

Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Spring 2014 Vol. XXIII No. 2

2013 TCRCD Annual Report

Message from the District Manager

2013 was my first full year as District Manager at the Trinity County RCD. I've noticed that the old saying "Change is the only constant," to be true for the District as well. In our front office there are a few familiar faces, as well as a few not so familiar ones. Our work crews also reflect this change. But everyone, new and seasoned, is learning from the past and looking toward the future with the same vision that has sustained the RCD through many seasons of change.

At the RCD, we continue to assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation. We continue to find a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. We work hard every day, dealing with change as it occurs, and always keeping in mind our goals to help the economy and the environment at the same time.

Creating a balance between use and conservation gives us a chance at a sustainable future. Maintaining this balance has helped our new staff, me included, as we seek better ways to work with the community. We also rely on the guidance of our Board of Directors, who are profiled on page 11 of this report.

Change continues to keep us on our toes at the District. In reviewing this annual report, our staff realized that our role at the RCD has shifted over the last several years from simple on-the-ground jobs to resource coordination among several agencies. The RCD worked with the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) steering committee, UC cooperative extension service, air quality control board and BLM to implement a prescribed burn like the one shown in the photo (right). That coordination takes time – time spent before any work is actually completed. We'll embrace this change, and others, as we work toward a balanced future.

TCRCD and Resource Coordination

Trinity County is fortunate to have a community of individuals deeply involved in a broad range of natural resources groups. The range of interests covers forest health, resource extraction, recreation and tourism, watershed

health, reducing risk of wildfire and more. The District partners with virtually all of these groups and shares its resources in planning and implementation of projects.

The District is an active member of the Trinity County Collaborative Group. Over the course of 2013, the Group worked tirelessly to establish areas of agreement and make consensus-based decisions on a variety of topics including agricultural, economic development, USFS National Recreation Area, and forestry.

Management of the 13,000-acre Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) is directed through the District and its partnership with the WCF steering committee. Coordinating resource use, recreation and conservation within the WCF requires involvement of our stewardship partners – the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service – as well as members of the Weaver Basin Trails committee, the general public, and all other interested parties.

The District's representative took the lead for the Trinity County Weed Management Council in 2013 and coordinated meetings and work plans beyond the scope of District project implementation.

Coordination of the Trinity River Watershed Council, South Fork Trinity River Watershed, and the Fire Safe Council along with our partner agencies, Trinity River Restoration Program, Watershed Research and Training Center, and the Fire Chief's (respectively), rounds out the busy coordination year the District experienced during 2013.

Weaverville Community Forest prescribed burn.
Photo: Kenneth Baldwin.





Forest Health and Fuels Reduction

The District had several projects in 2013 relating to forest health and fuels reduction.

Beaver Slide Timber Sale / Stewardship Project: The District subcontracted with the Trinity River Lumber Company on this stewardship project for 248 acres over three years on US Forest Service (USFS) land south of Ruth. During 2013, the first year of the project, the District completed 57 acres of fuels reduction work. The work included hand-piling slash, and cutting and hauling sub-merchantable timber to the side of the road for firewood distribution by the USFS. On October 7, 2013 the District followed orders to cease work due to the federal government shutdown. Work is expected to begin again on the project in July 2014.

Oak Woodland Thinning: The oak woodland thinning and prescribed burn in the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) was implemented in 2013 as part of a research and monitoring project under the supervision of University of California Cooperative Extension Forester Ryan DeSantis. The oak woodlands within the WCF were in poor health due to shading from pine and fir trees, overcrowding and lack of fire. Oak trees were measured for height, diameter, crown cover and health on three acres prior to the thinning. Monitoring of 12 plots within this project will continue for several years, with some plots being treated with prescribed fire as well. The District worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forester and crews, and conservation camp inmates to implement this project.

Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD): TCRCF fuels crews implemented several fuels reduction projects on TPUD right-of-way clearing in the Helena-Barney Gulch, Covington Mill, and Lake Forest Drive areas.

Musser Hill: This large fuels reduction project, also in the WCF but on USFS land, included three separate phases on Musser Hill. This project included thinning, pruning, hand piling, and covering piles to improve forest health and increase wildfire resiliency by reducing fuel loads. A total of 148 acres of fuels reduction on Musser Hill was implemented to prepare for a wildlife prescribed burn to enhance the quantity and quality of deer browse. This project was funded by the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee with funds from the USFS. It met all of the purposes of the Secure Rural Schools Act, in that the project implements stewardship objectives which enhance forest ecosystems and restores and improves land health and water quality.



Removed fuels are hand-piled for burning on Musser Hill.

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Native Habitat Restoration

Exciting highlights of the District's 2013 native habitat restoration achievements include invasive plant management, wetland delineations, botanical surveys and the reestablishment of our native plant nursery. Workshops focused on native plants were also offered in 2013. Funding and partnership with Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), the US Forest Service (USFS), the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) and Caltrans supported our efforts in achieving our goals.

Invasive plant management is always a strong focus for native habitat restoration. 2013 marks our fourth year managing two long-term noxious weed projects funded by the USFS. One is focused on dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) populations north of Trinity Lake and the other targets scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) in the Junction City area. For the fourth consecutive year, more than 100 miles of roadsides and 560 acres of public and private lands have had the weeds manually removed. We have one year of funding remaining for these projects and are actively seeking funding to continue and expand noxious weed control in Trinity County.

The District is increasingly providing wetland delineation support and botanical surveys for local agencies and private landowners. A wetland delineation defines the boundaries of a wetland based on soils, hydrology and vegetation. Wetland delineations and botanical surveys are required before any ground disturbing activity to insure adequate management of our natural resources and special features of our landscape. In 2013, the District surveyed over 594 acres of roadside and wildlands for wetlands, rare, threatened and endangered plants and noxious weeds.

Awareness of the benefits of planting locally sourced native plants is growing in our community. Native plants from our immediate environment are genetically adapted to the challenges of growing in our specific environment. In 2013, the District received grant funding to expand its native plant nursery and make available native plants from locally sourced materials. The plants will be available for sale to all county

residents, whether they are involved in a habitat restoration or installing a water wise garden in their own yard. For more information on native plants, how to obtain native plant materials, and our native nursery, please don't hesitate to call the District Office.

Last year marked the end of an era in the District's Native Habitat Restoration program with long-time employee Christy Wagner moving on to a new phase in her life. Christy is graciously working part-time with our new project coordinator, Amy Livingston, as Amy learns the intricacies of Trinity County's vegetation landscape. Please join us in wishing Christy the best of luck in her new endeavors and welcoming Amy to Trinity County!



California Catchfly (*Silene californica*) a common wildflower, benefits from removal of noxious weeds in Trinity County. Native wildflowers similar to this one will be available at the TCRC native plant nursery.

Road-related Sediment Reduction Projects

The District, in cooperation with the US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and several private landowners, decommissioned over 14 miles and upgraded more than 38 miles of road in 2013. The goal of both road decommissioning and upgrade projects is to reduce the potential for controllable sediment delivery to waterways to protect water quality and fisheries.

The USFS road decommissioning work was a continuation of two larger USFS projects called Browns Decommissioning (2007) and Westside Watershed Restoration Project (2011). The projects identified routes no longer needed, or ones with high failure risk. The USFS routes decommissioned in 2013 were located primarily in Upper Hayfork Creek watershed, a sub-watershed of the South Fork Trinity River, and Weaverville Basin.

On BLM managed lands an abandoned road crossing was excavated from the mainstem of Brock Gulch, a tributary to the North Fork Trinity River (see photos page 5); and a road with failing stream crossings was decommissioned in Upper Democrat Gulch. Decommissioning involves the excavation of all road fill from stream crossings, swales and springs to restore hydrologic connectivity to pre-road conditions; after equipment work is completed sites are seeded with native grasses, mulched with weed-free straw, and planted with trees and riparian plants.

The USFS road upgrade projects were spread over a large area of the county including Grassy Flats, Salt and Eltapom Creeks. The BLM upgrade work included roads in Poker Bar, Brock Gulch and the Upper Democrat Gulch areas.

One road upgrade project was implemented on private land along lower Blue Rock Road off China Gulch Road, at the confluence with Little Browns Creek. This project involved the excavation of an undersized mining pipe on China Gulch and replacement with a larger diameter culvert (see photos below). Flows historically would have overtopped the mining pipe and delivered sediment to Little Browns Creek.

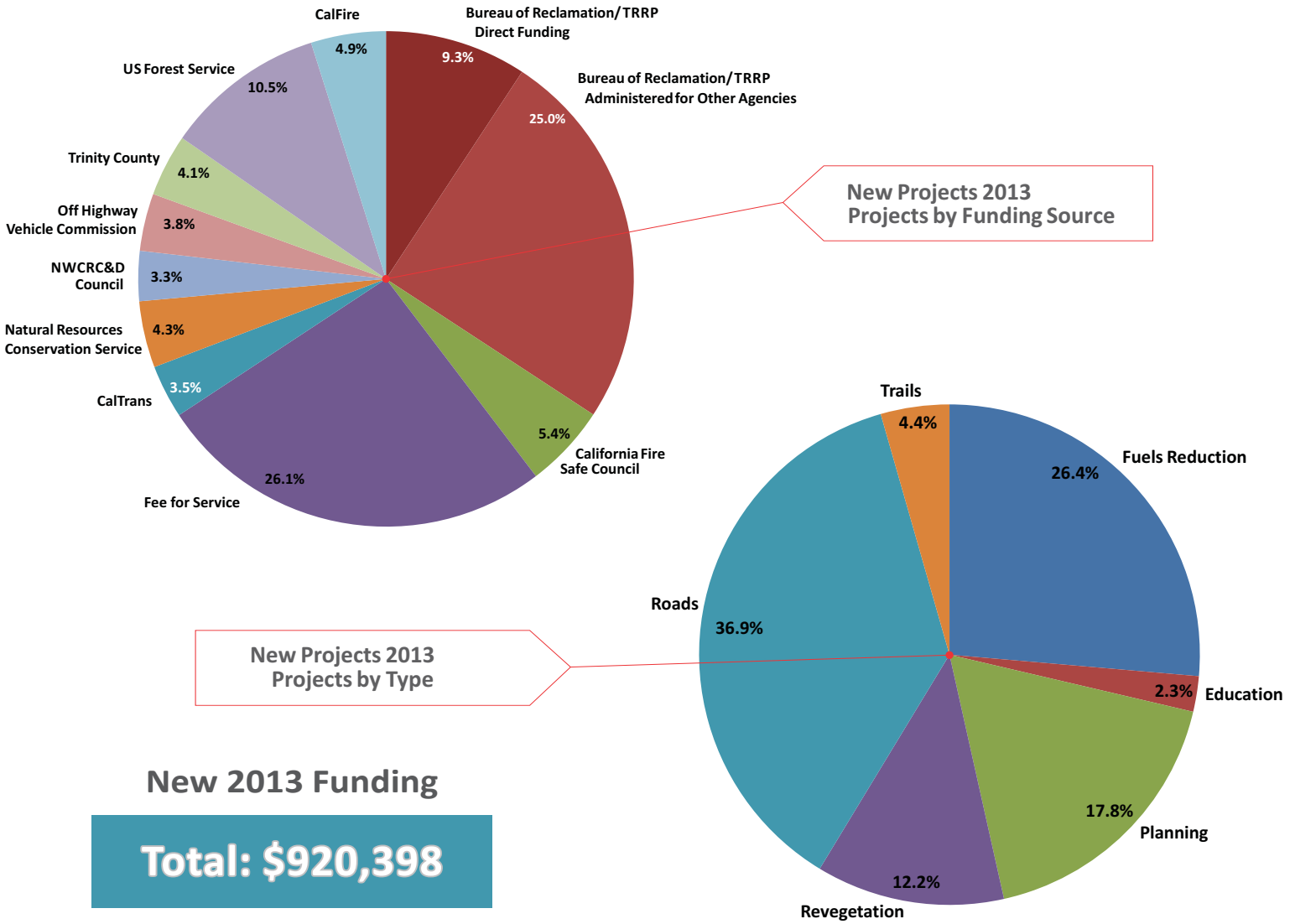
Road upgrade projects improve on road designs and allow storm water to safely run across or under the road without damage, thereby lowering maintenance costs. Road upgrades can include cleaning inlet basins, installation of rocked rolling dips, disconnecting ditches from stream crossings, construction of critical dips at stream crossings to reduce diversion potential, and the replacement of undersized culverts with larger diameter pipes.

Funding for the TCRCD road-related projects in 2013 came from the Trinity River Restoration Program, USFS, BLM, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California OHV Commission. The TCRCD is here to assist Trinity County landowners - so please contact the District if you need more information or assistance with your road-related issues.



Road upgrade on Blue Rock Road, before, during and after.

New Projects 2013 - By Funding Source & Type



Road projects, cont.



Decommissioning of Brock Gulch Road, before, during and after.



Grants to Young Family Ranch Improve Community Venue

The Young Family Ranch in Weaverville is gaining in popularity as a community venue for gardening and conservation workshops, and as a pleasant place to hold meetings and small events. This is due to the many improvements made to the property as a result of several grants, generous gifts and through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

The ranch house sits on a sprawling 3.2-acre parcel near the heart of Weaverville, just up Oregon Street from Joss House State Historical Park. At the top of a gentle sloping lawn sits a large barn dating to the 1800s surrounded by fruit trees, vegetable gardens, berry patches and pasture.

The homestead farm had been in the Young Family since about 1898. Before their deaths, brothers Allen and Robert Young deeded their family farm to the public as a community agricultural trust property through Trinity Trust. Their intent was that after their deaths the buildings, fields, gardens and grounds be maintained and used in ways compatible with its traditional use and in ways that would benefit the community. Trinity Trust in turn established Young Family Ranch, Inc., a non-profit (501c-3) public benefit trust guided by a volunteer board of trustees, to ensure those wishes are fulfilled.

Since 2008, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District has managed the ranch for the board of trustees. The District maintains the ranch, manages day-to-day operations, and coordinates programs, events and other uses and activities at the farmstead for all members of the public. The District also writes and submits grant proposals to obtain funding for public programs and improvements at the Ranch.

Substantial grants from the Shasta Regional Community Foundation (SRCF) have funded significant improvements at the Ranch. Two non-profit funds managed by SRCF, the McConnell Fund and the Redding Rancheria Community Fund, have given generously to improve accessibility and water delivery.

One McConnell Fund grant greatly improved accessibility. In the past, some persons wanting to attend events at the Ranch

found it too difficult to navigate the rough gravel pathways and wheelchair access was next to impossible. The McConnell gift resulted in a concrete handicap parking pad plus a gently sloping concrete sidewalk leading to the front of the house. Wide French doors now lead into the lower level classroom, while a new concrete ramp with steel handrails provides entry to the upper (main) level.

A second, generous grant from the McConnell Fund enabled construction of restroom facilities separate from the main house and more sidewalks to improve access. This vastly increased the usability of the Ranch and allows it to accommodate larger community events.

A Redding Rancheria Fund grant led to an efficient water delivery system from the historic Moon Lee Ditch. This enabled the Ranch to expand its learning and demonstration gardens, add drip irrigation and reduce reliance on municipal water. As a result of this grant, the Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council obtained State Water Board funding for the components of a rainwater harvesting demonstration project. The new system includes two 2500 gallon tanks for storing rainwater.

A safety grant from the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), which has local offices in the Ranch house, helped cover other costs to improve access and add to the security of the premises. UCCE also provides high-speed internet service for meetings and educational workshops it hosts on the premises.

Several sturdy and strategically placed park benches now invite visitors to enjoy the shade of heritage apple trees dotting the grounds. Inmates of the Trinity River Conservation Camp, managed by CalFire, milled the wood planks and welded the heavy metal frames of the donated benches. John Condon, a long-time District employee, installed the benches.

Through community volunteers many hours are spent maintaining, repairing and improving the Ranch. This generosity has been instrumental in transforming the Young Family Ranch into a welcoming and useful community learning facility.

Education and Outreach

The District offers assistance and information to Trinity County residents on a daily basis. We are always just a phone call away and welcome all who come to our door. This newsletter, *Conservation Almanac*, is delivered to every address in the county up to four times per year. As technology has evolved, we have added new ways to reach people with the information they need to protect, manage, conserve and restore the natural resources found within our county. Last year we launched a new design of our website, tcrd.net, and actively managed our Facebook page, [Trinity-County-RCD](https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-County-RCD), for more immediate electronic coverage and feedback.

Our 2013 education and outreach lineup included programs and events of many types. Our calendar covered everything from specific educational programs solely created and implemented by the TCRCD, to support of multi-agency events designed to reach the broadest possible audience. However, due to the drought, the District did not sponsor any volunteer native plant revegetation events in 2013.

A quick review of our 2013 education and outreach efforts indicate that we reached about 550 students through classes, camps, field trips and student focused-events. Our all-age outreach and education efforts reached over 300 adults through a variety of outlets from the Plant and Seed Exchange and County Fair, to the Salmon Fest in Weaverville and Salmon Spawning Day in Hyampom.



Andrew Hill of California Department of Fish and Wildlife helping Douglas City students dissect a fish at Coffee Creek River Day.



Hikers on the South Fork Trinity River for the first *Explore Trinity!* hike.

Highlights for youth education and outreach in 2013 include:

- Four, week-long Summer Day Camp sessions at the Young Family Ranch
- Three day, two night Environmental Science Camp for Weaverville sixth grade students at Bar 717 Ranch
- River Days for Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, Douglas City, Hayfork and Hyampom students

Highlights for all-age education and outreach in 2013 include:

- Coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to enroll property owners in their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for fuels reduction work
- Coordination of the Trinity County Collaborative community meetings and field trips
- Initiation of *Explore Trinity!* hiking series with the first hike in September 2013 along the South Fork Trinity River in coordination with the Watershed Research and Training Center

During 2013 the District received funding and assistance for conservation education and outreach from Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), US Forest Service, Young Family Ranch Trust, Trinity County Child Abuse Prevention Council, California Department of Conservation, NRCS, California Fire Safe Council, Trinity Trust, UC Cooperative Extension, Watershed Research and Training Center and individual contributors.

Recreation

Among the District's recreation-focused accomplishments in 2013 were several Weaver Basin Trail (WBT) projects, including maintenance on over 30 miles of trails. This entailed surface improvements and vegetation removal, clearing water bars and drainages, brushing, removing downed trees, debris and noxious weeds, and improving the trail tread. Maintained trails included Musser Hill, La Grange Ditch, Dolly Ditch, Garden Gulch, Day Ranch, Jackass Ridge, Democrat Gulch and East Weaver Campground.

As part of a WBT map update project, detailed trail location data was captured using high-resolution GPS. The new data will be displayed on the TCRCD website. Additional funding is being sought to cover the cost of printing the updated map and replacing or updating signs along the trails.

In addition to US Forest Service (USFS) and District crew work, many dedicated volunteers spent time improving the trails, removing noxious weeds and picking up garbage.

Several successful events and activities took place on the Weaver Basin Trails in 2013, including:

- The annual covered wagon trip to East Weaver Creek Campground for Weaverville Elementary School 3rd grade students. The students trekked from their campus to the campground where they camped overnight before heading back down the trails with their wagons.
- "Six Hours of Weaverville" and "LaGrange Spring and Fall Classic Enduro" bike races sponsored by Team Bigfoot.



L to R: Brandon Chadwick, Shingletown, CA; Mia Preston, Cottonwood, CA; Lisa Chadwick, Shingletown, CA; and Sara Preston, Cottonwood, CA. Photo: Terrill Robinson Photography.

- The 4th of July community Fun Run to benefit Trinity High School Athletics.
- The California State Horseman's Association (CSHA) 2nd annual "Weaver Basin Express" poker run benefitting the TCRCD Weaver Basin Trail maintenance program, American Endurance Ride Conference Trails Grant Fund, and CSHA Royalty Scholarships. The CSHA donated \$350 to the District in 2013 for trails maintenance from the proceeds of this July fund raiser.
- The Rotary Club 2nd annual Weaver Basin 50K Ultra Marathon, 30K, and 10K races in October (<http://www.weaverbasin50k.com/>) benefitted Trinity High School Track and Field and Cross Country Teams.

The Weaverville Community Forest is an award-winning partnership between the BLM, the US Forest Service and the Trinity County RCD to manage 13,000 acres of federal land as a community forest. Using a federal contracting tool called Stewardship Contracting, the agreements provide a framework for cooperation between the parties in support of the trail system. Trail projects were funded in part by grants from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, through the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).



Hikers on Jackass Ridge Trail. Photo: Tracy McFadin.

Geographic Information System/Information Technology

The Geographic Information System/Information Technology (GIS/IT) department was kept busy in 2013 with many extensive projects that continued to refine and expand the catalog of spatial data layers available in Trinity County, as well as the technical expertise offered by the District.

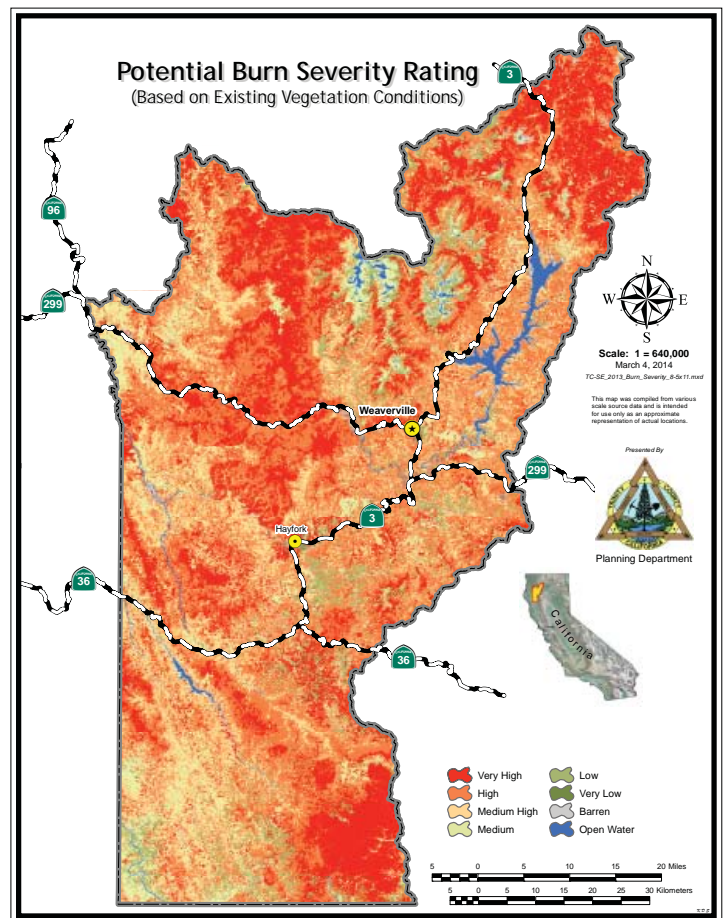
One major undertaking that began in the fall of 2012 and continued well into 2013 was the spatial adjustment of the county-wide GIS parcel layer to more accurately represent the location of property ownership throughout the county. The effort has brought the parcels into a much more accurate alignment with other GIS base map layers such as transportation and aerial imagery. With funding from the Trinity River Restoration Program, parcels along the river corridor from Lewiston down river to Helena were adjusted using data from the Trinity County Recorder's Records of Survey and GPS data to give this area the highest degree of accuracy possible.

The District secured funding through the Disaster Recovery Initiative to assist Trinity County in their update of the Safety Element of the General Plan which required a substantial amount of GIS development and numerous map layouts for the final document. This project also included funding for creating Trinity County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is also highly dependent on GIS. Many new county-wide map layers were created through these efforts, including:

- Response area boundaries for the Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services responders
- Locations of residential and commercial structures and critical public facilities
- Locations of radio repeater and telecommunications facilities
- Potential wildfire burn severity model based on past wildfires
- Hazards including past earthquakes, earthquake fault lines, fire perimeters and origins, and areas vulnerable to flooding and/or landslides

Having all of these map layers in one place will provide emergency preparedness planners with tools to anticipate community needs during an unforeseen crisis, and first responders with resources that they would not have had easily available in the precious time after an emergency.

Beyond these efforts, other 2013 projects include a new inventory of the Weaver Basin Trail System with both system and non-system trails and elevational profiles; a detailed map book for the Weaverville Fire Protection District; creation of a comprehensive noxious weeds management geodatabase; and authoring and maintenance of websites for the District, Trinity Collaborative, Trinity County Fire Safe Council, Weaverville Community Forest, and the Weaver Basin Trail System.



Trinity County General Plan
Safety Element

Trinity River Restoration Program Partnership Activities in 2013

Last year marked the ninth year since the first in-channel project was implemented in the Trinity River by the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP/ Program). The active rehabilitation work of the Program began in 2004 with the first restoration flows and the first in-channel project in 2005. Sites are designed to increase aquatic habitat for salmonids over a range of flow conditions by creating hydraulic and ecological complexity. Project sites and monitoring and evaluation approaches are developed by multi-disciplinary, multi-agency teams of experts, informed by interested stakeholders.

Two mechanical channel rehabilitation projects were constructed in 2013: Lower Douglas City and Lorenz Gulch. Development of the Lower Douglas City project included collaboration with the Weaverville Community Services District to replace an aging infiltration gallery, improving the District's ability to deliver water from this site to Weaverville and surrounding communities. At Lorenz Gulch juvenile and adult habitat features included a perennial split flow and side channel; and intensive, irrigated revegetation in anticipation of the new River Access Area and trails. The Lorenz Gulch River Access Area, located on BLM property, officially opened on June 7, 2014.

Calendar year 2013 was the driest year on record in the Trinity region, classified as Dry, corresponding to a restoration release volume of 453,000 acre-feet. The Trinity Management Council adopted a flow schedule designed to provide improved rearing conditions for fry and juvenile Chinook salmon given the previous year's exceptionally high natural Chinook salmon spawners and subsequent high fry abundance.

TRRP implemented coarse and fine sediment management activities in 2013. The Programs supported five local cooperative on-the-ground watershed projects including watershed condition assessments and educational outreach activities, keeping approximately 15,500 cubic yards of fine sediment out of the mainstem Trinity River.

The new Program video *Restoring – Adapting – Improving*, provides a history of the need for river restoration and presents an overview of the Program. It is available to view on the Program's website. A new brochure, *Native Species of the Trinity River: What to Look For and Where to Find Them*, was produced by a multidisciplinary group of technical staff throughout the TRRP partnership and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD). Over 40 TRRP technical reports and other products can be found at www.trrp.net to learn more about program efforts in 2013.

The TRRP hosted two Pathways Student Trainees, one in the engineering career track, and one in the biological sciences. Both train under program scientists and receive on-the-job experience in the field and on the river, serving as valuable members of the TRRP team.

The Program is a partnership of eight agencies who all provide resources and technical staff in support of TRRP activities : Trinity County, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, California Resources Agency (Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife), U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation with other cooperating agencies and organizations supported by TRRP funding including Bureau of Land Management and TCRCD.



Chinook and steelhead in refugia.

TCRCD Administration

The Trinity County RCD (TCRCD) is a non-regulatory special district self-governed by five volunteer directors appointed by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. The TCRCD serves all of Trinity County and receives grant funding from local, regional, state and federal partners. These entities recognize that locally-led projects yield the greatest benefits. Project involvement by the TCRCD enhances public trust and provides greater cost-effectiveness. This approach generates local jobs and enhances the local economy. The District typically employs about 20 county residents. Employees of the District carry out the day-to-day operations, guided by priorities and policies set by the board.

Meet our Board of Directors:

Colleen O'Sullivan, board member since 2002. Colleen graduated from Humboldt State University in 1984 with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Planning. She worked for Redwood National Park and the City of Arcata until 1986, when the Trinity County Planning Department hired her. Her interests lie in protecting and enhancing the abundant natural resources of Trinity County, which she feels is compatible with intelligent and thoughtful growth. In 2013 the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts bestowed a top statewide award to Colleen as RCD Director of the Year. The state association pointed to her strong and steady leadership of the local district, noting that during her tenure, TCRCD has been at the forefront in natural resources management and education throughout Trinity County. The award noted her efforts in helping to establish the 13,000-acre Weaverville Community Forest on forestlands administered by the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. That stewardship project was among the first of its kind and garnered national recognition. "The fact that USDA Secretary Vilsack turned to TCRCD to lead the new Trinity County Collaborative is a testament to the way Colleen has guided the District," explained Patrick Truman, a TCRCD board member and the very first recipient of the statewide Director of the Year award in the mid-1990's.

Gregory Lowden, board member since 1992. Greg has been a resident of Weaverville since 1967. He graduated from Trinity High School in 1969. After a tour of duty with the U.S. Army, he attended Shasta Junior College in Redding, graduating with an AA degree in history in 1974. He has been employed as a surveyor with Hunt Land Surveying, Inc., since 1978. Active in community affairs, he is a member of the Weaverville Lion's Club and the Weaverville Basin Trails Committee.

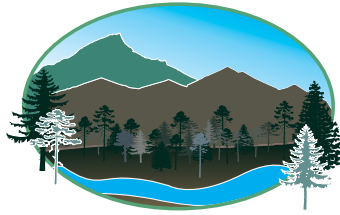


Rose Owens, board member since 1992. Rose, a long-time county resident, has resided in Hayfork since 1946. She graduated from Trinity High School in 1952. She worked for the Trinity County Office of Education for nearly 25 years, retiring in 1996. Her family owned and operated a sawmill and logging company. Rose also serves on the Trinity County Public Utilities District Board and is executive director of the Roderick Senior Center.

Mike Rourke, board member since 1996. Mike teaches agriculture at Trinity High School (THS), where he has taught for over 20 years. His subjects include animal science, plant science, forestry, natural resource management, agriculture business management, and agriculture mechanics. He has been recognized as the "Outstanding Agriculture Teacher" in northern California for having the "Outstanding Agriculture Program" at THS. He holds an AA Degree in Agriculture and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Mechanics. He has farmed in six different counties in northern California, raising field crops, row crops, and cattle. He currently farms the roughly 900-acre Rourke Ranch in partnership with his wife, father, and mother. The ranch includes 100 acres of irrigated pasture, plus timberland, rangeland, and wildlife habitat.

Patrick Truman, board member since 1984. Patrick is currently a sales associate and property manager with Realty World TriShasta in Weaverville. Patrick served four terms as president of the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) and two terms as its vice-president. He now serves as CARCD's representative to the National Association of Conservation Districts, where for the past ten years he has represented the interests of California and its 98 RCDs. Truman directed the South Fork of the Trinity River Coordinated Resource Management effort for seven years and is past chairman of the Salmon Restoration Task Force of CARCD. He is currently director of the Trinity Lake Watershed Association.

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Established 1956

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
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District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

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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

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