



TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Annual Report 2008

Mission Statement

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



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER...

RCD District Manager, Patrick Frost



I have been the District's manager for 10 years. It has been an amazing decade. There have been a lot of milestones. We crossed over into a new century and a new millennium. We have wonderful new technologies to help us do our work. In 1999 the District was just entering the world of the internet, and now www.tcrecd.net is a common source of information on our programs and emerging projects. The year 1999 was the first year for the Weaverville Elementary School Sixth Grade Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717 Ranch. The same year we held the first Salmon Festival. This year we will celebrate the tenth annual Salmon and Heritage Fruit Festival. We set up our booth at the County Fair in 1999 and we've looked forward to being there every year since. We travelled around the county in 1999 to get your ideas about wildfire planning and this year we will head back out to see has been accomplished, what has changed and what still needs to be done. People in Weaverville voiced their concerns about their viewshed and the fate of the federal forestlands around their town in 1999. In 2009 we have the Weaverville Community Forest and the ability to help manage over 13,000 acres of land.

I am trained in the sciences, so I am always looking for trends in my observations. I look at the 10 years that I have been at the District and a resident of Trinity County and I see two things that strike me. One is the strong willingness of all of you to volunteer and do your part for your neighbors, your community and this remarkable place we call home. We have a Weaverville Community Forest, because you have shown how much you care by coming to meetings and traipsing around the woods with the BLM and Forest Service. We have the Environmental Education Camp, because parents and teachers care enough about the next generation of leaders to give them the opportunity to spend a week in the woods and because local professionals are willing to give up a day of work to collect bugs in Hayfork Creek and explain how to measure a tree or use a compass.

The other observation is that we have had the great good fortune to have AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project members in our community since 1999. Every year two new members come to serve with us. Bo (Barbara) Kimball and Danny McKnight are already out there working for you adding their energy and skills to the District's efforts to deliver its programs as wide-ranging as forest health, soil and water conservation, and watershed education. Bo and Danny join a long list of volunteers helping all of us realize your dreams whether that is for a successful Community Forest, a fun-filled summer day camp at the Young Family Ranch, healthier forests, or restored rivers and streams. Please join me in welcoming Bo and Danny to our community and the family of resource conservation.

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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 land-owners of Trinity County in fire prevention and response preparation in order to best avoid catastrophic fires in the future. During 2008, 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. We also applied for Firewise Communities status for 14 communities in the county by demonstrating that a Firewise Board has been established, that a Community Assessment has been completed, and investment in Firewise projects. 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 2008 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. New projects this year include the Salyer/Hawkins Bar Fuel Reduction project with funding from the USFS and fuels reduction work in East Weaver and Douglas City with funding from the California Fire Safe Council.

Biomass Utilization Coordination

During 2008 the Trinity County Biomass Coordinator worked to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wild-land fire through fuels reduction projects and the development of local woody biomass utilization in Trinity County. Through collaboration and cooperation, the coordinator worked 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 involved 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 Lee Fong Park Pole Pavilion Project (pictured at right) is an example of biomass utilization, as the materials for the 16' x 24' pavilion 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 pole pavilion. The pavilion was designed by local contractors, musicians and park users and engineered by White Engineering as a prototype for round-wood construction. A portion of the materials came from fuels reduction projects within Trinity County and were processed at the Watershed Research and Training Center's Small Diameter Sort Yard in Hayfork.





Forest Health / Fuels Reduction

Weaverville Community Forest

2008 was a great year in the Weaverville Community Forest. The community's partnership with the federal land managers – the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service – was strengthened as we worked together. The last project of 2008 will be remembered as one of the most significant. The District and the Forest Service entered in to a new, 10-year cooperative agreement to manage almost all of the Forest Service lands in the Weaverville basin as a part of the Weaverville Community Forest. This will increase the size of the community forest to about 13,000 acres. The same key elements that have guided stewardship on the BLM lands will now be used to manage the entire community forest. These strategic efforts include the following:

- Promote healthy forest stands and reduce fire hazards through vegetation management
- Road and trail maintenance and obliteration to improve or maintain water quality
- Weed management
- Watershed and wildlife habitat improvement
- Cultural resources protection and interpretation
- Effectiveness monitoring
- Community outreach and outdoor education
- Increase recreational use

The District always has believed in the importance of planning AND implementing projects at the same time. So we put down our pens and picked up our tools to implement a number of projects in 2008 with the BLM. This plan focused on smaller stewardship projects that did not involve the removal of merchantable timber. Instead, these projects met other stewardship objectives using funds earned from the timber sale in 2007, including. Fuels reduction work continued in the area of the 2007 timber harvest and firewood was sold. Additional small diameter trees were removed and will be the source of firewood this year. Brush was removed in the Grub Gulch area of the Oregon Fire to increase growth of conifer seedlings that re-seeded naturally after the fire and additional trees were planted. The "Christmas Tree Farm" was replanted and the Douglas Fir seedlings were



cared for throughout the summer, resulting in a 95 percent survival rate.

A new trail was constructed along Weaver Creek. It extends the Weaver Basin Trail system from Mill Street to the Industrial Park. Additionally, a blackberry eradication project was completed along portions of this

same trail. A crew from the Trinity River Conservation Camp built the mile-long trail in May by cutting away huge blackberry thickets to clear a route. The blackberries immediately began re-sprouting with renewed vigor, as expected and a herd of 32 goats was brought in for two weeks in early July to browse back the carpet of new shoots.

Getting people out to the community forest is a key to our continued success. In 2008 we blended efforts to expand the community forest with showcasing the on-going work on the BLM lands. Highlights included a number of tours throughout the year.

Considerable benefit is derived from involving the community in the forest and its management. Two notable activities have promoted forest health issues in the WCF in 2008. The Community Firewood project was a great success. All of the wood purchased by the TCRC from BLM was sold and delivered for local household heating use. The Lowden Aquatic Park Project (LAPP) worked with TCRC staff for the second year to collect Douglas Fir boughs from the sub-merchantable project area. These boughs were used to make wreaths and swags as a fundraiser for LAPP and to decorate downtown Weaverville.

One element of the District's efforts on the WCF is to bring additional funding to leverage with Stewardship funds. Funds from other sources have been added to the overall WCF program. \$102,800 of leveraged funds were combined with money from the 2007 timber sale to assist with reducing the impacts of wildfire, improve the forest stands in the Grub Gulch area, and storm proof Democrat Gulch Road.



WATERSHED PROJECTS

South Fork and Trinity River Watersheds



Union Hill Road Upgrade

The District's watershed restoration efforts took place with a variety of projects in Trinity County to reduce road-related sediment delivery to watercourses.

The District began the 2008 season with a road improvement project in the Union Hill area on a popular BLM road that provides access to the Trinity River. That work involved constructing critical dips at crossings, road drainage improvements including rock surfacing and rocked rolling dips, to halt erosion and reduce the risk of sediment reaching adjacent watercourses and impacting Trinity River fisheries. Work then moved to road decommissioning and road upgrade projects in both the Trinity and South Fork Management Units of Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The season wrapped up with work on emergency fire-related road improvements in the Conner Creek area near Junction City.

The District decommissioned a total of approximately 20 miles of roads and upgraded another 20 miles, all on federally managed lands. Funding for these projects was provided by California Department of Fish and Game, California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, North Coast Water Quality Control Board, the Trinity River Restoration Program, the United States Forest Service and Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee.



Road decommissioning of 4N15 road at Mile Marker 1.07



WATERSHED PROJECTS

Lewiston 4 & Dark Gulch Channel Rehabilitation

Construction of the Lewiston-Dark Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project was completed in 2008. The project consisted of eight project areas over three miles of river. The overall project included placement of almost 11,000 cubic yards of coarse sediment in the Trinity River and re-contouring adjacent areas. Coarse sediment is an important ingredient for a dynamic, healthy river system and is needed by salmon and steelhead for spawning. Floodplain re-contouring and side channel construction is designed to create areas of slower moving, shallow water and edge habitat that is good for rearing juvenile fish. This project was funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game obtained by the Trinity County Resource Conservation District.



Upper Trinity River Watershed Coordination

The District obtained funding for the Upper Trinity River Watershed Coordinator in 2008 from the California Department of Conservation. The Upper Trinity River Watershed Coordinator will work with landowners, land managers and stakeholders to improve watershed conditions and to help implement the Upper Trinity River Watershed Assessment Report & Management and Action Plan. The Upper Trinity River Watershed Coordinator position is intended to support and help coordinate on-going activities of numerous groups engaged in efforts to protect and restore the watershed. These include reducing the amount of sediment to the Upper Trinity River, improving water quality, reducing risks of catastrophic fire, reducing the spread of invasive species, and improving forest health. It will also help stakeholders improve the effectiveness of their joint and complementary efforts.

The first step has been for the District and representa-

tives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to meet with interested landowners and land managers. The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department hosted a community meeting in early October and that led to a series of meetings hosted by the Trinity Center Community Service District in November and December. These efforts will help to determine where and what types of projects can be designed and implemented to benefit landowners, the North Lake communities and the watersheds that drain into Trinity Lake. The initial focus will be on projects that reduce wildland fires, as well as reduce sediment delivery into the lake and improve water quality in the region. Possible projects include fuels reductions in and around communities, larger forest treatments to reduce the effects of a wildland fire and enhancements to roads to reduce the amount of sediment delivered to the streams and therefore the lake.



Native Habitat Restoration



Trinity River Conservation Camp crews under District supervision completed work in the McKinzey/Sidney Gulch drainage that was burned in the 2001 Oregon Fire. Crews cut and stacked large patches of scotch broom that will be burned by USFS next winter. Following that, nearly two and one-half miles of stream corridor planting (23 acres) planting was completed at the end of March. This included conifers to re-establish overstory vegetation for shade, various riparian species (live cottonwood stakes and rooted cuttings) and grass plugs grown at the District nursery.

RECREATION AND TRAILS



A variety of recreation and trails projects were undertaken by the District during 2008. Wilderness Trail Clearing-Phase IV began but had to be postponed until next year due to the fires. Other projects worked on during the year included Weaver Basin Trail Restoration Day. The goal of the project was to reduce erosion to the trail by digging water bars to divert water and by clearing sediment and debris from existing water bars. The 13 volunteers who participated worked hard to reshape and clear water bars along nearly a mile of trail starting from the East Weaver trailhead.

Separately, over 4,000 feet of new trail was cleared and constructed along Weaver Creek. The trail runs from Mill Street, through old mine tailings, and finally connects to the Weaver Basin Wetlands timber bridge site in the industrial park.





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 2008 included:

- California and Canon Envirothon, a resource management competition for high school students
- Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717
- Expanded educational programs including environmental monitoring lessons and experience
- Developing CreekWatch Volunteer Monitoring program
- Series of free family gardening and nutrition education workshops at Young Family Ranch
- Participation in, and facilitation of, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council
- Summer Day Camp for children held at Young Family Ranch
- Successful information booths about District projects at
 - Children's Festival
 - Salmon & Heritage Fruit Festival
 - Young Family Ranch Open House
- Collaborate with AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project to provide watershed and fisheries based science curriculum to K-12 students in Trinity County
- Maintain and update website www.tcrd.net with topical information
- Quarterly Newsletter, the *Conservation Almanac* distributed to all postal addresses in the County
- Facilitate the Trinity River Watershed Council
- Developed and distributed informational brochures
- Articles in the *Trinity Journal* about District projects, programs, and events
- Political advocacy—letters to state and federal legislators, and others urging them to act on behalf of District programs and policies

Summer Day Camp

During summer 2008, the District again held Summer Day Camp for children K-5th grade over a period of 5 weeks. This year it was held at the Young Family Ranch. Camp provides working parents with a safe place for their children to have fun activities, and teenagers with summer employment as camp counselors. Activities included journaling, community garden, nutrition, games, arts & crafts.



Beekeeping

Environmental Education Camp

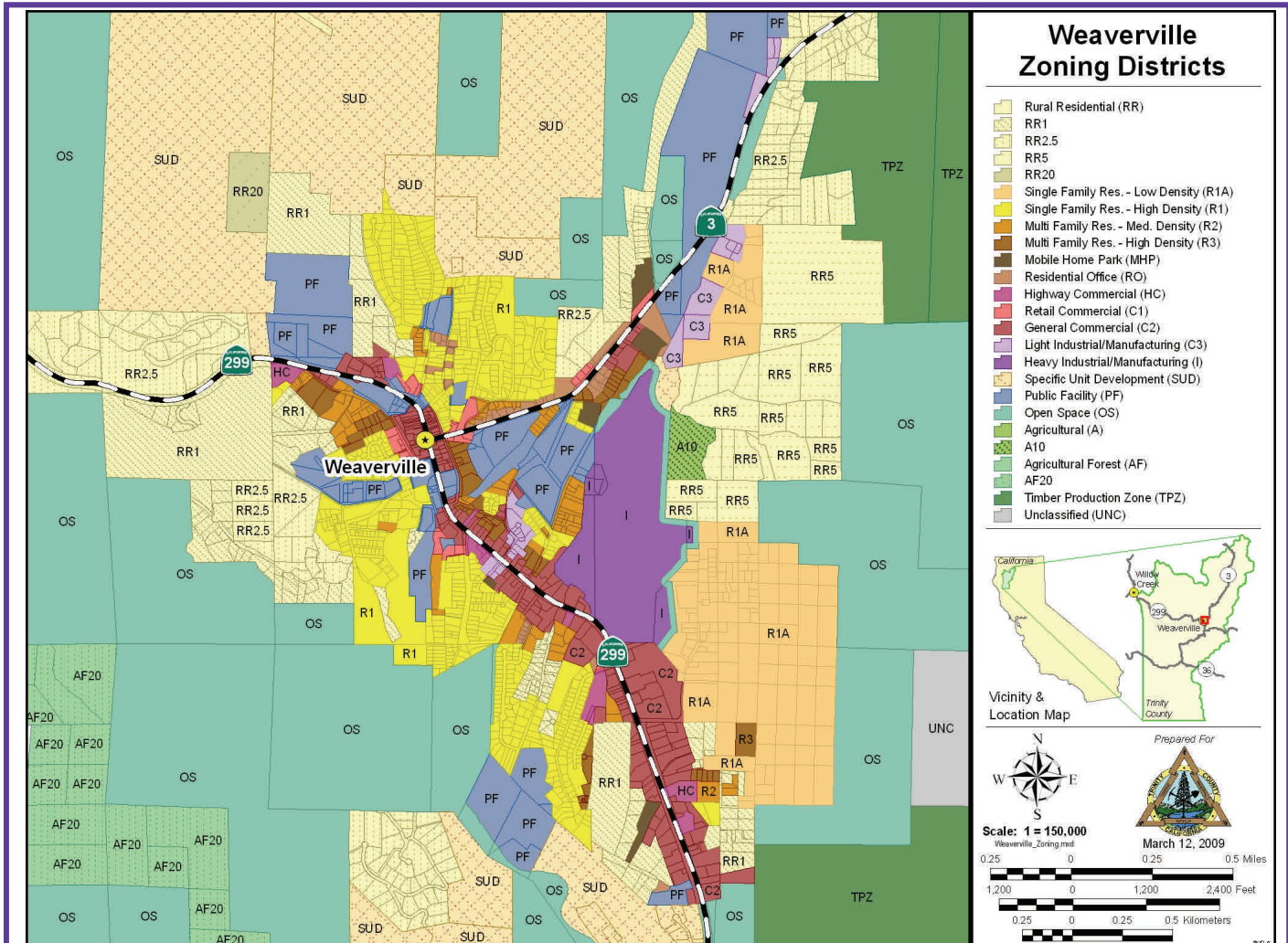
Each September, sixth graders from Weaverville Elementary School go to Bar 717 Ranch for their ***Environmental Education Camp***. This camp has a unique approach of using resource professionals who work and live in our own communities as camp instructors.





Information Technologies

In 2008, the District GIS work involved a wide variety of projects including creating Trinity County's zoning layer, 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. This year we obtained a USFS grant to monitor all Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) funded projects and put all data into GIS. This will update the spatial data layer that integrates features from numerous organizations representing all the RAC funded projects in Trinity County.



In 2008, the District's GIS staff undertook a significant project under contract with the Trinity County Department of Transportation. Funding was provided by the State of California as a part of the Cal-Trans Blueprint Planning Project. This project primarily consisted of creating a comprehensive Zoning District/General Planning Designation layer based on the county-wide parcel layer. Zoning information was transcribed into the spatial database from numerous hardcopy sources housed at the Planning Department office such as zoning books, community plan maps, and the Landuse Element. In areas where several Zoning Districts overlaid a single parcel, those parcels were manually split into separate pieces, which was a painstakingly detailed process.

Additionally, the County requested the creation of existing and sphere of influence boundary layers for all the LAFCO Special Districts throughout the county, which included various Community Service Districts, water districts, lighting districts, the Trinity Public Utilities District, the Mountain Community Medical Services District, and the RCD itself. Almost all of the Special Districts are based on the California State Board of Equalization's Tax Rate Area boundaries. That data was assigned to the parcel layer which was then used to create the Special District boundaries.



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.

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. 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 continues to serve on 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**.

Young Family Ranch

Young Family Ranch, Inc. is a non-profit entity that works in partnership with the Trinity Trust and the Humboldt Area Foundation to ensure long-term benefit to the residents of Trinity County. In 2008, trustees of the Young Family Ranch entered into an agreement with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District under which the district will maintain the ranch and its structures, manage the day-to-day operations of the property and coordinate programs and other activities at the farmstead which benefit the community.

Public-benefit uses of the ranch include the Weaverville Summer Day Camp, the 4-H Youth Development Program, and University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Forestry Management workshops. UCCE relocated its Nutrition Education Program office to the ranch. Demonstrations on good gardening practices, fruit tree care, rainwater harvesting, food preservation, beekeeping and sustainable agriculture are being held here.

Conservation Fund

The TCRCDC Conservation Fund was established 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 RCD. 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.

State, Regional and National Affiliations

Board Chair **Colleen O'Sullivan** serves on the Fire and Fuels Committee of the CARCD. **Patrick Truman** served as CARCD President and now serves as CARCD representative to NACD. **Greg Lowden** serves on the California chapter of the Canon Envirothon.



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



FINANCIAL

Trinity County Resource Conservation District Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the Period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

Revenue

Grant & Contract Revenue	1,893,354
Services Revenue	139,451
Dues/Sales/Interest Revenue	6,680
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 2,039,485</u>

Expenses

Wages	\$ 614,893
Fringe Benefits	210,172
Advertising	6,538
Board Expense	19,387
Dues & Subscriptions	7,863
Field Materials Expense	127,721
Field Subcontracting Expense	382,873
Insurance	4,348
Interest	5,228
Licenses & Fees	9,635
Office Supplies/Commun/Publishing	47,964
Professional Fees/Accounting	85,970
Public Education	808
Rent	21,158
Staff Training	339
Travel Expense	14,313
Utilities	10,526
Vehicle Fuel & Maintenance	54,199
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,623,935</u>

Excess Revenue over Expenditures **\$ 415,549**

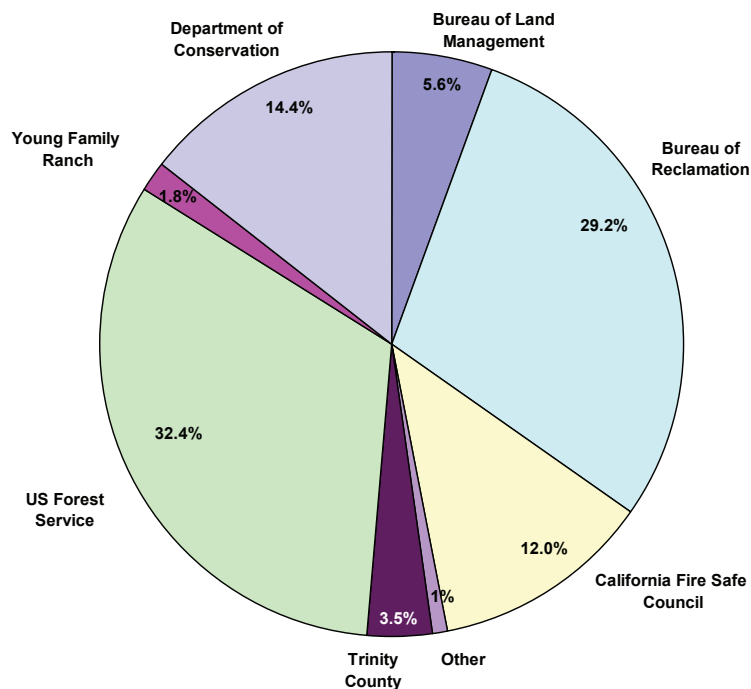




NEW PROJECTS LIST 2008

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bureau of Land Management	Weaverville Community Forestry Stewardship Project II	\$ 77,770
Bureau of Reclamation	Watershed Restoration	405,000
US Forest Service	Road Related Restoration	100,000
US Forest Service	Salyer/Hawkins Fuel Reduction	30,000
US Forest Service	Soldier Creek	220,000
US Forest Service	Monitoring RAC projects	100,000
California Fire Safe Council (BLM)	Douglas City Strategic Fuels Reduction	105,010
California Fire Safe Council (USFS)	East Weaver Fuel Reduction	62,200

Funding Sources 2008

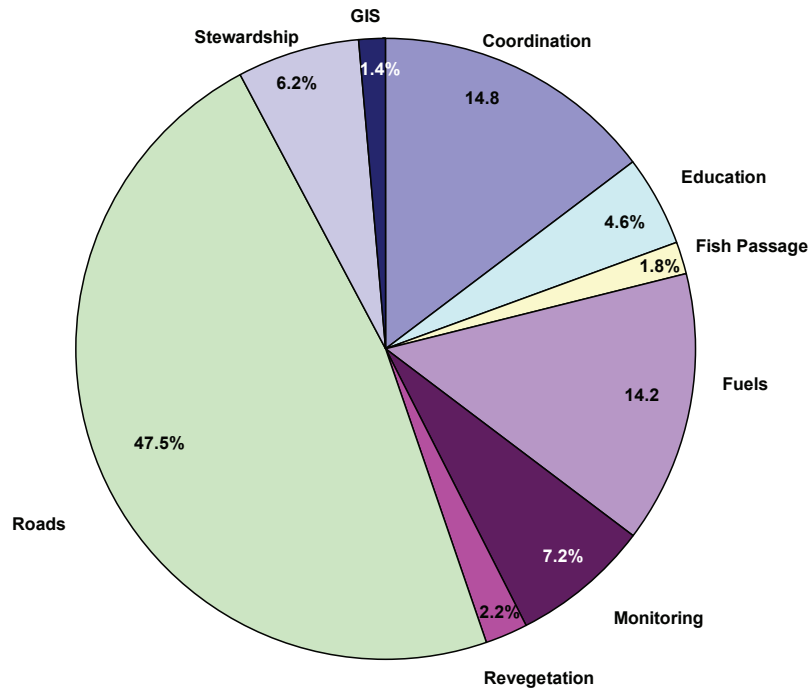




NEW PROJECTS LIST 2008

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Child Abuse Prevention Council	Young Family Ranch Healthful Foods Workshop	\$8,000
Department of Conservation	Upper Trinity River Watershed Coordinator	200,135
McConnell Fund	Lee Fong Pole Pavilion	6,000
Trinity County	GIS Support	20,000
Trinity County/Title III	Summer Camp	3,500
Trinity County/Title III	WCF Stewardship Project	9,000
Trinity County/Title III	Fire Safe Council Education & Outreach	16,500
Trinity Trust	Summer Camp	400
Young Family Ranch	Young Family Ranch	25,000

Projects by Type 2008



Total: \$1.389 million

VISION STATEMENT

Trinity County Resource Conservation District 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.

Board of Directors

Colleen O'Sullivan, *Chairman*

Rose Owens, *Vice-Chairman*

Mike Rourke, *Director*

Greg Lowden, *Director*

Patrick Truman, *Director*

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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