

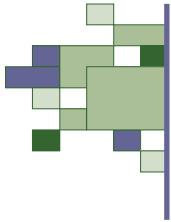
TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Annual Report 2006

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



Our **2006 Annual Report** is a look back at the year we just finished. It is a measure of our successes and, yes, our shortcomings. The Annual Report is a tool we can use to calibrate our plans for 2007 and beyond – adjust the way we do business; shift gears to address unmet needs of our constituents and partners; build on our strengths and improve our ability to deliver conservation to Trinity County.

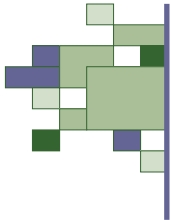
The year 2006 was our 50th anniversary. That is a long time to provide service to landowners and land managers in Trinity County. This milestone made me think not so much about the past, but the future – about what the conservation needs will be for the next 50 years and how we will provide for those needs. This report shows that we have a robust budget and that we accomplished many very important projects large and small. It also shows that we are very vulnerable. We are a special district that relies entirely on grants and agreements for every project – from the summer day camp to our South Fork Trinity River Restoration work. The flow of money is a lot like water in streams – there are good years and bad; there are seasons of abundance and droughts.

The District, if it is going to continue to meet its mission, must look to the future and build sustainable funding, taking some of the risk out of the fiscal drought years. Long range planning is an important tool in achieving sustainability. The Board of Directors adopted an updated Strategic Plan (2006-2011) to guide the District towards sustainability of its programs. One of the goals in the Strategic Plan is to establish an endowment fund for the District – a way in which you can support the District’s programs that have helped you and your community.

Resource management planning is another tool. The District completed two important resource plans in 2006. The *Upper Trinity Watershed Management and Action Plan*, funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, was a collaborative effort between the District, natural resources managers and the general public interested in the natural resources in the area above Trinity Dam. The *Weaverville Community Forest Strategic Plan* was developed from community meetings and field trips and it sets out goals, objectives and specific actions envisioned to provide sound stewardship of the Forest’s resources for the next 10 years.

This annual report is also filled with highlights of many of the projects the District worked on in 2006. Behind each and every one of these accomplishments are many talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. I want to thank each of them for the skills and energy they bring to the office, the field and many meetings. This report is a tribute to all of them.

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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 2006, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council continues to work with the Volunteer Fire Departments to develop ingress/egress plans for fire safety. It also has begun to work with Trinity County on Fire Safe elements of the Trinity County General Plan.

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 continued to obtain funding for a wide variety of fuels reduction projects during 2006 to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. New projects this year include the Down River Communities Fuel Reduction Project which is designed to create 44 acres of roadside buffers near Slayer and Hawkins Bar, another project is to create a total of 83 more acres of shaded fuel breaks on Oregon Street and the Odd Fellows Camp regional fuel breaks, defensible space, shaded fuel breaks along roads, thinning and chipping on both public and private lands.

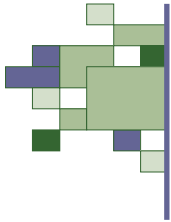
Weaverville Community Forest

The purpose of the Weaverville Community Forest is to invest the community with a sense of ownership and responsibility for land stewardship in the Weaverville basin. Through Stewardship Contracting, a new federal tool, the Bureau of Land Management and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District have built a partnership to manage 984 acres of federal land as a community forest, through a 10-year stewardship agreement. The District developed a Strategic Plan describing vision and goals.

High visual quality rose to the top of the list of goals along with the shared vision of a forest that would be managed in a way that improves its fire safety and forest health, provides recreational and educational opportunities and produces merchantable timber to sustain the management of the Community Forest.

The reality of the Community Forest vision has been underscored with the sale and delivery of power line hazard trees to Trinity River Mill, putting the first money in the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship account. These funds, held by BLM, will be used by the District to implement other elements of the community forest plan – trails that link the Forest to the basin-wide trail system, erosion control projects that improve fisheries habitat in West Weaver Creek and noxious weed control.

The Weaverville Community Forest is getting attention far beyond Trinity County. Assemblymember Patty Berg cosponsored the nomination of the Weaverville Community Forest for the 2006 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards. In her letter she stated, "Community participation has been the cornerstone of this grassroots project. Its success so far is due to the strong and long-standing landowner-to-landowner relationship between the TCRCD and the wider community."



WATERSHED REHABILITATION

South Fork Trinity River Watershed

In 2006 the RCD completed its tenth year of implementing road restoration projects in the South Fork of the Trinity River Watershed. This year 37,422 cubic yards of road fill was excavated from 49 stream crossings along 10.38 miles of Forest Service roads in the

through the installation of larger culverts that can withstand 100-year storms. To date, over 190 miles of roads have been treated with 76 stream crossings upgraded, 239 stream crossings excavated and over 166,261 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 \$4.4 million has been spent on restoration work in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed.



Smoky, Hyampom, and Hidden Valley compartments. Road crossings over creeks if not maintained or adequately sized pose a high risk to anadromous fisheries in the South Fork.

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 lowered threat to fisheries and are no longer needed for forest management. Therefore, they are completely removed and are not intended to be reopened.



During

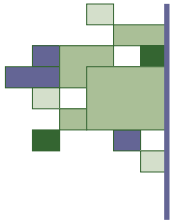
The RCD has been implementing road-related, sediment reduction projects in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed since 1997, including road upgrades. Upgrading roads reduces the potential for soil to reach the streams and keeps the roads drivable by redesigning the drainage of the road, especially

The District will be back in the South Fork Trinity River Watershed in 2007 with funding amounting to over \$1.4 million from the State Water Resources Control Board's Consolidated Grants Program, the United State Forest Service, the Off Highway Vehicle Commission, EPA's Targeted Watershed Program, California Department of Fish and Game and Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee.

Swift Creek IS01.01 crossing removal



After



WATERSHED REHABILITATION

Valdor Road Critical Dip Installation

A plugged culvert caused serious erosion in December 2005, during heavy rainfall and high runoff that magnified the flow of Wheel Gulch, a small tributary to the Trinity River just west of Junction City. The blocked drainage caused the stream to divert out of its natural channel and flow down the road, causing considerable damage.



The Bureau of Land Management, which manages the affected area, contacted District to repair the road this year and make changes intended to eliminate the potential for this kind of failure in the future. The District's crew first addressed the main cause of this road failure, the stopped-up culvert that had been plugged for many years. Next they added a flared end to the culvert to increase its flow capacity and reduce plugging potential. Most importantly, the team constructed a Critical Dip in the road over the culvert. This important step ensures that, if the culvert

ever plugs again, Wheel Gulch stream flow will follow its natural channel and not run down along the roadway. To finish the project and make the road passable, the District filled in the huge, gaping hole in the road and along its edge with approximately 400 cubic yards of local and imported material, protected with large rock.



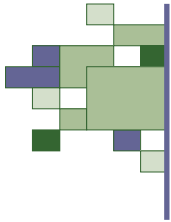
Wetland Restoration

Weaver Basin Wetlands at the Trinity Alps Industrial Park has something to offer many kinds of visitors, depending on the season. The wetland, owned by Trinity County, was constructed in 2004 and continues to be worked on either to remove invasive weed species or to continue to plant native plants. During 2006, a wood bridge was placed at the wetland for future access to the Weaverville Basin Trail System.



This is a great place for educational field trips, as a local Brownie Troop learned during the year.





REVEGETATION

Hocker Flat Restoration Site



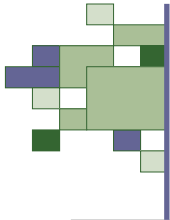
During 2006, the District worked with the Trinity River Restoration Program on revegetating the Hocker Flat restoration site near Junction City, the first of 47 channel rehabilitation sites designed to create a more diverse river to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Following construction activities and the winter storms, Hocker Flat was ready for revegetation. The District worked closely with the TRRP on Revegetation concepts and grew plants from seeds and cuttings in preparation for planting at Hocker Flat. The goal of revegetating the rehabilitation sites is to introduce a diverse mixture of native riparian (streamside) plants to the outer edges of the constructed floodplains to provide food and shelter for juvenile salmonids and wildlife. In contrast, much of the today's Trinity River is confined by riparian berms formed by encroachment of white alder, Himalayan blackberry (non-native and invasive), and narrowleaf willow. Riparian species planted at Hocker Flat include black cottonwood, arroyo willow, red willow, shiny willow, Oregon ash, and white alder. Upland areas, where the excavated materials were deposited, were

planted with a variety of native, drought tolerant trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers, with the goal of minimizing aesthetic impacts and to discourage colonization by noxious and invasive species.

One of the most challenging aspects of revegetating Hocker Flat was actually putting the riparian plants into the ground, which is comprised of sand and silt with cobbles up to 2-feet in diameter. The planting plan called for placing over 3,000 cottonwood and willow "pole" cuttings at least 4 feet deep into the groundwater table. To do so with conventional methods (e.g. backhoe or by hand) would have taken several weeks and been cost prohibitive. That's where the "Stinger" came in. The Stinger is an excavator attachment used specifically for planting in difficult areas, and was developed for planting willows in riprapped banks. In just 4 days, the District and the stinger planted over 3 acres of riparian vegetation, putting in over 500 plants per day.





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 wells. The District continued to participate in 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 2006, the District, in partnership with the Watershed Research & Training Center, worked on the clean up of a total of 46 illegal dumpsites with funding from three grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for their Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement Program totaling nearly \$180,000.



Cleanup of Illegal Dumpsite in Trinity County

RECREATION AND TRAILS



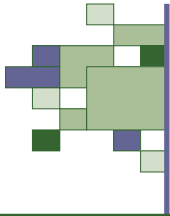
A variety of recreation and trails projects were undertaken by the District during 2006. Wilderness Trail Clearing-Phase II was completed with nearly 100 miles of trail cleared for the USFS. Phase III was approved for an additional 100 miles to be addressed during 2007. Other projects worked on during the year included improvements to 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.



Wilderness Trail Clearing-South Fork Coffee Creek



Historical Mining Tailings along West Weaver Creek



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 teachers' curriculum in the classroom or in the field. 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 2006 included:

- California and National Envirothon, a resource management competition for high school students
- Weaverville Elementary School Environmental Education Camp at Bar 717
- CARCD Speech Contest—Trinity High School sophomore Katie Tenneson won the statewide award
- Expanded educational programs to high school students including monitoring efforts
- Tours of Watershed Restoration Projects for Humboldt State University Students
- Participation in, and facilitation of, 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
- Facilitate the Trinity River Watershed Council
- Developed and distributed informational brochures
- Articles in the *Trinity Journal* about RCD projects
- Political advocacy—letters to state and federal legislators, and others urging them to act on behalf of RCD programs and policies



Katie Tenneson wins CARCD Speech Contest

Summer Day Camp

During the summer of 2006, the District held a summer Day Camp for children K-5th grade over a period of 5 weeks. 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 journaling, community garden, nutrition, games, arts & crafts, and swimming.



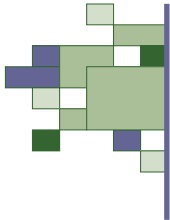
Teaching Campers how to identify a healthy stream

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.



Practicing using binoculars for bird watching

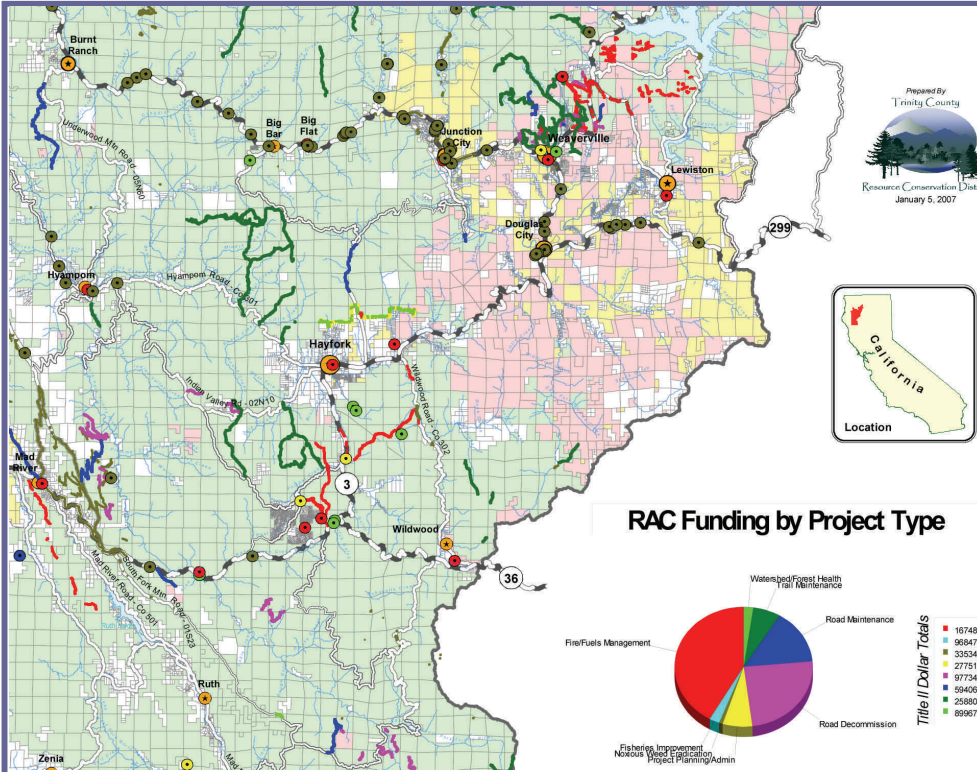


GIS SERVICES

In 2006, some of the endeavors that District GIS work supported include the Downriver Fire and Fuel Management Plan, the Upper Trinity River Sediment Source Analysis, the Upper Trinity River Watershed Management Plan, various South Fork Trinity River Watershed Restoration projects, the Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship project, several Dumpsite Cleanup projects, the Trinity County Watershed Coordinator project, and the District's many Fuels Reduction projects. Another GIS-specific grant the District received in 2006 involved creation of a spatial data layer for the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that integrated features from numerous organizations representing all the RAC funded projects in Trinity County from 2002-2006.

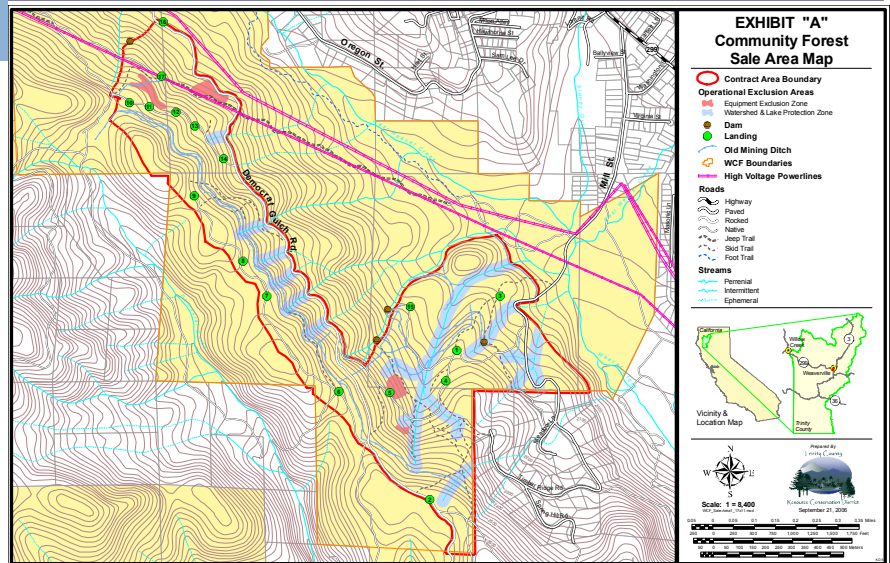
Trinity County RAC Funded Projects

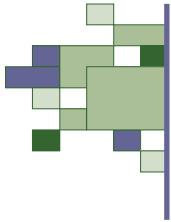
Building a GIS of all the RAC funded projects in Trinity County required contacting all the agencies and organizations that had completed projects for the RAC in Fiscal Years 2002 through 2006, collecting any available digital data they might have, digitizing undocumented features, merging and attributing all the data, and producing hardcopy maps and data CDs for distribution.



Weaverville Community Forest

Strategic planning and project implementation in the WCF began in earnest during 2006, and GIS support was needed to facilitate and document those efforts. The District provided most of the GIS services required by consultants Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson, and Associates for such tasks as laying out permanent plot locations, mapping historically significant features in the Forest, and layouts for Phase I of a fuels management project that includes a 200 acre selective timber sale. Additionally, an area to the north of the current Forest and the town of Weaverville was mapped that encompasses approximately 5,500 acres of US Forest Service lands that are being considered for an expansion of the WCF.





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 works with the **Weaverville Basin Trail Committee**. Director O'Sullivan took the lead in 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 Past-President of the **Weaverville Rotary** and as a **Board Member** for the **Human Response Network**.

State, Regional and National Affiliations



Trinity County Resource Conservation District received state and national recognition this year with three awards from different organizations honoring our collaboration with community members and other agencies. The Natural

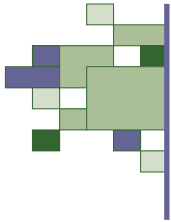
Resources Conservation Service honored TCRCDD for outstanding leadership in cooperative conservation in Trinity County. State Conservationist "Ed" Burton presented the award to Board Directors Greg Lowden, Colleen O'Sullivan, and Patrick Truman at the annual California Association of Resource Conservation District (CARCD) conference. Additionally, that state association bestowed its 2006 Conservation Star award on TCRCDD and re-elected **Patrick Truman** President. The National Association of Conservation Districts gave its 2006 Regional Collaborative Conservation Award to TCRCDD to spotlight leadership and funding efforts in management of forestlands and fuel reduction in northern California.



Board Directors (left to right): Greg Lowden, Rose Owens, Mike Rourke, Colleen O'Sullivan, Patrick Truman

Board Director **Colleen O'Sullivan** serves as the north coast area chair to the CARCD.

Mike Rourke completed his second year as chairman of the TCRCDD Board of Directors and in December the Board elected Colleen O'Sullivan as the chair for 2007.



FINANCIAL

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Statement of Revenues & Expenditures
for the Period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

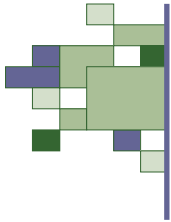
Revenue

Grant & Contract Revenue	\$ 1,377,016
Services Revenue	33,927
Timber Revenue	28,062
Dues/Sales/Interest Revenue	9,292
Total Revenue	1,448,298

Expenses

Wages	\$ 574,944
Fringe Benefits	134,892
Board Expense	16,813
Dues & Subscriptions	7,270
Field Materials Expense	99,148
Field Subcontracting Expense	435,771
Insurance/Licenses & Fees	17,336
Office Supplies/Commun/Publish	43,210
Professional Fees/Accounting	184,459
Public Education/Staff Training	5,503
Rent & Utilities	25,324
Travel Expense	3,293
Timber Expense	34,920
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance	33,093
Total Expenses	\$ 1,615,975
	\$ (167,677)

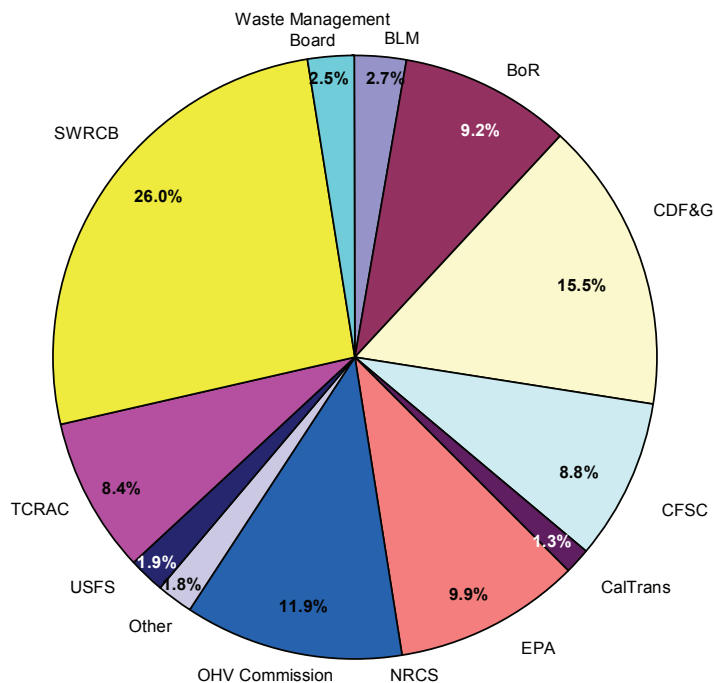


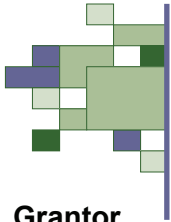


NEW PROJECTS LIST 2006

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bureau of Land Management	Weaverville Community Forest	\$ 10,000
	Storm Proofing BLM Roads	59,800
Bureau of Reclamation	Trinity River Restoration Program Educ. & Outreach	23,100
	Prep, I&M, Bridge & Restoration Sites	135,000
	Dark Gulch	30,000
	Trinity County Watershed Coordinator	50,000
US Forest Service	Sims Fire Decommission	20,000
	Salyer/Hawkins Bar Fuels Reduction	29,057
Resource Advisory Committee	Native Seed Bank	4,300
	Trinity Alps Trail Clearing	15,700
	Hidden Valley Road Decommissioning	190,000
	GIS Database	7,500
Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Watershed-South Fork Trinity River	255,139
Natural Resources Conservation Service	GIS Services	7,500
RC&D Council	Timber Bridge	14,000

Funding Sources 2006

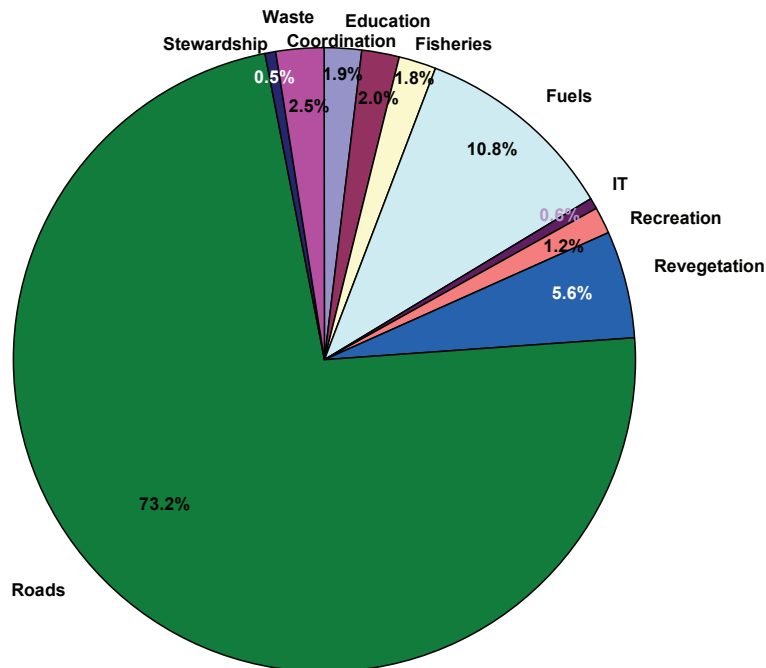




NEW PROJECTS LIST 2006

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
California Fire Safe Council	Down River Community Fuel Reduction	\$ 55,000
	Poker Bar Fuel Reduction	53,775
	Oregon St & GVC Watershed Shaded Fuel Break	95,000
	Fire Safe Council Education & Outreach	24,955
California Depart of Fish & Game	Hidden Valley Decommission	320,866
	Smoky Creek Hydroclosure	65,494
	Grass Valley Creek Gravel Supplement	15,193
CalTrans	Rocky Point Mitigation	4,999
	Weaver Basin Wetlands Maintenance, Fuels	27,747
California Health Collaborative	Summer Camp	4,480
OHV Commission	Smoky Creek Road Decommission	309,000
Trinity County	Weaverville Community Forest Stewardship	2,750
Private	Fuels Reduction	18,200
State Water Resources Control Board	Trinity River Watershed TMDL Implementation	675,000
Waste Management Board	Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup III	64,949

Projects by Type 2006



**Total:
\$2.588
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

Colleen O'Sullivan, *Chairman*

Rose Owens, *Vice-Chairman*

Mike Rourke , *Director*

Greg Lowden , *Director*

Patrick Truman, *Director*

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

1 Horseshoe Square
Post Office Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

(530) 623-6004
www.tcrcd.net