**
- **Water Supply and Storage**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Erosion/Sediment Control**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
- **Soil and Plant Types**
- **Fuels Reduction**

This issue of the *Conservation Almanac* is funded in part by grants from the Trinity River Restoration Program, Bureau of Land Management, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Fire Safe Council, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

