

Other TCRCD Restoration Projects

- Bureau of Land Management's "Job's In the Woods"—Indian Creek Channel Restoration
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection—Forest Stewardship Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Projects for East Branch and Covington Mill
- Dupont—Weaverville Basin Trail Improvement Project
- Bureau of Land Management "Jobs In the Woods"—Revegetation and Road Repair Projects in Indian Creek and Grass Valley Creek Watersheds
- California Department of Fish and Game—Riparian Enhancement Projects in Hayfork Valley
- State Water Resources Control Board—Trinity River Basin Fuels Reduction
- California Department of Fish and Game—Diversion Elimination Projects and Grass Valley Creek Revegetation
- California Department of Fish and Game—Upper South Fork Trinity River and Plummer Creek Watersheds Road Inventory
- Bureau of Reclamation—Trinity River Restoration Program—South Fork Trinity River Watershed Restoration Project
- Bureau of Reclamation—Indian Creek Water-shed Restoration Project
- CalTrans—Revegetation Projects along Hwy 299
- Natural Resources Conservation Service—Riparian Education Project
- US Fish and Wildlife Service—"Jobs In the Woods" Repairs to Channel Improvement on Indian Creek.
- Department of Conservation—Watershed Coordination Project for Trinity River and South Fork Trinity River Watersheds
- State Water Resources Control Board (Prop 204)—Trinity River Watershed Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project



Planting in Grass Valley Creek Watershed



Heavy Equipment Work-Landing Removal



Culvert Upgrade



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Trinity County Resource Conservation District



Confluence of Grass Valley Creek and Trinity River

Watershed
Restoration
Projects

TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Organization and Purpose

Conservation Districts are legal subdivisions of state government, special districts responsible for conservation work within their boundaries. Trinity County RCD was formed under Division 9 of the State Resources Code in 1956. As a special district, it is self-governed by appointed directors who establish priorities and set policy. Directors are landowners who know local problems, and who volunteer their time without pay.

Trinity County RCD is a county wide special district. The district gets funding solely from outside grants and fee for service projects. The Board of Directors is guided by landowners and the community in their decisions and actions. Employees of the District carry out the day to day operations, guided by priorities and policies set by the Board.

The purpose of the District is the same as for districts across the nation. Districts focus attention on land, water and related resource problems, to develop programs to solve them, and to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district's goals. In addition, districts work to further conservation education in the community, coordinating educational programs and serving as a community clearing house for information and services.

TCRCD 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.

Trinity River Restoration Program

The Trinity River Act of 1955 (PL 86-386) established the creation of The Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project. One aspect of the division was the construction of Trinity Dam--completed in 1963--to effect the diversion of "surplus" water from the Trinity River to the farms and homes of the Central Valley and for hydrologic power production. Even though the Trinity River Hatchery has been an integral part of dam planning from the outset, the construction of the dam has never the less led to "deterioration" of resources, in particular fisheries, since dam completion.



Trinity Dam

A noticeable impact on the fisheries in the wake of dam construction, despite the accommodations made for the fish by construction of the hatchery, led to the formation of the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Task Force in 1971 and the Trinity River Stream Rectification Act (PL 96-335) of 1980, which authorized the first steps toward mitigating sediment impact on the Trinity from Grass Valley Creek.



Buckhorn Dam-Grass Valley Creek

Increased awareness of the problem of sediment entering the Trinity from tributaries, exacerbated by the loss of spring flushing flows, led to the passage of the Trinity River Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1984 (PL 98-541), in which the Secretary of the Interior "was directed to implement a fish and wildlife management program to restore fish and wildlife populations to levels approximating those which existed immediately prior to the construction of the Trinity Division." In 1980 Congress approved legislation that provided funding to construct sediment mitigation to the Trinity. Buckhorn Sediment Dam and Hamilton Ponds were constructed in 1984 and 1991.

Grass Valley Creek Watershed

Grass Valley Creek Watershed (GVC) has been the most extensive restoration project for the RCD to date. As part of the Trinity River Restoration Program, GVC was considered the most significant contributor of sediment to the Trinity River downstream of the dam, resulting in fish spawning habitat destruction.

The GVC watershed constitutes steep, mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 1,740 to 5,950 feet. About three quarters of the area is underlain by strongly weathered granitic rock and the remainder by metamorphic rock. The soils formed in granite are coarse textured, drought prone, and highly erosive. Significant areas in the watershed have sparse vegetative cover and experience accelerated surface erosion.

Before 1992, GVC watershed was almost entirely in private ownership and had been intensively managed for timber production since the 1940's. Widespread land disturbance from commercial timber harvesting operations had occurred, adding significantly to the already high natural rates of erosion. Roads, skid trails, landings and other man-made features used in past timber operations were the primary source of sediment discharge into GVC. Sediment source inventories were completed by the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) in 1986 and 1991 to prioritize treatments.

The RCD began implementing restoration projects in 1992, with revegetation efforts and grade stabilization structures and evolved into heavy equipment operations to remove landings and roads. The RCD is now primarily implementing a 10-year Revegetation Plan in GVC as most of the physical restoration work has been implemented where access is possible.



Road Recontour-before



Road Recontour-after