



Message from the District Manager - 2010 Annual Report

Every year about this time I sit down to reflect on the previous year and put my thoughts to words. In business, the saying goes something like, “Success is all about location, location, location.” In our world of natural resources conservation and management, success is all about partnerships, partnerships, partnerships. This proved to be very true again in 2010.

As I preview this annual report, I am struck by the diversity of our projects and the wide range of partners contributing to the success of these projects. So, how do I define success? It is not just getting the projects done - it is in helping to create local jobs as well. Our partnership with the Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department to implement community wildfire protection projects is one such example, as is the relationship we have developed with the SMART Business Center to bring aboard new employees for job training. Nearly every district project in 2010 employed individuals who came to us through the SMART Business Center’s training programs. On top of that, we found opportunities to team with Fire Storm and keep their Weaverville crew active. Another great example of cooperative partnerships was evidenced at 7 a.m. on October 9 when the Weaverville crew of the California Conservation Corps was on hand to devote the day to helping make the 2010 Salmon Festival a huge success.

This partnership diversity extends to funding as well. The pie charts on page 9 illustrate the wide range of new funding we received. What they don’t depict is the beneficial impact the Federal Stimulus funding had on our local economy in 2010. This funding came to us directly through our partnerships with the USFS and BLM in work begun the previous year. It also arrived through the SMART programs and the Trinity River Restoration Program’s efforts in 2010 and helped put people to work getting needed projects done.

I recently received copies of original documents pertaining to formation of the Trinity Soil Conservation District dating to 1954. I am struck by the fact that even then, the foundation of the District was centered on partnerships and the realization that neighbors have to help neighbors - something I see each day and in every project described in this annual report.

Also In This Issue:

Forest Health - Fuels Reduction.....	2
Watershed Projects	3
Native Habitat	4
Recreation & Trails	5
Administration	6
Education & Outreach.....	7
Information Technologies	8
Projects & Funding	9
TRRP Current Events	10-11

FOREST HEALTH / FUELS REDUCTION

During 2010, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council focused intently on updating the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Led by the District and the Watershed Research and Training Center, the Fire Safe Council conducted more than a dozen meetings in communities throughout the county. Volunteer fire departments hosted these meetings and many residents attended to offer their ideas on project priorities and locations. These community meetings also served as an opportunity to recognize and congratulate the 14 communities that earned their Firewise Community designation. During this time Hyampom and Willow Creek completed their local area CWPPs.

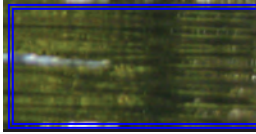


District crews clear brush

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District has always had a strong commitment to planning and implementation, and the past year was no different. Several fuels reduction projects were begun this year around the county. The USFS contributed funds for two important projects. The China Gulch project just north of Weaverville received funding from the Resource Advisory Committee. ARRA (federal stimulus) money is supporting the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project in plantations above Lake Forest Estates in the north lake area. Three community protection projects got underway with funding from the California Fire Safe Council - the North Lake, Mid - Trinity and Southern Trinity projects. The Southern Trinity Community Protection Project is especially notable because of its ability to generate over \$50,000 of wood chips for a biomass plant on the coast. Those revenues will help pay for additional work on the project. That has all been possible because of the strong partnership with the Southern Trinity Volunteer Fire Department and landowners working closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Important milestones were met in the Weaverville Community Forest as well during 2010. The USFS awarded a stewardship contract for the first phase of work on the "Browns" project following significant input from the District and the ad hoc WCF Steering Committee. The District also worked closely with BLM to plan out the next phase of forest health work known as the West Weaver Creek Mining District. Both projects will generate funds to support much-needed additional stewardship work in the Community Forest. For more information about wildfire preparedness and the Trinity County Fire Safe Council, visit www.trcrd.net/fsc.



WATERSHED PROJECTS

The health of the Trinity River and its many tributaries are vital to the quality of life and economic well-being here in Trinity County, just as clean, clear, cold water is critical to the health of salmon and other wildlife. But both the Trinity and its largest tributary, the South Fork Trinity River are listed by the California's Clean Water Act as having impaired water quality due to the amount of fine sediment that moves into them. This sediment obliterates salmon spawning areas, suffocates fish eggs and spoils foraging habitat, hindering their very survival.

As a result, these two rivers and their tributaries are now subject to regulations designed to reduce the amount of fine sediment that reaches them. These regulations address something called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – the amount of sediment carried or suspended in the water – and require such sediment be reduced.

The District completed a four-year program of work in the large and small watersheds of the Trinity River and South Fork Trinity River to help reduce the delivery of sediment. Work was funded by a \$675,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board's Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction Program.

Roads are the single greatest source of controllable sediment in our watersheds. Many unpaved public roads are no longer maintained as they were in the past, for a variety of reasons, and their erosion and runoff pollute the watershed. As such, most of our projects involved road upgrades and road decommissioning. Other sediment reduction projects included revegetation and fuels reduction to prevent catastrophic fire and subsequent erosion.

Bottom line, the goal of this program was to improve watershed conditions by reducing the delivery of fine sediment into streams. The District also monitored project effectiveness, conducted public education and organized a volunteer "Creek Watch" program in the Weaverville area with students and community volunteers conducting stream water quality monitoring. The District also facilitated meetings of the Trinity River Watershed Council.

TMDL reduction projects were implemented primarily on public lands managed by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Bureau of Land Management and would not have been nearly as effective or successful without the dedication and support of the staff of these two agencies, nor without the participation of private landowners. In all, 70 miles of forest roads were treated – either upgraded or decommissioned. The District assisted with treating 996 acres of forestland damaged by wildfire, primarily through revegetation, and conducted fuels reduction work on another 200 acres.

This four – year program is estimated to have kept a minimum of 44,000 cubic yards of sediment from reaching our streams and rivers – an amount equivalent to what 4400 fully-loaded 10-yard dump trucks could carry.

These projects drew considerable attention to the efforts we are all making in Trinity County to protect and restore our watersheds. The grant from SWRCB helped the District obtain significant additional grant funding from other sources to continue our efforts to reduce chronic and catastrophic sediment delivery to the Trinity River and its tributaries.



Chandler Pipe Upgrade-Before



Chandler Pipe Upgrade-After

NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION

2010 was a successful summer for noxious weed eradication. The RCD noxious weed eradication crew with the help of the Trinity River Conservation Camp, Fire Storm, the SMART Center and BLM covered over 100 miles of roadside and hundreds of acres of public and private lands. Target plant species including Scotch Broom, Spanish Broom, Dyer's Woad and Poison Hemlock were removed from Carrville to the base of Scott Mountain, Buckhorn Summit to Salyer, and Lowden field in Lewiston. Funding for this year-long effort came from a variety of sources, including federal stimulus money through BLM, the Trinity County RAC and a cooperative agreement with Western Shasta RCD for the Highway 299 corridor project. Of course none of this would have been possible without the support the District received from the many private landowners, who became our partners in noxious weed eradication.

Noxious weed management is an important part of conservation and restoration. They compete with native plant communities for water, nutrients and habitat. Many non-natives do not provide food or habitat for animals and insects many species, such as scotch broom and non-native grasses, are a fire hazard.



Highway 299 Scotch Broom Removal



Dyer's Woad , Carrville Ponds



Dyer's Woad, Junction City



Poison Hemlock at Lowden Field



RECREATION

The District received \$400,000 in federal economic stimulus funds from the Bureau of Land Management late in 2009 and put that money to work last year on a number of recreation-related projects. The infusion of money from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act enabled the District to hire local contractors and workers to make major improvements to recreational facilities – several along the alluring Trinity River – that will provide long-term enjoyment and benefits for Trinity County residents, tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.



Major renovation of BLM's Steel Bridge Campground was a highlight of this work program. One of the key improvements there included installation of a solar system to provide electricity the host campsite, a new informational kiosk and bathrooms. Other improvements at Steel Bridge included paving the campground road and each campsite's parking pad, plus installation new fire rings, tables and bear boxes. Considerable improvements were made at other BLM sites as well. The Steiner Flat river access and primitive campground was improved with the installation of 540 tons of road base and 8 new fire rings. Bagdad and Bucktail boat launch areas were each paved and the launching ramps were improved with the installation of woven-steel gabion baskets filled with large cobble to improve traction and eliminate erosion. The Junction City Campground road was chip-sealed and four new bear boxes were installed to replace damaged ones. The loop road in the Douglas City campground was repaved. The spillway at Union Hill Pond was fortified and a new launch for small boats was added. In addition, four new information kiosks and six new concrete tables were placed at various BLM recreational sites.

The Weaverville Basin Trail system is an enticing network of recreational trails in and around Weaverville that allows easy access to the wonderful resources of Weaverville Community Forest. The District worked on several Basin trail segments in 2010. Several foot-bridges were constructed from locally-harvested timber and will be installed on the trail system in 2011. Trail maintenance work took place throughout the trail system and included removing brush, installing waterbars to improve drainage, repairing trail tread worn by use and removing obstacles such as fallen trees.

National Trail Day was celebrated when over 20 volunteers joined RCD and USFS staff in early June to kick off the construction of 1.2 miles of the McKenzie Gulch Trail – a new trail designed to bypass the Greasy Loop Trail off of Weaver Bally Road. Construction of this trail continued with help of the Trinity County California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew, Trinity River Conservation Camp and students involved in a service – learning day with the non-profit Environmental Travel Companions from San Francisco.



These trail projects were funded by the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, the US Forest Service and BLM Community Forest Stewardship Agreement. This work continues development and improvement of the Weaverville Basin Trail System and provides more access and recreation opportunities to equestrians, bicycle riders and day hikers. Well-maintained trails are a valuable amenity for residents and provide economic benefit to the rural communities of Trinity County by attracting tourists and outdoor enthusiasts from throughout the region.

ADMINISTRATION

Our Board of Directors is strongly committed to supporting the goals and efforts of our many partners, all of whom recognize that projects which are locally led can yield a multitude of benefits, including cost-effectiveness, timeliness, job creation and economic stimulation.

District Manager Patrick Frost, under the Board's direction, guides activities that provide assistance to landowners and land managers throughout Trinity County. An important element of delivering this assistance is securing the necessary funding. The District's board and our staff work diligently at many levels to obtain and sustain funding to continue to meet the District's mission.

Conservation Fund

The TCRCF Conservation Fund was established in association with the Trinity Trust under the auspices of the Humboldt Area Foundation. The purpose of the TCRCF Fund is to support the mission and ongoing work of the Trinity County RCD. This fund provides you a meaningful way to invest in local efforts to conserve our natural resources and to help promote conservation education. Your tax deductible donations to this fund enable the District to extend its special programs and enhance conservation efforts.

Local & Regional Affiliations

Director Mike Rourke teaches Natural Resources/Environmental Life Sciences and Ag Mechanics at Trinity High School and is advisor for Future Farmers of America. Director Patrick Truman serves on the Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council. Director Lowden is active with Lions Club and Weaverville Basin Trail Committee. Director O'Sullivan took the lead in development of a Community Forest in Weaverville and serves on the Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee. Rose Owens is Executive Director of Roderick Senior Center, is on the Board of the Trinity Public Utilities District, and helps conduct the Trinity County Fair monthly Gymkhana Series. District Manager, Pat Frost continues to serve on the Trinity River Adaptive Management Group (TAMWG) and the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee, and as a Board Member for the Human Response Network. Alex Cousins, Assistant District Manager, is the District's alternate on the TAMWG and is the chairman of the local non-profit, Ascend Wilderness Experience.

TCRCF staff coordinate Trinity County Fire Safe Council, provide programs and maintenance of the Young Family Ranch community trust property, participate in the Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative and the Trinity River Watershed Council.

State & National Affiliations

Board Chair Colleen O'Sullivan serves on the Forestry and Fuels Management Committee of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD). Director Patrick Truman served as CARCD president and now serves as CARCD representative to NACD and was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the North Coast Area of CARCD. Director Greg Lowden served on the California chapter of the Canon Envirothon competition for high school students and was key to the success of the 2010 Canon International Envirothon held in Fresno. Mike Rourke is advisor to Future Farmers of America. District Manager Pat Frost serves on the board of the California Fire Safe Council, the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Board and on the California Statewide Watershed Advisory Committee.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Conservation education continues to be at the forefront of our efforts. In addition to sharing information about conservation with adults and families at events and workshops, we endeavor to serve the youth of Trinity County by providing fun nature learning opportunities and by augmenting school curriculum with natural resource specialists to provide lessons in the classroom and in the field.

The District engaged in a growing range of outreach and education activities during 2010 and succeeded in reaching out to many residents, landowners and visitors to Trinity County. The District's work in 2010 included:

- River Day Environmental Education Fair at Coffee Creek School.
- Partnering with AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project to provide watershed and fisheries based Real Science lessons to K-12 students in Trinity County.
- Free family gardening and nutrition workshops at Young Family Ranch in Weaverville with UC Cooperative Extension.
- Booths at Trinity County Fair, the Children's Festival and the Salmon Festival.
- 12th Annual Environmental Science Camp for Weaverville Elementary School sixth graders at Bar 717 Ranch (Camp Trinity).
- Facilitating Trinity County Fire Safe County and Firewise Communities Program.
- Conducting four week-long sessions of Summer Day Camp and Field Trips Program.
- Informing landowners of available Natural Resources Conservation Services programs and technical assistance.
- Facilitating Trinity River Watershed Council, which prioritizes tributary restoration and conservation projects.
- Hosting conservation information website, www.tcrccd.net.
- Developing and distributing informational pamphlets and brochures.
- Advising landowners on weed eradication and fuels reduction.
- Hosting 12th Annual Salmon & Heritage Fruit Festival in collaboration with Trinity County Chamber of Commerce, Trinity Arts Council and University of California Cooperative Extension.
- Assisting California Envirothon and Canon International Envirothon competitions.
- Organizing community volunteer days for trailbuilding and watershed-related work.
- Facilitating Weaverville Community Forest steering committee meetings.
- Communicating with local, regional, state and federal elected officials and agency personnel about local conservation needs and accomplishments.
- Providing information to Trinity Journal and other media outlets about projects.
- Collaborating with Ascend Wilderness Experience to provide first backpacking trip for participants in Summer Day Camp.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The District's Information Technology (IT) department continued to increase its geographic information system (GIS) support for Trinity County during 2010. A new set of road maps, consisting of ten detail sheets covering the entire county at various scales, was produced for the Trinity County Department of Transportation (DOT). The new set displays every county road that DOT maintains. Each road is labeled with its officially recognized name and identification number, and is displayed by its road system designation as arterial, collector or local. This new set of digital maps updates and supersedes those created for DOT in 1992 by Caltrans. The County saves money and retains flexibility by contracting locally with the District for technical services such as these.

Another interesting project awarded to the District was an assignment to create a series of maps to be displayed in a new tourist information kiosk designed to help guide visitors as they explore Weaverville's Historic District. The kiosk, located adjacent to the Highland Arts Center on Main Street, was funded by a grant from the National Park Service Preserve America program, which promotes heritage tourism. The four sides of the kiosk feature various maps of Trinity County, Weaverville's businesses, historic buildings and key features.

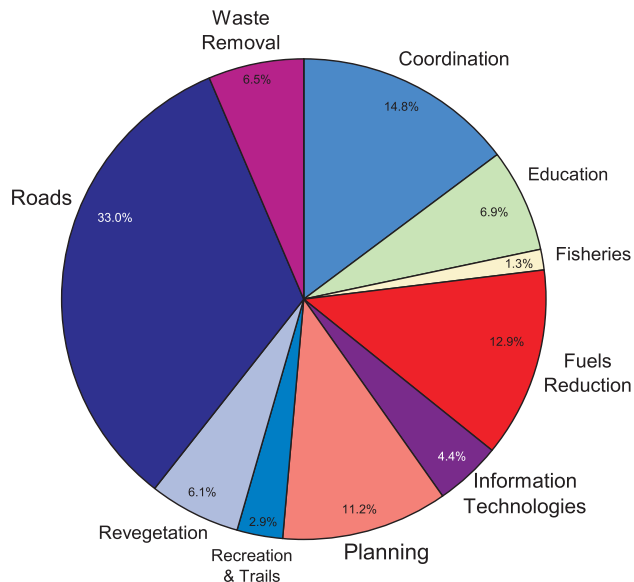
The kiosk was constructed by local craftsmen and the maps were generated by District IT staff using its geographic information system database. The University of California Cooperative Extension assisted in administering the grant funds, which were awarded to Trinity County. The kiosk is a great example of how local contractors and agencies work together to put federal funds to work in our community.

Our IT department was instrumental in helping us expand our facilities to include a new conference room in a neighboring building that required considerable repair and remodeling. Converting it to a conference room posed a number of technical challenges for IT staff, as the existing phone and computer networking systems needed to be extended to the building. An overhead projection system, automated screen, DVD player, stereo audio, two computer workstations and a secure wireless access point for the network were also installed to facilitate meetings and public workshops. These efforts have provided the District, other agencies and the community a very versatile meeting space.

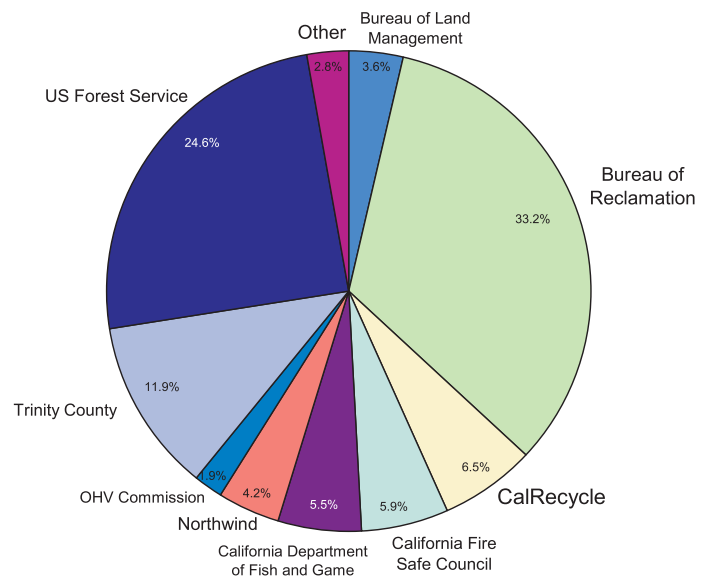


NEW PROJECTS 2010

Projects by Type



Funding Sources



Total: \$1.482 Million



Weaverville Summer Day Camp

**At the Young Family Ranch — 260 Oregon St.
For students entering 1st through 6th grade**

- July 5 through July 8 - 1st Session
- July 11 through July 15 - 2nd Session
- July 18 through July 22 - 3rd Session
- July 25 through July 29 - 4th Session

Nature Exploration and Study Field Trips for 4th-6th Graders

Cost is \$25.00 per week session

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

Contact: Donna or Roslyn

Trinity County RCD ~ 623-6004

Space is limited to 35 children each session



Trinity River Restoration Program 2010 Accomplishments

The Trinity River Restoration Program has made significant progress in implementing work along the mainstem of the Trinity River, with approximately half of all its channel rehabilitation projects completed by year-end. In total, these projects have involved 12 miles of river length and enhanced over 200 acres of land adjacent to the river. More than 60,000 cubic yards of coarse gravel and 1,000 pieces of large woody debris (logs, uprooted trees, willow clumps and rootballs) have been added to enhance the river's geomorphic and ecological functions. All this work enables the riverbed to behave much more as it did prior to construction of the dam that resulted in lower seasonal flows, accumulated sediment and less variation. The purpose is to restore a variety of critical spawning and rearing habitats for salmonids.

In 2010, TRRP's budget of \$16.6 million included \$5.1 million from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for local economic stimulation. The agency funds were put to work on a wide variety of projects to restore the Trinity River and its watershed. Projects and accomplishments included the following:

- Completion of the Lowden Ranch, Reading Creek and Trinity House Gulch sites involving construction of extensive channel rehabilitation in Lewiston and Douglas City;
- Excavation of over 200,000 cubic yards of material and placement of 28,400 cubic yards of coarse sediment along the Trinity River;
- Placement of large woody debris and boulders in the river's mainstem and in its constructed side channels;
- Placement of 3,100 cubic yards of spawning gravel at the Diversion Pool and at the Grass Valley Creek delta sites during spring 2010 high flows;
- Created meanders and braided stream channels that divide and reconnect, emulating a more naturally occurring floodplain and improved fish habitat;
- Constructed six wetlands that created three acres of new habitat; In collaboration with Partners in Amphibian Restoration, the USFS and BLM, the TRRP hosted a wetland construction work shop that drew participants from the western U.S.;
- Developed designs for the next five construction projects: Wheel Gulch, Limekiln Gulch, Lower Steiner Flat, Lorenz Gulch, and Douglas City. TRRP also completed a terrain model of the upper 42 miles of the Trinity River channel and floodplain topography;
- TRRP contracted for extensive environmental mitigation work that included riparian vegetation reestablishment and wetland enhancement. It also awarded grant agreements for five watershed restoration projects intended to prevent or limit sediment delivery to the river and improve fish passages. Other work will identify and prioritize watershed activities that can most effectively improve aquatic habitat conditions;
- TRRP funded four implementation projects and two planning projects to restore the watershed. These ranged from fire rehabilitation to storm-proofing roads. TRRP leveraged its funding to garner an additional \$450,400 from other sources for local watershed restoration projects;

Ongoing projects in 2010 and beyond include extensive monitoring and assessment projects that underscore the complexity and sensitivity of the Trinity River watershed. These range from fish counts (migrating juveniles and adult runs) to fish size surveys, and from pre-construction habitat assessments to post-construction monitoring and analysis. Related activities are numerous and included gauging streams, monitoring sediment transport and refining adaptive management strategies to help restore Trinity River.

TRRP activities are conducted in collaboration with a broad array of agencies and entities. Among these are the Trinity River Watershed Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, California Resources Agency and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District.



Newly constructed forced meander; previously the river traveled in a straight line, now has a significant bend.



Habitat structure in progress

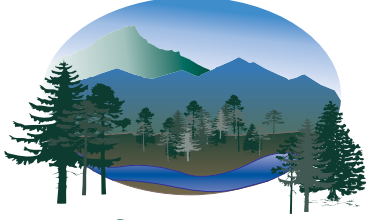


Equipment aids progress



Habitat structure completed

Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Non-Profit Org.
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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@tcrcd.net
Internet: www.tcrcd.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**

This issue of the *Conservation Almanac* is funded in part by grants from the Trinity River Restoration Program, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Young Family Ranch Trust, California Fire Safe Council, Trinity County Title III Fund, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee.