



2012 Grant Assistance for Trinity Riverfront Landowners



The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) is again accepting applications for its Trinity River Potable Water and Sewage Disposal System Assistance Program. So far, this program has provided \$1.14 million to help 122 Trinity River landowners prepare for increased river flows.

What Is the Assistance Program? It allows landowners within a specific geographic area (see below) to receive financial assistance to improve their potable water and/or sewage disposal systems as needed due to implementation of fishery restoration flows associated with the TRRP. These flows, required by the 2000 Record of Decision, are more similar to the natural flow ranges experienced in the Trinity River prior to dam construction.

What Projects Are Eligible? The Assistance Program will

provide financial assistance to relocate, replace, upgrade, modify or otherwise improve private potable water and sewage disposal systems that have been or may be impacted by fishery restoration flows.

Which Property Owners Qualify? This program is limited to systems within the Trinity River floodplain between River Mile 111.8 (downstream of Lewiston Dam) and River Mile 72.6 (upstream of the confluence with the North Fork Trinity River).

How Much Funding Is Available? Landowners who are determined eligible and qualified, and who comply with all legal requirements of the Assistance Program, will be reimbursed a maximum of \$10,000 per each improved parcel for potable water systems and \$5,000 per each improved parcel for sewage disposal systems. Applicants may receive financial assistance only one time per system for capital improvements and it is not intended to cover routine maintenance.

What Are Examples of Projects that DO NOT Qualify? The Assistance Program does not apply to irrigation systems, fire suppression systems, non-potable water systems or to unimproved parcels of land.

How Does A Landowner Apply? It is administered by the TRRP office on a first-come, first-served basis, as annual funding becomes available; a waiting list will be compiled. Applicants must obtain and fill out an application form available at the TRRP office or at www.trrp.net. Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified in writing as to their eligibility to participate in the program. Applicants must comply with all local, state and federal permitting requirements for the work to be completed.

How Do I Find Out More Information? Information on the Assistance Program can be obtained from the TRRP office on Main Street next to Top's Supermarket or by calling (530) 623-1800.

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2011 Fall Family Fun at the Young Family Ranch

Three family-centered events held at the Young Family Ranch brought community members together for new experiences in the home, garden and forest.



A Day of Garlic held in November gave participants of all ages the opportunity to learn about growing garlic, to taste garlic ice cream, craft ceramic garlic roasters and share their garlic knowledge with their neighbors and friends.

Ceramic garlic roasting pots in progress.

On November 19 Making the Perfect Apple Pie workshop drew a full crowd to the Young Family Ranch, all eager to learn new skills. Both the filling and the crust were prepared from scratch, with all of the apples harvested from YFR trees.

Making pie crust is a very serious job!



Future chefs learning to prep fresh apples for the filling.



Pie making turned into a true team effort.

Pies packed with apples are the best.



Ready for baking.



Training the scope on a distant raptor.



Walking and watching in the Weaverville Community Forest.

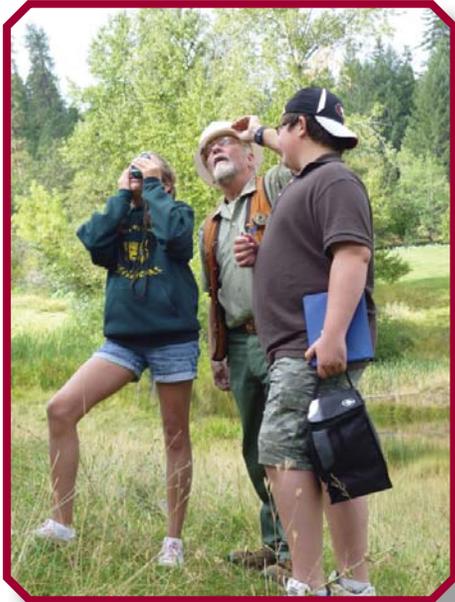


Bird watchers braving the morning chill at the Young Family Ranch.

Birds were the focus of the workshop held on December 10, with morning session attendees learning about bird-watching and checking out the varieties that inhabit the ranch property. In the afternoon the group moved to the West Weaver Creek Trailhead.

2011 Environmental Camp





2011 Salmon Festival







Growing Concern about Noxious Weeds in South Fork Trinity River Watershed

What are Noxious Weeds?

A noxious weed is any plant that can spread rapidly, is not native to an area, and poses a significant threat to the local ecology or local economic activities. Noxious weeds overwhelm, out-compete and displace native plants. Native wildlife depends on native plants for food. When any native plant is squeezed out of a setting, it triggers a domino effect, causing a serious decline in the creatures dependent on that plant. The repercussions move up the food chain, putting survival pressure on other species. For farmers and ranchers, noxious weeds displace native grasses, destroy healthy pastureland and affect the vigor and value of planted crops.

There are a couple of noxious weeds doing their best to become established in the South Fork Trinity River watershed. They are Spotted Knapweed and Scotch Broom and by learning about them you may be able to identify and help eradicate them before they become too well entrenched. [You live in the South Fork Trinity River watershed if the waters of streams near you ultimately flow into that river.]

Why Should We Worry About Noxious Weeds?

Scotch broom, spotted knapweed and other non-native invasive plant species have invaded millions of acres in North America. Spotted knapweed seeds may have come to Trinity County on bulldozers brought to fight wildfires. Scotch broom is likely spread by automobiles. Weed seeds can be spread in an infinite number of ways and these plant invasions increase fire risk, decrease feed for wildlife and alter sensitive ecological processes. Once weed populations explode, cost of control can become astronomical and the chance of success greatly reduced.

Where are Current Infestations in the South Fork Trinity River Basin?

Spotted knapweed is an aggressive weed species that quickly invades pasture, rangeland and fallow land and causes a serious decline in native forage plants and crops. These plants each produce 1000 or more seeds that remain viable in the soil five or more years. This means infestations may re-occur long after weeds have been “eliminated” from an area. Spotted knapweed can damage the digestive tract of livestock if consumed and it also releases a toxin into the soil that suppresses the growth of nearby forage plants. Additionally, knapweed is a known carcinogen and should be handled with gloves. Areas heavily infested with knapweed often must be reseeded once the plant is controlled (Lym 1992).

Spotted knapweed has appeared along Wildwood Road, the Wild-Mad Road, numerous sites on South Fork Mountain and at Lovers Leap and Wintun Flat near Hyampom. In each case, efforts have been made to eradicate it, but degrees of success depend on timing. Where infestations were caught early, the weeds have been almost eradicated. Maintenance involves regular sweeps for sprouting weeds. In places where infestations are well-established, intense, sustained efforts are needed to gain control. Federal lands have had funding to eradicate these weeds. Private lands as in Hyampom Valley are becoming strongholds for spotted knapweed. If allowed to spread, infestations will become widespread and insurmountable - similar to the yellow starthistle invasion.

Scotch broom has appeared throughout Trinity County and near Hyampom in the South Fork. The best strategy is to pull it out by the roots before it can produce any seeds.

Volunteer

A group of concerned residents in the Hyampom area has teamed up to control noxious weeds before they spread further. This volunteer group will begin removing Scotch broom in Hyampom Valley this winter and spotted knapweed during summer of 2012. They will be pulling the plants, rather than using herbicides, as many Trinity County residents and county policy frown on the use of chemicals to control weeds. TCRCD will lend its “weed wrench” tools for this project. Weed wrenches provide the necessary leverage needed to remove deep-rooted weeds. TCRCD loans weed wrenches to the public at no charge, for limited periods of time. Please call the TCRCD at 623-6004 for more information on borrowing weed removal tools.

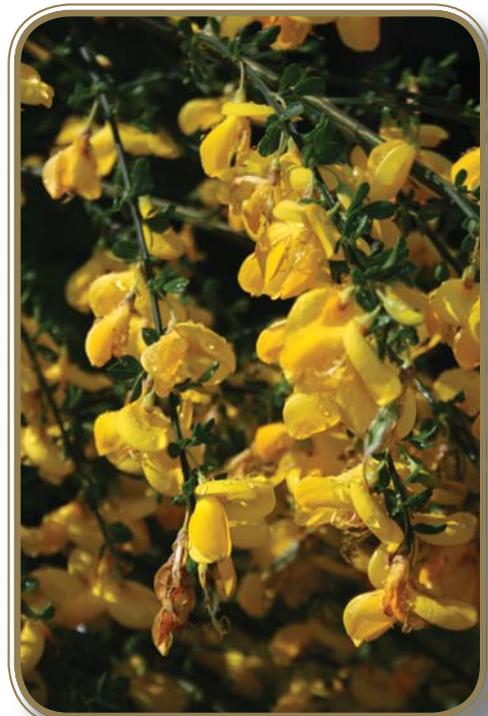
Please call the Watershed Center at 628-4206 if you would like to volunteer to help with weed removal efforts. It is a great community-building effort and can be fun with a large group working together.

What You Can Do:

- Learn what these weeds look like and help control them
- Avoid driving or hiking through weed infestations
- Report noxious weed sites to Trinity County Agricultural Commissioner’s office: 530-623-1356 or mlockhart@trinitycounty.org
- Join weed clean-up activities. Contact the following organizations if you would like to join ongoing weed removal efforts or start a new effort. They offer detailed information on identification and control of noxious weeds:
 - » Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - 623-3991
 - » Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) - 623-6004
 - » Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) - 628-4206
 - » Trinity County Weed Management Cooperative (TCWMC) - 623-1356



Spotted knapweed, left, and Scotch broom, below, are both invasive weeds in Trinity County. Scotch broom grows 6-10 feet tall and its seeds remain viable up to 50 years in the soil, making this plant hard to eliminate.



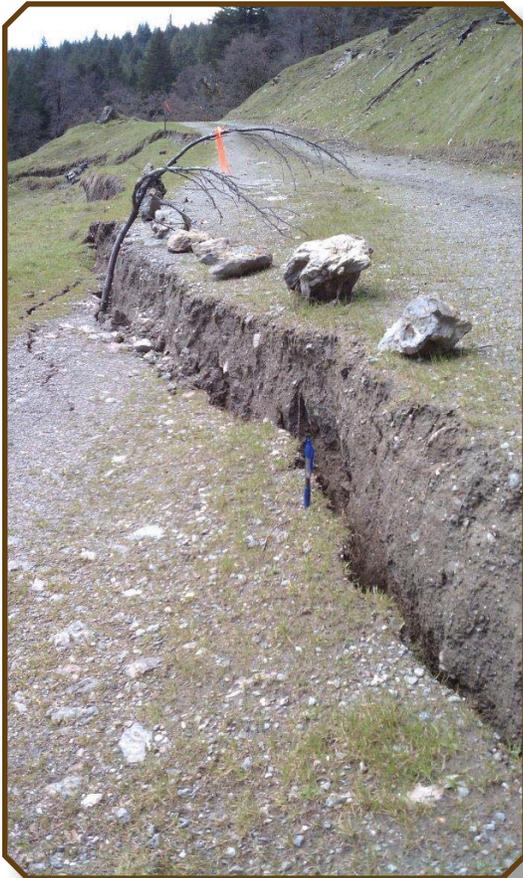
To learn more, visit us at www.tcrd.net for helpful links to great online weed identification guides. We're on Facebook as *Trinity County RCD.*



District Helps Landowners with Slide Repair and Road Upgrades In South Fork Trinity River Watershed

Several private landowners in the South Fork Trinity River watershed suffered serious storm-related erosion to their roads last spring caused by heavy rains. Damage ranged from deep-cut gullies to slipping hillsides. If left untreated, these damaged roads would have contributed huge amounts of sediment to fish-bearing streams running into the beautiful South Fork Trinity. Landowners contacted TCRCO Project Coordinator Cynthia Tarwater about the problems. She quickly confirmed that an existing grant the District obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board could be used to repair and upgrade the roads. The purpose of the grant is to help meet federal Clean Water Act requirements to reduce sediment pollution to streams and rivers.

Tarwater obtained necessary permits, purchased materials, and hired local equipment operators to resolve the problems. As a result, three projects totaling 4.85 miles of road upgrade on private lands were done during autumn 2011. One project, to install a culvert where a perennial stream crossed a roadway, first required construction of a diversion system to move water around the project (bottom photo).



Poor road drainage led to slippage



Upgrading roadway



Temporary stream diversion for culvert installation

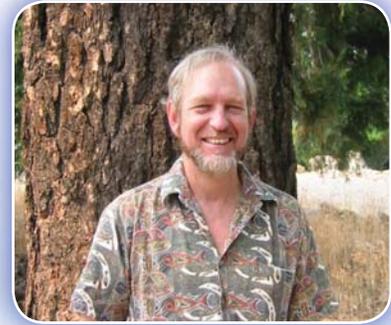
District Manager's Corner

I have been working at the District for 13 years and have been writing these essays every three months. I have tried to cover a variety of topics and issues, usually attempting to highlight what I find most interesting in each issue's articles. What strikes me in this issue is a subtle theme I call the three legs of the conservation stool.

If you go back through the history of conservation districts, not just ours and not only in California, you will find a very strong partnership that has existed from the beginning. The partners are conservation districts, university cooperative extensions and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency within the US Department of Agriculture.

And if I think back to 1999, when I first started at the Trinity County RCD, one of the highlights of that year was a series of farm and ranch management planning workshops we held in Hayfork with the three agencies working closely together. Some of the faces have changed and the types of projects change with the changing times, but these three partners continue to work closely together to provide educational and technical assistance to landowners.

The photo essays in this issue of the Conservation Almanac bear this out. Three of our key projects every year – Summer Day Camp, Environmental Education Camp, and Young Family Ranch programs are supported by those three legs of the stool – University of California Cooperative Extension, NRCS and the District.



Pat Frost

Interesting Tidbits

- The Trinity County Resource Conservation District was originally called the **Trinity County Soil Conservation District**.
- The District was formed through an election on March 5, 1957 and certified by a resolution of The Board of Supervisors on March 19, 1957.
- The District's name was changed to the **Trinity County Soil & Water Conservation District** by the Board of Supervisors on August 26, 1966. The name was changed to **Resource Conservation District** in 1971.
- The **Soil Conservation Service (SCS)** was created by Congress in 1935.
- The SCS became the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** in 1994
- UC Cooperative Extension is a cooperative venture between the University of California and the County of Trinity to deliver such varied programs as Farm Advisors, 4-H, Master Gardeners and Nutrition Education.

Make a tax deductible donation today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____ Amount: \$ _____

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

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



Trinity County



Resource Conservation District

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

Established 1956

District Board Meetings

Third Wednesday
5:30 PM
Open to the Public

TCRCD Office

Number One
Horseshoe Lane
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Telephone

(530) 623-6004
FAX 623-6006

E-mail: info@tcrd.net

Internet: www.tcrd.net

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a special district set up under state law to carry out conservation work and education. It is a not-for-profit, self-governing district whose board of directors volunteer their time.

The TCRCD Vision

TCRCD envisions a balance between utilization and conservation of our natural resources. Through economic diversity and ecosystem management our communities will achieve and sustain a quality environment and healthy economy.

The TCRCD Mission

To assist people in protecting, managing, conserving and restoring the natural resources of Trinity County through information, education, technical assistance and project implementation programs.

**TCRCD Board of Directors are
Mike Rourke, Rose Owens, Patrick Truman,
Colleen O'Sullivan, and Greg Lowden.**

The RCD is landowners assisting landowners with conservation work. The RCD can guide the private landowner in dealings with state and federal agencies. The RCD provides information on the following topics:

- **Forest Land Productivity**
- **Watershed Improvement**
- **Water Supply and Storage**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Erosion/Sediment Control**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
- **Soil and Plant Types**
- **Fuels Reduction**

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, Bureau of Land Management, and the Trinity County Title III Fund.

