

# Conservation Almanac

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Spring ~ Summer 2009

Vol. XVIII No. 2

## Stimulus Funds Support Local Workforce

Trinity County Resource Conservation District fuels crew members were back at work sooner than expected, following a seasonal layoff, thanks to funds received by the U.S. Forest Service through the federal economic stimulus package. According to District Manager Pat Frost, "This funding has been important in two ways, it has allowed me to bring a crew back to work doing what they are trained to do and it helps make the forest safer for everyone."

The crews will be clearing roadside vegetation along 180 miles of forest service roads on the Six Rivers National Forest in the Mad River and Lower Trinity Ranger Districts. USFS Regional Forester Randy Moore, Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor Tyrone Kelly and Wendy Reiss, chair of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, toured one of the work sites near Ruth Lake early in the spring.



Another federal project the TCRCRD has obtained funding for is road-related sediment reduction work for Shasta-Trinity National Forest, including areas burned in the wildfires of 2009. This project will decommission five miles of roads in the Noble, Gulch and Eagle Fire areas. Decommissioning removes the road from future use and returns the surface to its original drainage pattern. Restoration activities associated with decommissioning may include: survey and design, the removal of all drainage structures and associated fill, then outsliping, ripping, seeding and/or mulching, depending on the site.

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## Community Forest Honored

The Weaverville Community Forest received the "*Partners in Conservation*" award from U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar in Washington, DC. on May 7. Just four projects from across the country are selected each year, and this one honored the Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD).

The award highlights collaborative partnerships among individuals, agencies, organizations and non-profits. Colleen O'Sullivan, chair of the District board, spoke at the reception following the ceremony. She explained the story of Weaverville Community Forest stresses the concept of P. O. P. — persistence, opportunity and partnership. A small group had championed the concept of a community forest 10 years ago and remained persistent in keeping the idea alive. They traveled to BLM resource advisory committee meetings, met with the California director of BLM, Mike Pool, and simply keep talking up the idea of turning a piece of land designated for agency divestiture into something like a community forest.

Opportunity came when BLM's state director Mike Pool saw the potential and started looking for ways to get to "Yes." Then, when Steve Anderson became Field Manager for BLM's Redding Field Office, he and his staff began to look for ways to get to "Yes." They found the missing piece of the puzzle — the newly approved federal Stewardship Contracting Authorities for USFS and BLM passed by Congress. Enter the new California State Forester for BLM, Glenn Lahti. Glenn shepherded the concept of blending the community's vision of a community forest with stewardship contracting through BLM.

A 10-year cooperative agreement between BLM and TCRCD was signed in September 2005 formalizing the partnership part of P. O. P. It solidified an already strong working relationship between both entities and an actively engaged community that wanted to see this project succeed.

The P. O. P. culture is seen in the every-day workings of the Weaverville Community Forest and was evidenced by the list of this award's recipients — BLM Assistant Field Manager Francis Berg; BLM Forester Walter Herzog; BLM State Forester (retired) Glenn Lahti; BLM Contract Specialist Julia Lang; Consulting Forester Kenneth Baldwin; Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council member Jerry Hauke; Dick Morris; RCD Project Coordinator II John Condon, RCD Project Coordinator I Alex Cousins; RCD GIS Manager Kelly Sheen, RCD District Manager Pat Frost; and RCD board members Patrick Truman and Colleen O'Sullivan.

As Frost noted after the ceremony, "We are just the symbols of our community. This award is being given to the entire community of Weaverville and everyone, who cares about managing our federal forest lands to make them healthier for future generations."



Pictured from left to right: RCD Manager Pat Frost; BLM Redding Field Manager Steve Anderson; Acting Director of BLM Mike Pool; an unidentified official; U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar; TCRCD Board Chairwoman Colleen O'Sullivan; District 4 State Senator Sam Aanestad; BLM Redding Forester Walter Herzog; and BLM State Forester for California (retired) Glenn Lahti.

## Mike Hamman Named New Executive Director of TRRP

Professional Engineer Mike Hamman has been tapped to be the new executive director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River Restoration Program and he brings a wealth of pertinent experience and a positive attitude to his new post.

Mike was born in Salt Lake City, UT and was raised in Taos New Mexico where he graduated from High School. He lived in Seattle, Washington for five years working as a journeyman shipfitter while attending civil engineering classes at South Seattle Community College where he earned an AS degree in engineering.

He completed his BS degree at the University of New Mexico in 1983 and began his professional career with the US Bureau of Reclamation as a rotational civil engineer where he worked on a variety of water resource development and management projects. He became the Resource Management Division Director where he had responsibilities for reservoir and river operations, endangered species recovery coordination, and land and recreation management for ten Reclamation projects in southern Colorado and New Mexico.

Mike left Reclamation in 1994 to work as a Regional Water Planning Director for the New Mexico State Engineer where he assisted local governments and tribes to develop plans for managing and allocating their water resources. He then worked for the City of Santa Fe for five years as the water utility director where he had responsibility for day-to-day operations of the water system and the planning and development of the City's water supply program in a rapidly growing southwest community.

Hamman was then offered a unique opportunity to join the Jicarilla Apache Nation to assist that Tribe with its water management and on-reservation water development needs. During his nearly nine year tenure with the Tribe he helped them develop a comprehensive water development strategy that provided them the opportunity to lease their unused water to third parties, provided funding for getting their water and wastewater systems upgraded and expanded, and resolved difficult endangered species issues that allowed them to fully develop their water rights.

Mike and his wife Sally have raised four children and have moved to Weaverville from Chama, New Mexico to start a new phase of their lives in beautiful Trinity County. They and their two dogs now reside on Salt Flat near Lewiston.



Mike A. Hamman, PE



## Firewise Communities Recognized in Trinity County

**T**rinity County Fire Safe Council has been at the forefront of the issues related to wildfire awareness and preparedness since 1999. Trinity was one of the first counties in California to conduct an assessment (2000) and develop a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2005).

Last year was a remarkable one for Trinity County regarding communities' understanding of the importance of being firewise. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council kicked off a year of outreach and landowner involvement with our countywide Community Chipper Program intended to help reduce fuels on private lands. It was so successful that we completed it six months ahead of time, with good participation throughout the county. The many wildfires that ravaged our county inspired more landowners to think in terms of being fire safe and firewise.

Therefore it is not surprising that 14 communities in Trinity County have been recently recognized as Firewise Communities by the national Firewise Communities Program. This national program is a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire occurs. The Firewise Communities approach, like that of the California Fire Safe Council and our local council, emphasizes community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home design and construction, landscaping, and maintenance.

The national Firewise Communities program is intended to serve as a resource for agencies, tribes, organizations, fire departments, and communities across the U.S. who are working toward a common goal: Reduce the loss of lives, property, and resources to wildland fire by building and maintaining communities in a way that is compatible with our natural surroundings.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council is proud of its association with the Firewise Communities Program and will be starting a countywide effort to update community wildfire plans with funding provided by Trinity County Board of Supervisors through Title III of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Watch for announcements in the coming months for a meeting in your community.

## Trinity County Fire Safe Council Set to Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Trinity County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) one of the first completed in California, is about to undergo an extensive update with input from the public and emergency response agencies. Community Wildfire Protection Plans have proven to be one of the most successful tools for identifying and addressing wildfire risks. Maintaining an effective CWPP depends on widespread collaboration among landowners, emergency response managers, and federal, state and local officials.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council is organizing the effort to update the county's CWPP this year with funding from the Trinity County Board of Supervisors through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The plan was initially created in 1999-2001 through a series of community meetings around the county, and received formal approval as the county's CWPP in 2005 by the Fire Safe Council, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Trinity County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Board of Supervisors. Since then it has served as a model for counties and communities around the state.

The current CWPP has been an important guide in setting fuel reduction project implementation priorities for the federal land management agencies, like the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and for obtaining funding from the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee and California Fire Safe Council. Key elements of the update will include continued work with the Volunteer Fire Services, federal and state fire managers, and the county's at-risk communities.

The Resource Conservation District and Watershed Research and Training Center will lead the CWPP update, using community meetings and county-wide firewise activities in conjunction with volunteer fire departments to collect information on what work has been done since 1999 and what future projects are the new priorities. Planning will then turn to the Trinity County Fire Chiefs' Association, forestry and fire management professionals to provide their expertise. Products will include an updated "living" CWPP database that includes; updated Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries, emergency ingress and egress routes for communities, tracking implementation of fuels reduction projects, landscape scale restoration and fuel management strategies, historical fire and fire suppression data, critical fire suppression response data (locations of home sites, water sources, bridges, turnarounds, etc), and updated values-at-risk. The database will be available via the Resource Conservation District's website in data formats useful for all responsible agencies as well as the public. It will facilitate advanced prefire planning as well as improved fire suppression coordination and response in the future.

**Please see: <http://www.cafirealliance.org/cwpp/>**

## Popular Events at the Young Family Ranch

Lots of good things have been happening in recent months at the Young Family Ranch in Weaverville and more events are being planned.

The Ranch has been the perfect venue for a series of free workshops for individuals of all ages on gardening and good nutrition. Garden topics have included beekeeping, poultry management, plant propagation and sustainable gardening techniques. Workshops have offered hands-on demonstrations on cider-pressing, making a living willow lattice fence, making wildflower and native grass seedballs, and designing a spiral herb garden.

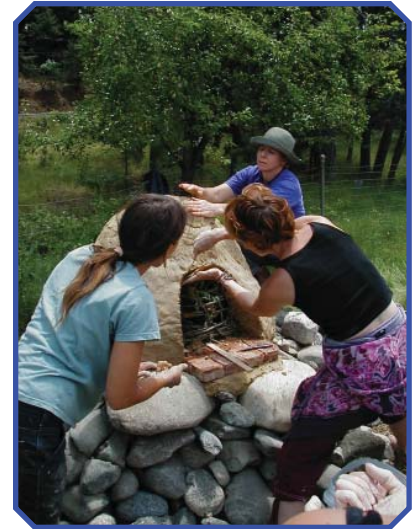


Healthful food workshops offered in conjunction with the garden workshops have included making pumpkin chili, great nuts and beans recipes, salsa ideas, and learning best sources of heart-healthy fats like Omega-3.

The Ranch also hosted a Fiber Faire and a Community Plant-&Seed Exchange that were both well attended.

These have all been part of the Young Family Ranch Healthful Foods and Family Gardening Workshop series, provided through a collaboration of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Council, the University of California Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program, Young Family Ranch, Inc., and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District.

The historic Young Family Ranch is a community trust property at 260 Oregon Street. Young Family Ranch, Inc. is a non-profit entity guided by a volunteer board of trustees that works in partnership with the Trinity Trust and the Humboldt Area Foundation to ensure long-term benefit to the residents of Trinity County.





# A Day at the Wetlands



USFS Botanist Shauna Hee points out plant components to Weaverville Elementary 4th graders.



Biologist Tim Viel shows how to use a birding book.



Wetland Rush



## Weaverville Summer Day Camp to Feature Special Session

Trinity County Resource Conservation District will host summer day camp at historic Young Family Ranch in Weaverville July 6-31 for children entering first grade through those preparing to enter sixth grade. All must bring their own sack lunch and their own water bottle each day. The fee is \$25 per week.

In addition to the regular week-long sessions, this year there will be a new special session July 6-10 for older kids (fourth, fifth and sixth graders) featuring opportunities to explore and study nature closeup during a series of field trips. These short day trips will include discovering how stream health is monitored, examining restoration work along Trinity River to help salmon, learning about revegetation efforts to improve watersheds, and observing ways Weaverville Community Forest is being cared for. These will include opportunities to learn how science is being applied to understand and help nature.

Activities during the regular camp sessions incorporate learning about natural resources, gardening and healthy nutrition and often feature community members with interesting knowledge and skills. Children can gain new insights into the natural and cultural world around them. Call the TCRCDD at 623-6004 for applications.

Trinity County  
Resource Conservation District Presents



## WEAVERVILLE SUMMER DAY CAMP

**At the Young Family Ranch — 260 Oregon St.**

**For students entering 1st through 6th grade**

**\*July 6 through July 10 - 1st Session\***

**July 13 through July 17 - 2nd Session**

**July 20 through July 24 - 3rd Session**

**July 27 through July 31 - 4th Session**

*\*New!! During Session I we'll have field trips for fourth, fifth and sixth graders to explore and study nature.*

**Bring your own lunch and water bottle**

**Cost is \$25.00 per week session**

**Day Camp times are 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.**

Contact Bo or Danny

Trinity County RCD ~ 623-6004

Space is limited to 35 children each session



# Trinity County Resource Conservation District Conservation Fund

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District Fund was established in 2007 in association with the Trinity Trust and 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 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 one's will. Please give thought to this new opportunity for contributions to community-based conservation programs through the District's Conservation Fund. The following are some examples of projects that your donation would help support:

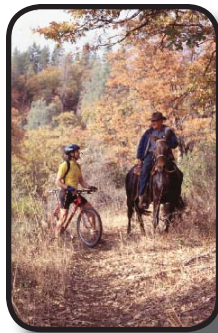


**Watershed Restoration**

**Weaverville Community Forest**



**Forest Health-Fuels Reduction**



**Weaverville Basin Trail System**



**Environmental Education Camp**



**Biomass Utilization**

**Make a tax deductible donation today!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest:**    Restoration                      Education  
                   Biomass Utilization        Community Forest  
                   Trail System                            Forest Health

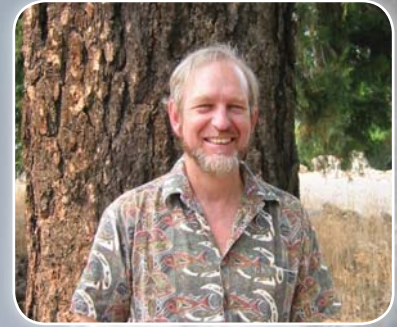
**Return to:**  
 Trinity County Resource Conservation District  
 Conservation Fund  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Weaverville, CA 96093



## District Manager's Corner

### *Opportunity of the Commons*

Weaverville Community Forest has gotten a lot of attention lately, including the national *Partners in Conservation Award* from Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. I was honored to be one of our community's representatives in Washington, D.C. to accept the award, yet the real honor is to be working with so many of you to make the idea of a community forest a reality.



The Community Forest represents many different interests who all have something in common — the landscape and its resources that we care about — “the commons.” It is a place to go for a hike or a bike ride. There are birds to watch and flowers to photograph. There is the network of streams that drain into Weaver Creek, providing water for Weaverville, habitat for salmon and places for kids to cool off in summer. There are pine and fir forests and oak woodlands, each providing important habitat for wildlife. There is a wealth of cultural and historical resources, much of which can be visited on a network of trails.

There are traditional uses and management methods most of us don't know about that could and should be included in the use of these common lands. Managing the forest for the long term, with an eye to making it healthier and reducing its fuel load, makes adjacent areas safer and provides firewood for the community. Any timber that is harvested generates funding for future improvements to the community forest.

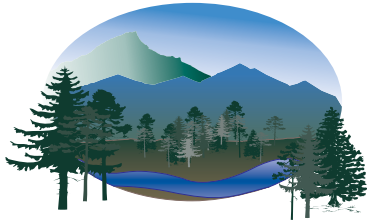
Communities around the world have long traditions of providing a “commons,” lands held by the community for use by the community. An essay was written in 1968 called “The Tragedy of the Commons.” In essence it stated the commons could not be sustained because it is human nature to overuse natural resources. It explained our nation's lands, waters and air needed to be protected from overuse and abuse. Water and air pollution was evident almost everywhere. The Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire. Air around our cities was becoming dense with smog. National policies were needed and were adopted to help protect these resources — our nation's “commons.”

I see Weaverville Community Forest as the community's commons and I perceive great opportunity in the commons — not the tragic outcomes envisioned in that 1968 essay. I see people coming together to find ways to help manage these federal lands for the common good – to use these resources with an eye to the future and to each other's needs. I am encouraged by our experience so far. Other communities in Trinity County and throughout northern California are taking an interest in the Weaverville Community Forest as a model for building partnerships to manage their own shared landscape. I think the reason we were selected to receive the Partners in Conservation Award was because so many of you have seen the opportunity of the commons.

*Pat Frost*



# 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](mailto:info@tcrd.net)**  
**Internet: [www.tcrd.net](http://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**

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