



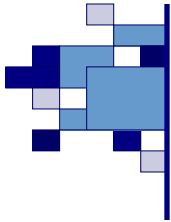
TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Annual Report 2005

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



The **2005 Annual Report** is many things. It provides highlights on our programs – the significant accomplishments of the year, new directions that we are taking and a snapshot of our projects and funding sources. To me it also is an opportunity to use the year in review as a measure of where the RCD is going in the next year.

The graphs on pages 12 and 13 say a lot about the District, most notably the diversity of our programs and the diversity of our funding. The Board of Directors and staff have worked very hard to stabilize our funding through a wide variety of sources. The diversity in funding also reflects on the District’s success at addressing a variety of conservation issues that are raised by our constituents. This year’s Report is filled with examples of how the District continues to respond to the public’s interests and issues. Here are a few of the most notable.

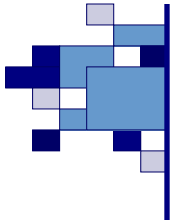
The Weaverville Community Forest is a first. The idea of a Community Forest rose up from residents of Weaverville and a strong spirit of cooperation. This year the District entered into a stewardship agreement with BLM to manage about 1,000 acres in Weaverville. This is the first such agreement in the nation between BLM and a Resource Conservation District, and a unique opportunity for the community to provide the vision for the management of federal lands. Looking ahead to 2006 we’ll see the first forest health project implemented on the community forest with merchantable timber taken to the local mill.

Illegal dumping is a serious problem throughout California. The District, in partnership with the Watershed Research & Training Center in Hayfork, took the initiative to lead a countywide effort to grapple with this issue in Trinity County. We applied to the California Integrated Waste Management Board for three grants to clean up 46 sites. More importantly we have worked collaboratively to bring the issue into the spotlight with a committee of concerned citizens. It will take time to change the public’s perception of the issue – a focus for the coming year through the **Let’s Keep Trinity County Beautiful!** campaign and its 1-888-NODUMPN phone number to report illegal dumping.

These two projects are beginnings. Another significant accomplishment for 2005 was an ending. The District completed the implementation of the *Ten Year Revegetation Plan for Grass Valley Creek Watershed*. Almost 2 million plants were put back into this highly sensitive landscape. Completing this kind of project, with an eye to the long-term effects of our actions, is a wonderful way to begin the District’s 50th anniversary and to remind us the importance of using our past to shape our future.

I want to thank all of the organizations and individuals who have supported the District in the past year. Your contributions of funding, time and enthusiasm give us the ability to serve Trinity County.

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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 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. During 2005, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council completed the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan which was signed by the Trinity County Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association, Trinity County Board of Supervisors, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Fire Safe Council has begun working with the Volunteer Fire Departments to develop ingress/ egress plans for fire safety.

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 2005 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. The District also entered into an agreement with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for vegetation management for the state of California.



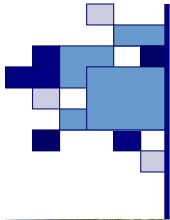
Shaded Fuel Break Construction



Trinity Community Chipper Program

Weaverville Community Forest

During 2005 the District signed a 10-year stewardship agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for the Weaverville Community Forest to allow the community to provide the vision for the management of 1,000 acres of federal lands.



WATERSHED REHABILITATION

South Fork Trinity River Watershed



Before

In 2005 the RCD completed its ninth year of implementing road restoration projects in the South Fork of the Trinity River Watershed. This year 34,300 cubic yards of road fill was excavated from 33 stream crossings along 7.94 miles of Forest Service roads in the Upper South Fork, East Fork South

sediment reduction projects in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed since 1997, including road upgrades. 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, over 180 miles of roads have been treated with 76 stream crossings upgraded, 190 stream crossings excavated and over 128,339 cubic yards of soil excavated from the stream courses. The Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River Restoration Program, Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, State Water Resources Control Board, the USFS and California Department of Fish and Game have funded this work in the past. To date about \$4 million has been spent on restoration work in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed.

Fork, Butter Creek, and Happy Camp compartments. Road crossings over creeks if not maintained or adequately sized pose a high risk to anadromous fisheries in the South Fork.

Cynthia Tarwater, Project Coordinator, led the District team that oversaw local equipment contractors, who implemented the projects.



During

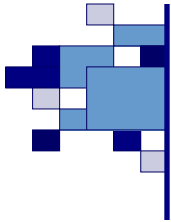
Decommissioning a road includes removing all culverts and hardware permanently; ripping the road bed and reshaping it to match the original contours of the land, as shown in the accompanying photos. Roads that are decommissioned pose a higher threat to fisheries and are no longer needed for forest management. Therefore, they are completely removed and are not intended to be reopened.

The RCD has been implementing road-related,

The District will be back in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed in 2006 with funding amounting to over \$1.4 million from the State Water Resources Control Board's 319(h) Program, the USFS, the Off Highway Vehicle Commission, EPA's Targeted Watershed Program, California Department of Fish and Game and Trinity County RAC.



After



WATERSHED REHABILITATION

Grass Valley Creek Watershed

In the fall of 2005, 2600 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.

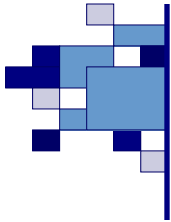
Over 200 cubic yards of this DG sand was given away to people as part of the District's annual DG Giveaway Day. This free material was used for a variety of projects including: road base for driveways, in gardens as a soil amendment, walking paths, backfill for foundations, general leveling of lots, 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 has been 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 and upland 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 Weaver-ville Basin Trail system.





REVEGETATION

Grass Valley Creek

The District 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 spring of 2005, 1.9 million grasses, shrubs, hardwoods, and conifers have been planted in the watershed. This important project provides cover for severely eroding slopes in decomposed granite.



Bridge Site Revegetation



During 2005, the District worked with the Trinity River Restoration Program on restoring the re-constructed areas of four bridge sites, which were raised due to anticipated higher Trinity River flow releases. Three of the bridge sites were designed by the RCD and one by McBain & Trush for a total of 607 propagules planted. Survival monitoring of two of the completed bridge sites was conducted in the spring of 2005 revealed a 72% survival rate at Poker Bar, a site designed by the RCD.

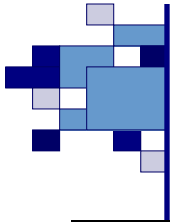
Other Revegetation Projects

Other Revegetation projects included preparing plant material for the Trinity River Restoration Program's Hocker Flat restoration site near Junction City, the first of 47 channel rehabilitation sites designed to create a more diverse river to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Locally collected site adapted seed was propagated in the greenhouse for a total of 11,514 plants. These plants include a wide range of moisture requirements that include xeric species such as ceanothus and manzanita, mesic upland species such as ponderosa and Douglas-fir pine, mesic riparian species of white alders and black cottonwoods and wetland species of rushes, bulrushes and sedges.

The Weave Basin Wetlands were revegetated with 33 different species consisting of wetland and upland plants along with native grasses. Many of the 600 propagules planted at the wetlands were grown at our nursery.





Illegal Dump Cleanup

Illegal dumping of garbage and abandoned vehicles is a serious problem throughout Trinity County. Illegal dumpsites pollute our rivers and streams and contaminate wills. The District became a member of an adhoc committee of concerned citizens and land managers to look at the causes of the problem, ways to better educate the public, support enforcement, offer creative solutions, and find funds to clean up the worst sites.

During 2005, the District, in partnership with the Watershed Research & Training Center, obtained two grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for their Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement Program totaling \$114,530 to address 35 sites. A third proposal was submitted at the end of the year for an additional \$65, 000 for another 11 sites.



District Employee Cleaning Up Illegal Dumpsite in Trinity County

RECREATION AND TRAILS



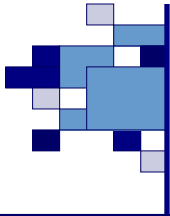
A variety of recreation and trails projects were undertaken by the District during 2005. Wilderness Trail Clearing-Phase I was completed with 100 miles of trail cleared for the USFS. Phase II was approved for an additional 100 miles to be addressed during 2006. Other projects included improvements to the Douglas City Campground, Lime Kiln Cabin, and the Bagdad Boat Launch for the Bureau of Land Management, updating the Weaverville Basin Trail map, and contracting with the BLM to develop a virtual brochure for the historical mining landscape of the West Weaver Creek area.



Historical Limekiln Cabin Improvements



Douglas City Campground Improvements



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 2005 included:

- California and National Envirothon, a resource management competition for high school students
- Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717
- Expanded educational programs to the High School and included students in monitoring efforts
- River Day 2003 at Coffee Creek
- Tours of Watershed Restoration Projects for Humboldt State University Students
- Participation in the Trinity County Fire Safe Council
- Summer Day Camp for children
- Living with Wildfire in Northern California newspaper Insert
- Successful information booths about RCD Projects at
 - Trinity County Fair
 - Children's Festival
 - Salmon Festival
 - Fire Safe Day
- 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

Summer Day Camp

During the summer of 2005, the District was able to provide families of Weaverville a summer Day Camp for children K-5th grade. It provided working parents with a safe place for their children to have fun activities and high school teenagers with summer employment as camp counselors. Activities included yoga, journaling, community garden, nutrition, games, arts & crafts, and swimming.

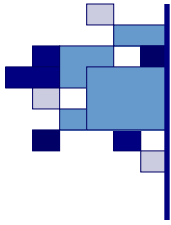


Environmental Education Camp

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



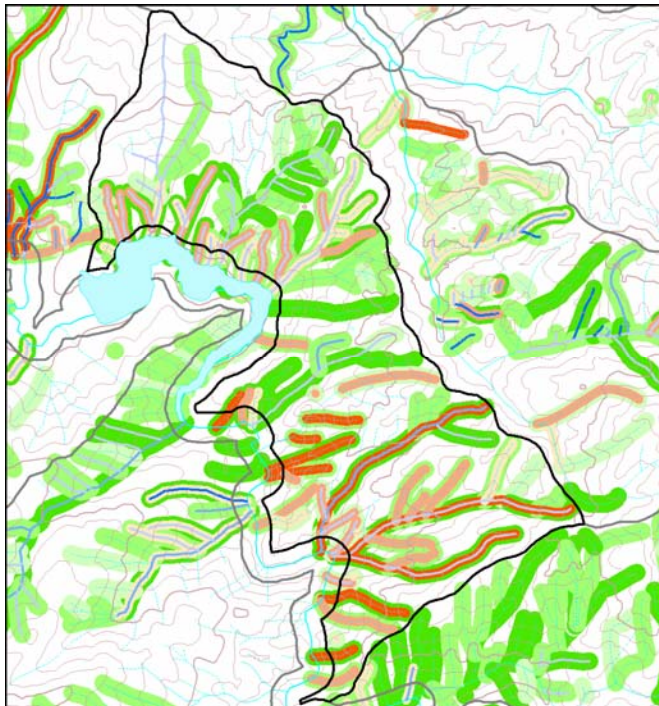
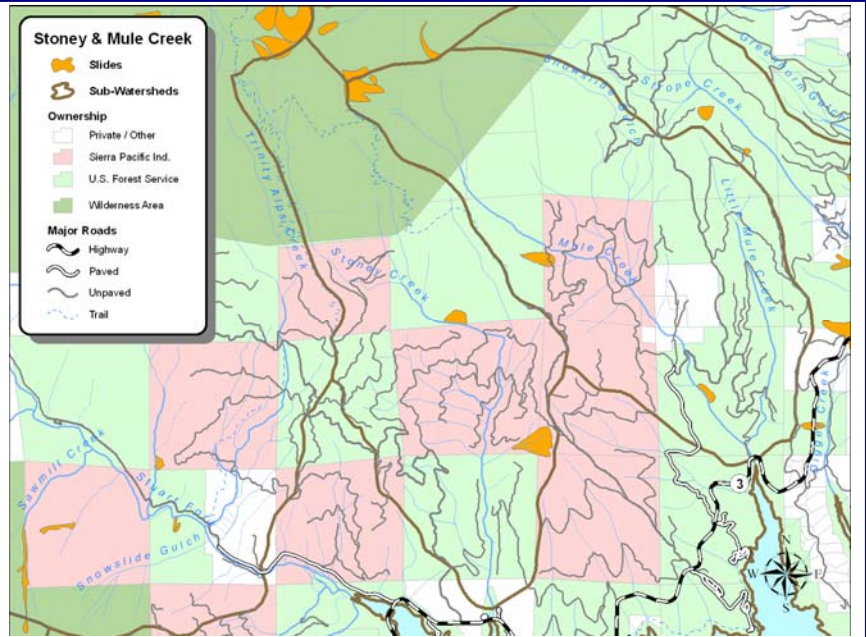
GIS SERVICES

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 2005, District GIS work supported the Down River Fire Management Plan, South Fork Trinity River Watershed Restoration, the Upper Trinity River Watershed Management Plan, several road inventories, weed management, and updating the Weaverville Basin Trail System Brochure.

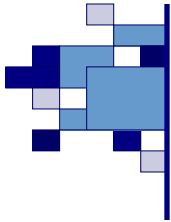
Upper Trinity River Sediment Source Analysis

The RCD provided substantial GIS services to Graham Matthews Associates for their Upper Trinity River Sediment Source Analysis. Tasks included digitizing and analysis of landslides throughout the watershed, creation of a ground disturbance layer that represents a comprehensive history of timber harvesting in the study area, and all layout and map production for their report.



Grass Valley Creek Revegetation GIS

As a part of the Grass Valley Creek Ten Year Planting final report for BLM, paper records documenting all revegetation sites planted throughout the watershed were used to create a spatial database of those locations. These features were then joined to the revegetation database that has been maintained since the beginning of the project and includes records for each planting season dating back to 1993. The result of this work is a comprehensive GIS of all the planting efforts in GVC completed by the RCD.



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. 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, has been appointed to the **Trinity River Adaptive Management Group** and the **Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee** and serves as **President** of the **Weaverville Rotary** and as a **Board Member** for the **Human Response Network**.

State, Regional and National Affiliations



RCD Board Chairman, **Mike Rourke**, was awarded an honorary American Farmer Degree by the national Future Farmers of America. This is the highest award given to adults in the nationwide program. He received the award at the national FFA convention held in Louisville, Kentucky. Mike

has taught agriculture for 26 years, 21 of those at Trinity High School.



Colleen O'Sullivan, RCD Board Member, at a Weaverville Community Forest public meeting

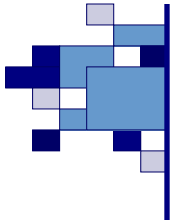
Board Director, **Patrick Truman**, was re-elected President of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at their Annual Meeting held in San Diego.

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 and by participating in legislative

Affairs. Board Director, **Colleen O'Sullivan**, serves as the area representative to the CARCD.





FINANCIAL

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures
for the Period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Revenue

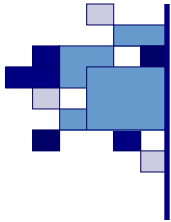
Grant & Contract Revenue	\$	1,695,396
Services Revenue		12,040
Dues/Sales/Interest Revenue		9,621
Total Revenue		1,717,057

Expenses

Wages	\$	757,055
Fringe Benefits		203,341
Board Expense		14,989
Dues & Subscriptions		6,031
Field Materials Expense		168,162
Field Subcontracting Expense		334,499
Insurance/Licenses & Fees		4,216
Office Supplies/Commun/Publish		31,264
Professional Fees/Accounting		98,739
Public Education/Staff Training		8,859
Rent & Utilities		28,503
Travel Expense		10,500
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance		49,335
Total Expenses	\$	1,715,491

Excess Revenue over Expenditures \$ **1,566**

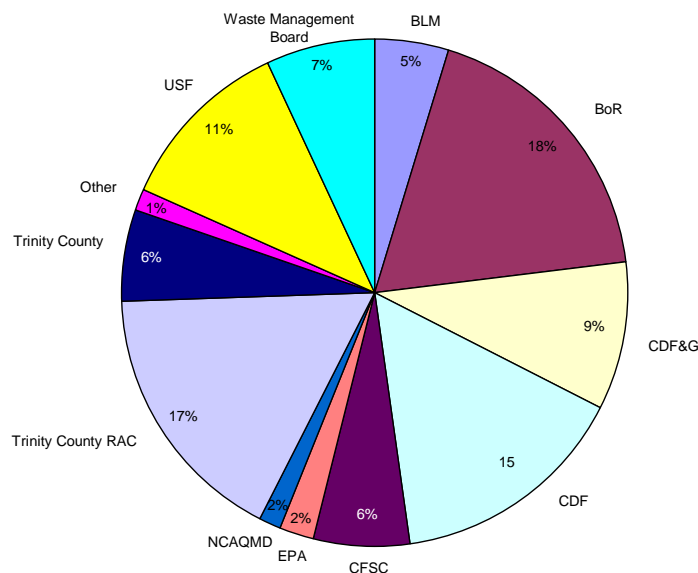


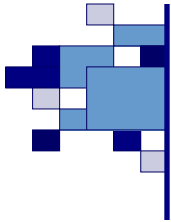


NEW PROJECTS LIST 2005

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bureau of Land Management	Douglas City Campground ADA	\$ 29,095
	Limekiln Cabin	8,312
	Storm Proofing BLM Roads	19,212
	Brochure Mining Landscaping	10,000
	Lowden Pond Removal & Bagdad Boat Launch	10,000
	Fuel Reduction	1,595
Bureau of Reclamation	Trinity River Restoration Program Educ. & Outreach	30,000
	Prep, I&M, Bridge & Restoration Sites	111,733
	Soil Prep at Bridge sites	18,267
	Hamilton Ponds Dredging	113,000
	Trinity County Watershed Coordinator	25,000
US Forest Service	Weed Management	2,500
	Sims Fire Decommission	90,000
	Salyer/Hawkins Bar Fuels Reduction	91,000
Resource Advisory Committee	Butter Creek Road	15,200
	Browns Roadside Fuel Management	27,658
	Trinity Alps Trail Clearing	14,500
	Hidden Valley Road Decommissioning	190,476
	Five Cent Gulch road Decommission	19,002
	Wilcox Ridge	10,000
Pacific States Marine Fisheries	Union Gulch Fish Passage Enhancement	3,734

Funding Sources 2005

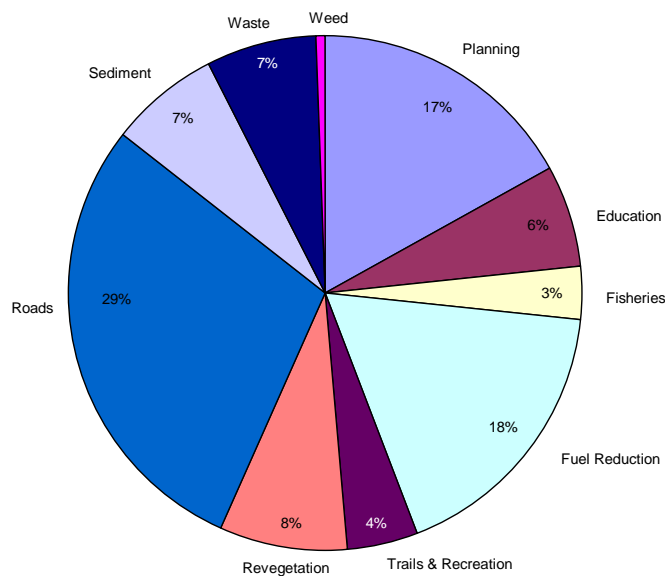




NEW PROJECTS LIST 2005

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Education	\$ 35,773
California Fire Safe Council	Bear & Rush Creek Fuel Reduction	35,000
	Lower South Fork Road Fuel Reduction	65,170
California Depart of Fish & Game	Hermit Rock Decommission	130,567
	Salmonid & Riparian Habitat Education	24,778
California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection	PEIR	250,000
California Association of RCDs	Tsunungwe Tribe Outreach	5,000
North Coast Air Quality Management District	Community Chipper Program	25,000
Trinity County	Deadwood Culvert	49,462
	Fire Safe Council Planning Project	35,000
	Summer Camp	10,152
Private	Fuels Reduction	8,405
Waste Management Board	Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup I	87,854
	Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup II	26,676

Projects by Type 2005



Total: \$1.6 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

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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