



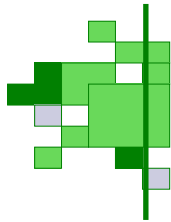
# TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Annual Report 2003

### 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

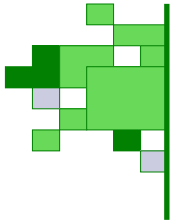
If I had to describe the District during 2003 in one word that word would be “diversity”. The annual report contained in the following pages illustrates what I mean. The Trinity County Resource Conservation District has, over the years, built a very diverse program for serving the needs of our constituents. A Strategic Plan that the Board adopted in December 1999 guides us. The Plan includes five very different areas in which the District focuses its energies – Forest Health, Watershed Rehabilitation, Education and Outreach, Recreation and Administration. This year’s annual report highlights some of our accomplishments in these areas.

The diversity of the District’s programs can be viewed from another angle. You will find a pie chart on page 11 that shows the diversity of funding sources that the District has obtained to meet the growing needs for natural resource conservation in Trinity County. It is important to have funding from a number of sources for several reasons. Spreading the costs of delivering our programs across many sources indicates the broad support that we receive from our many partners – demonstrating a shared vision for such things as healthy forests, restored watersheds and locally-led environmental education. It also is good business to not rely on one or two sources of funds, reducing the impact of a loss of any one source of funding.

The diversity of the District’s programs also is a measure of the diversity of skills that we have in our employees, Board members and volunteers. We simply would not be able to deliver what you see in these pages to you, our constituents and neighbors, if it were not for the dedication and professionalism of all of them.

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# FOREST HEALTH / FUELS REDUC-



## Trinity County Fire Safe Council

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council, which the District coordinates, has been working to improve cooperation and coordination in all aspects of wildfire management in Trinity County. Members of the Fire Safe Council include US Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Volunteer Fire Departments, Trinity County, the Watershed Research and Training Center, Bureau of Land Management, Trinity RC&D Council and private citizens. Together, these groups are working to involve the residents and landowners of Trinity County in fire prevention and response preparation in order to best avoid catastrophic fires in the future. One of the goals of the Fire Safe Council is to involve the whole community in working to protect their property as well as their neighbors' by being aware of the risk of fire damage and taking some simple steps to help prevent it. The Fire Safe Council led an effort to complete a Landscape Scale Strategic Fire Management Plan for Trinity County.

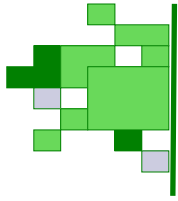
## Fuels Reduction Projects

As a result of the success of the Trinity County Fire Safe Council's planning process and education and outreach efforts, the RCD has been able to obtain funding for a wide variety of fuels reduction projects during 2003 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Projects include regional fuel breaks, defensible space, shaded fuel breaks along roads, thinning and chipping on both public and private lands.



## NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with assistance from the District, implemented projects for four landowners utilizing EQIP grants in 2003. Project work included: forest stand improvement, brush management, riparian planting, and livestock exclusionary fencing. Ten EQIP contracts have been signed with work to be implemented in 2004.



# WATERSHED REHABILI-

## South Fork Trinity River Watershed



In 2003 the RCD completed its seventh year of implementing road restoration projects in the South Fork of the Trinity River Watershed. This year 23,000 cubic yards of soil was removed from stream crossings along 2.8 miles of old Forest Service roads in the Upper South Fork and Happy Camp watersheds. This soil, if not removed, poses a severe threat of being washed into the South Fork Trinity River, which already has a problem with the amount of sediment that gets into the river each winter damaging critical habitat for salmon.

Cynthia Tarwater, Project Coordinator, led the District team that oversaw local contractors, who implemented last summer's work, which included hydroclosing 2.1 miles and decommissioning 0.7 miles of roads. Hydroclosing consists of removing all of the drainage structures from the roadway. Hydroclosed roads are "put to bed" indefinitely to reduce the impacts to fisheries habitat, but can be reopened for future timber management, fire control or forest stewardship projects.

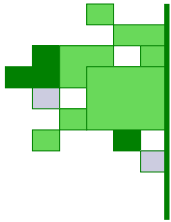
Decommissioning a road includes removing all culverts and hardware permanently; ripping the road bed and reshaping it to match the original contours of the land, as shown in the accompanying photos.



Roads that are decommissioned pose a higher threat to fisheries and are no longer needed for forest management. Therefore, they are completely removed and are not intended to be reopened.

The RCD has been implementing road-related, sediment reduction projects in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed since 1997, including a third category of project--upgrading roads. Upgrading roads reduces the potential for soil to reach the streams and keeps the roads drivable by redesigning the drainage of the road, especially through the installation of larger culverts that can withstand 100-year storms. To date, nearly 163 miles of roads have been treated with 67 stream crossings upgraded, 92 stream crossings excavated and over 70,000 cubic yards of soil excavated from the stream courses. The Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River Restoration Program, the USFS and California Department of Fish and Game have funded this work in the past.

The District will be back in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed in 2004 with funding from the State Water Resources Control Board's 319(h) Program, the USFS and Trinity County RAC.



# WATERSHED REHABILI-

## Grass Valley Creek Watershed

In the fall of 2003, 3200 cubic yards of decomposed granite material was dredged from Hamilton Ponds as part of the Trinity River Restoration Program's effort to reduce sediment from entering the Trinity River. The Hamilton Ponds were constructed in 1984 at the mouth of Grass Valley Creek near the confluence of the Trinity River. These Ponds were designed as catchment for sediment before it enters the mainstem of the Trinity River. In order for the Hamilton Ponds to remain effective it is required that they be dredged of sediment following storm events.

The Grass Valley Creek Watershed is a 23,525 acre watershed, nearly 3/4 of which is underlain by DG parent materials. These DG materials weather into some of the most highly erosive forest soils in the Western United States. The Grass Valley Creek watershed has been identified as the largest single source of sediment to the Trinity River system below the Lewiston Dam. Historical logging activities, and activities related to access and recreation have caused significant disturbance in this watershed.

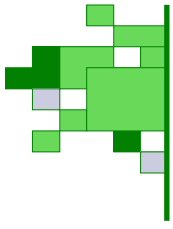


Over 250 cubic yards of this DG sand was given away to people as part of the District's annual DG Giveaway Day. This free material was used for a variety of projects including: road base for driveways, in gardens as a soil amendment, walking paths, backfill for foundations, general leveling of lots, as well as horse corrals.

## Wetland Restoration

The Board of Directors of the RCD entered into a memorandum of understanding with Trinity County to restore approximately 6 acres of wetlands in the Trinity Alps Industrial Park. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing most of the funds through its Wetland Reserve Program – the same program that was used to place about 50 acres along Weaver Creek in an easement in 2001. NRCS provided the design and has been working with RCD staff to design the planting plan for the restored site. The District will be implementing all phases of the project, including the re-grading of the site, construction of water control structures, erosion control and planting with native species of wetland plants.

Wetlands provide three important services, and the Industrial Park Wetland has been designed to provide all three – store flood waters; clean pollutants from the water before it gets into a stream; and provide wildlife habitat. This wetland, when fully restored, will provide a mixture of habitats that will add to the diversity in the Weaver Creek corridor and will receive water from Lance Gulch during winter storms. A future phase of the project is to build a network of trails and wildlife viewing platforms around the wetlands and link it to the Weaverville Basin Trail system.



# REVEGETATION

## Grass Valley Creek

The District has nearly completed implementing the recommendations in the Bureau of Land Management's *Ten Year Revegetation Plan for Grass Valley Creek Watershed*. From the fall planting season in 1996 to the fall of 2003, 1,145,400 grasses, shrubs, hardwoods, and conifers have been planted in the watershed. Only one more year of planting is required to finalize this important project that provides cover for severely eroding slopes in decomposed granite.



### Nursery



The District has come a long way since it began restoring the upland forests of the GVC watershed. It now works on more types of projects and in many different plant communities. As a result, the District has been able to expand its nursery facilities and try new methods of growing plants for revegetation projects, such as the willow "orchard" that will be established during 2004 to provide a source of planting materials for some new projects.

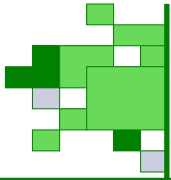
The District collects seed in order to propagate the large quantity of plants for revegetation activities. All plants utilized by the District in its revegetation projects are Trinity County native plants and, in most cases, the seed originates from the county, as well. While the bulk of the plant material used by the District is grown by various nurseries around northern California, the revegetation staff has established a small, native plant nursery to produce the needed planting stock, especially for the smaller revegetation projects that the District executes in any given year.

The District continues to work with Caltrans to revegetate roadside areas disturbed by roadwork. Caltrans revegetation sites include Weaver Creek, bridge reconstructions at Rush Creek on Highway 3 and at Little Brown's Creek on Highway 299. Roadside revegetation tends to be a challenge, because the soils are compacted by heavy equipment and have little organic material or soil structure to help the plants grow.

### Weed Management

The District, as a member of the Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative, has spearheaded a project to control the infestation of brooms in, and around, Junction City. The most common broom found infesting wildlands across California is Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). Working in a partnership with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and California Department of Transportation, the District with assistance from the inmate crews at the CDF Trinity River Conservation Camp has been manually pulling younger, vigorously growing plants and cutting out large broom plants in order to prevent the spread of this plant into uninfested areas. In infested areas, the long-term goal is to eliminate brooms and replace this non-native, high-invasive plant with native grasses, shrubs, and trees. Approximately, 20 acres are currently occupied by broom in the Junction City area along Highway 299.





# 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 teacher's curriculum in the classroom or in the field. Our outreach efforts include participation in community events such as the Trinity County Fair, and the Children's Salmon Celebration.

The District's outreach and education programs for the year 2003 included:

- California and National Envirothon, a resource management competition for high school students
- Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717
- River Day 2003 at Coffee Creek
- Tours of Watershed Restoration Projects for Humboldt State University Students
- Participation in the Trinity County Fire Safe Council
- Participation in the South Fork Trinity River Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) Meetings
- Living with Wildfire in Northern California newspaper Insert
- Successful information booths about RCD Projects at
  - Trinity County Fair
  - National Fire Safe Conference
- Quarterly Newsletter, the *Conservation Almanac* distributed to all Post Office Boxes in the County
- Developed and distributed informational brochures
- Articles in the Trinity Journal about RCD Projects
- Political Advocacy—letters to congressmen, senators, and others urging them to act on behalf of RCD programs and policies

## River Day 2003

This celebration is the brainchild of Bill Loucks, teacher and principal, at Coffee Creek School. It is a day-long



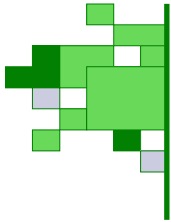
event that lets school children from around the county get their feet wet visiting learning stations along Coffee Creek. Students get real-world experiences and work alongside

the foresters and biologists, chemists and soils scientists. This year children from as far away as Burnt Ranch and French Gulch did just that collecting information about Coffee Creek and learning about everything from local geology to fish anatomy.

## Environmental Education Camp

Sixth graders from Weaverville Elementary School go to Bar 717 Ranch for their *Environmental Education Camp*. This camp has a unique approach of using resource professionals, who work and live in our own communities, as the teachers. The RCD District Manager, Pat Frost, is one of many resource professionals teaching at this camp. His focus is salmonid habitat and birds.





# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

## “Big Red Truck” Project

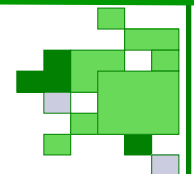
The RCD initiated the implementation of this fire safe education and outreach project and obtained funding from the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).

- The 16 volunteer fire departments in Trinity County are conducting fire safe inspections with their Fire Engines within the areas where they provide fire protection.
- Volunteer Firefighters complete a simple inspection form that give each landowner an idea of how safe their property is and recommendations for improving the defensibility of the property against a fire.
- At the same time, other fire safe and fuels reduction information was given to the landowner to help them implement the recommendations.
- This program provides an excellent opportunity for the Volunteer Fire Departments to provide one-on-one landowner outreach and education regarding fire safety and emergency access, and the volunteer departments receive much-needed funds to support their departments.
- The Volunteer Fire Departments are paid \$25 per inspection that is completed in the wildland/urban interface zone up to a maximum of \$5,000 per Department (or 200 inspections).



The idea for this project grew out of discussions between the Trinity County Fire Safe Council, the Volunteer Fire Chiefs’ Association and the RAC — all have identified forest health, reducing the amount of fuels in our forests and around residences on the forest edge as a top priority. All of us have to work together to reduce the risk of wildfires moving between the federal and private lands. The Volunteer Fire Chiefs’ Association and Trinity County Fire Safe Council have spearheaded most of the efforts in Trinity County to develop and implement fuels reduction and forest health projects across the landscape. The volunteer departments have been a critical link between the Fire Safe Council and the local communities.

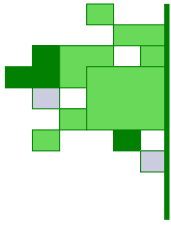
# RECREATION AND



The Lewiston Trails Group breaks new ground with the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the US Forest Service and the Resource Conservation District. The District’s Board of Directors approved the MOU and it was signed at a ceremony celebrating California Trails Day on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the new Lewiston Lake trailhead. The celebration highlighted the importance of trails to our communities.

The purpose of the MOU is to allow the Lewiston Trails Group — under the guidance of the RCD and USFS — to construct and maintain the South Lakeshore, Baker Gulch, and North Lakeshore Trails. As part of this agreement, the Trails Group will learn USFS specifications for trail tread, clearing limits, trail locations and more. It will also give official recognition from both the RCD and USFS that will be useful in securing funds for the development of trails in, and around, Lewiston.





# GIS SERVICES

The Trinity County RCD has continued to expand its capability for developing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for an ever-widening range of projects. Application of sophisticated analyses to these systems provides accurate, detailed data and cartographic products that help plan, implement, monitor, and report on the restoration activities of the District and our partners.

In 2003, District GIS work supported the Grass Valley Creek Fire Management Plan, South Fork Trinity River Water Quality Monitoring, the "Big Red Truck" Fire Safe community education, several road inventories, weed management, the web-based Weaverville Basin Trail System Guide, and updating the Klamath Resource Information System (KRIS).

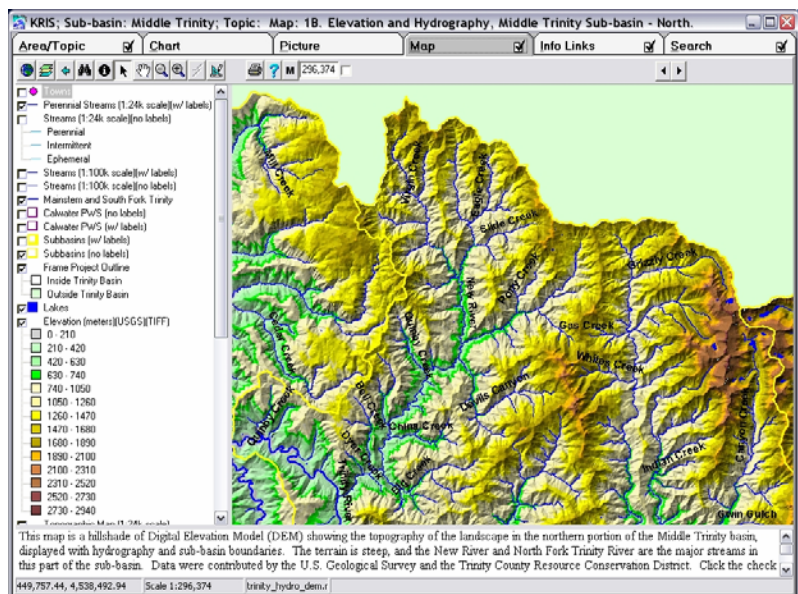
## Weaver Basin Trail System Guide

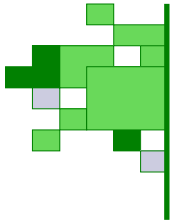
Designed as a supplement to the US Forest Service Trailweavers Kiosk, the Weaver Basin Trail System Guide joined similar guides for the Trinity Alps Trail System and the Wild & Scenic Trinity River as an interactive, web-based informational guide to all trails in the system. The guide opens with a map of the Weaver Creek Basin that has clickable links to pages that describe the selected trail, shows photos taken on the trail, and offers another link to a more detailed map of the trail. When the guide designed for the Kiosk was finished, it was adapted for posting on the *tcrd.net* website and is now available online.



## KRIS

The District's role as the primary KRIS Coordinator continued with ongoing collection and standardization of data collected by the various agencies that make up the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), as well as a number of generous private contributors. This effort yielded the peer review draft of the new KRIS Klamath/Trinity Version 3, a comprehensive, three CD set that went into final production and debuted in early 2004. Highlights of this release include many new tools and functions, a revised and refined user interface, and a companion website with the complete contents of the set online. It also contains updated baseline and trend monitoring data, vastly expanded bibliographic materials, photo tours including historic slides of the Trinity Lake area before and during the construction of Trinity Dam, and a map tab that integrates an interactive GIS viewer of included Klamath Province spatial datasets. KRIS provides interactive comparisons over time of habitat conditions, fish populations, and water quality measurements and serves as a historical repository and working tool for adaptive management for the TRRP.





# 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

Directors Owens and Truman served on the **RC&D Council**. Director Lowden worked closely with the **Weaverville Basin Trail Committee**. Director O'Sullivan champions the development of a **Community Forest** in Weaverville. The District continued to actively participate in the **South Fork Trinity River CRMP**. Staff coordinated the **Trinity County Fire Safe Council**, and maintained active participation in the **Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative**, and **Trinity River Adaptive Management Group**.



**Colleen O'Sullivan, RCD Board Member, meets with Connie Stewart of Assemblymember Patty Berg's office, to discuss District projects.**

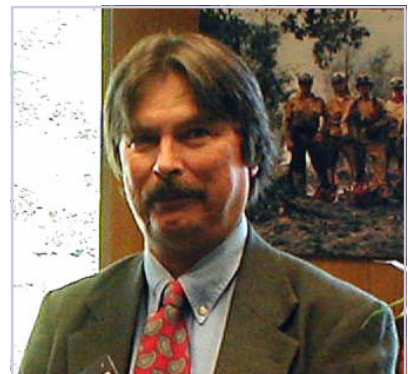
## State, Regional and National Affiliations



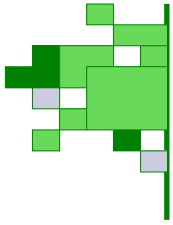
Board Director, **Patrick Truman** was elected Vice-President of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD). He was also elected as the California representative to the Na-

tional Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors. With 103 Resource Conservation Districts in California, CARCD serves its member Districts by linking federal and state resource agencies to locally led conservation throughout the State.

Board Director, **Greg Lowden** was elected Treasurer of the Canon National Envirothon. The Canon Envirothon is a hands-on outdoor



competition for high school aged youth that tests students' understanding of soils, aquatic ecology, wildlife and a specially selected current issue. There are Envirothon programs in 44 states and 7 Canadian Provinces.



# FINANCIAL

## Trinity County Resource Conservation District Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the Period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

### Revenue

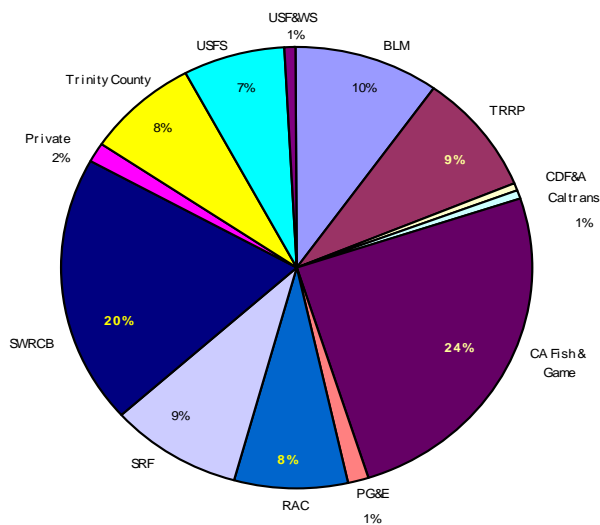
Grant & Contract Revenue	\$ 1,631,697
Services Revenue	15,883
Dues/Sales/Interest Revenue	2,264
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,649,844</b>

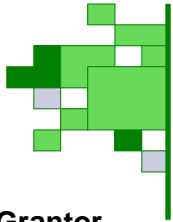
### Expenses

Wages	\$ 703,710
Fringe Benefits	204,065
Board Expense	17,164
Dues & Subscriptions	4,615
Field Materials Expense	87,159
Field Subcontracting Expense	288,184
Insurance/Licenses & Fees	12,117
Legal & Accounting	3,811
Office Supplies/Commun/Publish	58,655
Professional Fees/Accounting	91,874
Public Education/Staff Training	7,643
Rent & Utilities	18,499
Travel Expense	29,327
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance	28,921
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,551,933</b>

**Excess Revenue over Expenditures \$ 97,910**

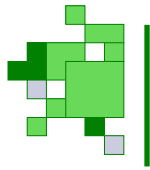
**Funding Sources 2003**





# PROJECT LIST 2003

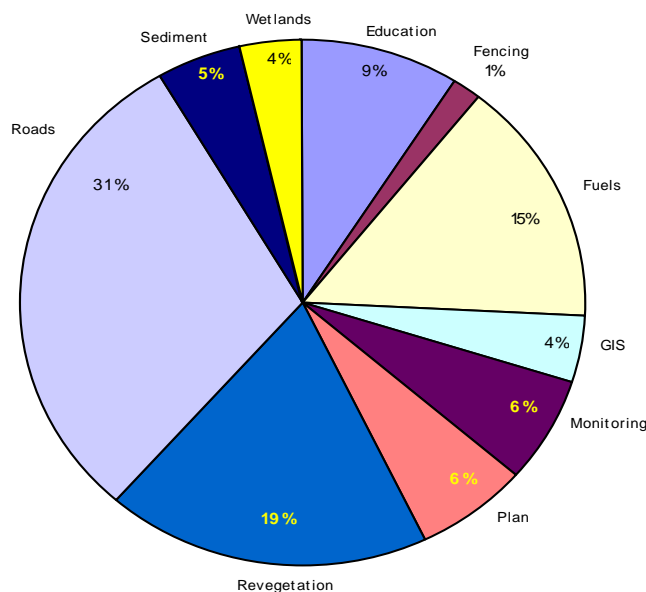
<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>	BLM Campground Gate Installation	\$ 863	
	Restoration Vegetation Mapping & Info Survey	13,000	
	Salt Flat Rehabilitation	26,650	
	Oregon Fire Rehabilitation	11,168	
	Grass Valley Creek Fuels Plan	47,466	
	Lowden Fire Revegetation Monitoring	19,650	
	Scotch & French Broom Removal	15,450	
	Cone Propagation	111,550	
	West Weaver Creek Meadow Rehab	10,484	
	Seed Collection & Plant Propagation	42,023	
	Trinity River Watershed Road Inventory	30,000	
	Storm Proofing BLM Roads	20,000	
	Bucktail Road Refurbish	14,837	
	County Line Road North Maintenance	2,294	
	Steiner Flat	14,377	
	Weaverville Basin Trail Map Printing	500	
	Lowden Field Wetland Study	4,982	
	<b>Bureau of Reclamation</b>	Trinity River Restoration Program Educ. & Outreach	30,000
		Klamath River Information System	125,777
		KRIS	25,000
Revegetation & Plant Propagation		50,000	
<b>Calif. Dept. of Food &amp; Agriculture</b>	Hamilton Ponds Dredging	118,750	
	Weed Management	15,048	
<b>Caltrans</b>	Fawn Lodge Remediation	15,000	
	Grub Gulch Revegetation	10,000	
<b>Department of Fish &amp; Game</b>	Salmonid & Riparian Habitat Education	18,276	
	Salmonid & Riparian Habitat Education	19,971	
	Salt Creek Livestock Fencing	31,138	
	Price Creek Fish Screen	28,337	
	South Fork Trinity River Water Quality Monitoring	112,312	
	Grass Valley Creek Revegetation	123,264	
	Grass Valley Creek Revegetation & Inventory	194,468	
	Grouse Creek Road Inventory	49,321	
	South Fork Trinity River Road Decommissioning	163,779	
	SFTR Watershed Restoration Project	222,718	
<b>PG&amp;E</b>	Big Bar Powerline	6,055	
	Powerline	47,202	
<b>Private</b>	Fuels Reduction-Cunningham	12,831	
	Fuels Reduction-Anderson-Augspurger	2,000	
	Trail Weavers Kiosk/Website	2,400	
	Fuels Reduction-Baldwin	630	
	Fuels Reduction-McKeague	219	
	Fuels Reduction-Johannson	\$22,040	
	Waller-Fuels Reduction	19,563	



# PROJECT LIST 2003

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
<b>Resource Advisory Committee</b>	Big Red Truck Project	\$ 85,000	
	Bar 717 Fuels Reduction	50,000	
	Trinity Center Ball Park Fuels Reduction	34,128	
	South Fork Trinity River Road Decommissioning	118,577	
	Packers Creek	16,950	
<b>Sacramento Regional Foundation</b>	Trinity County Fire Safe Council Education & Outreach	50,000	
	Trinity County Fire Safe Council Education & Outreach	45,000	
	Timber Ridge Fuel Break	50,000	
	Highway 299 Shaded Fuel Break	75,000	
	Brown Creek Fuels Reduction	50,000	
<b>State Water Resource Control Board</b>	Fire Safe Council Plan Implementation-Oregon Mt.	75,000	
	South Fork Trinity River Water Quality Monitoring	115,600	
	Upper Trinity River Watershed Plan (205j)	200,000	
<b>Trinity County</b>	SFTR Watershed Restoration (319h)	450,000	
	Trinity River Watershed Coordinator	50,000	
	Botanical Survey	9,000	
	Industrial Park Wetlands	132,956	
	Grass Valley Creek Planning, Planting, and Inventory	67,379	
	Weed Management	24,177	
	GIS Services	10,000	
	Fire Safe Council Education & Outreach	50,000	
	<b>US Forest Service</b>	Down River Fire Safe	55,000
		Oregon Mt Fuels Reduction	75,000
Fuels Reduction Fixed Assets Purchase		50,000	
Chipper Services		3,640	
<b>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Services</b>	Lower Little Road Decommission	84,380	
	Lowden Fire Non-Commercial Revegetation	34,118	

**Projects by Type 2003**



## 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

Mike Rourke, *Chairman*

Greg Lowden, *Vice-Chairman*

Rose Owens, *Director*

Colleen O'Sullivan, *Director*

Patrick Truman, *Director*

## Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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