January 2010

RCD
SHASTA VALLEY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Special points of interest:

- Board of Directors
- Yreka Creek Projects
- Planning for Financial Needs
- Capacity Building
- Scholarship Recipients

CONTENTS:

Distinguished Service Award 2009

The Shasta Valley RCD received the 2009 Distinguished Service award from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts at their 65th state convention in Squaw Valley. Selection criteria for the 2009 award included consideration of the engagement of local stakeholders, District projects, leadership and meeting the breadth of resource needs of the District. California's 103 Resource Conservation Districts span the state, offering a broad range of resource conservation services, such as assistance to producers, watershed management, restoration projects, as well as education and outreach.

From Left; Pat Quist, CARCD President, James Patterson, NRCS District Conservationist, Yreka CA. Adriane Garayalde, SVRCD District Administrator and Tacy Currey, CARCD Executive Director.

Visit www.carcd.org to find out more about Resource Conservation Districts.

Watershed-Wide Permitting Program Update

The California Fish & Game Commission approved the Coho Recovery Strategy in 2004. Since that time the Shasta Valley RCD has been working with the Department of Fish and Game to develop an Incidental Take Permit (ITP)) for all water right diverters. It is the ITP that has become the basis of a watershed-wide permitting program. If a water right diverter does not wish to participate in the program, they will be required to obtain an individual ITP. The long process of program development has involved an application by the RCD to obtain an ITP that would cover the entire Shasta River watershed. Under a watershed-wide program the mitigation responsibility would be completed by the RCD, which removes the mitigation requirement from the water right diverters who choose to participate in the program. Minimization and avoidance measures are still the water diverter's responsibility.

The watershed-wide program would also include 1600 agreements (Streambed Alteration Agreement) for water diversions, as well as projects that would be undertaken as part of the program.

After the application was made by the RCD, DFG pursued an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which has since been completed. At this time there has been a lawsuit filed challenging the adequacy of the EIR and we are awaiting a decision by the court.

The RCD has several concerns regarding the EIR and the permit itself. The main concerns involve potential conflicts of interest, potential litigations against the RCD, future ramifications of non-compliance with the mitigation requirements outlined in the permit, potential actions against water right diverters who cannot implement the requirements of the program, and funding the program. Much time has been spent in reviewing documents and obtaining legal counsel through County Counsel and the private firm, Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard.

The RCD was established to assist agricultural operators with conservation needs. This remains the highest priority of the RCD and the district will continue to work towards this goal. However, the goal of regulatory requirements is also to work for conservation and protection of the environment, including listed species. Balancing needs impacts agricultural operators, and is the reason the RCD is involved with trying to develop a program that can work for all. The RCD has spent the last few years identifying the needs for managing a watershed-wide program. See Building RCD's Capacity on page 5 for more program development news.

2008-2009 Board Chairman, Richard Kuck

Richard Kuck was sworn in as a Shasta Valley RCD Board member in December 2006. Richard is a 4th generation rancher of Siskiyou County and is a partner and operator of the Kuck Hereford Ranch. Richard attended Yreka High School and earned an Associates degree at College of the Siskiyous in 1973. He worked for Occidental Chemical Company from 1974 to 1977 as a field rep selling fertilizer and chemicals, then returned to work on the family ranch in 1978. Richard has served on the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Board as Director and Past President. He has also been involved with the Montague 4-H Club for the past 14 years as leader and also serves as a Director on the Junior Livestock Auction Committee and Past Chairman for the past 10 years. His family's involvement with conservation goes back several years, doing restoration along their Shasta River property with the RCD.

2008-2009 Board Vice Chairman, Kerry Mauro

Kerry Mauro has been involved with the Shasta Valley RCD since the fall of 2003. His background is in electronic design and development. He has lived in Siskiyou County since 1973. He is the current president of the Mount Shasta Area Audubon Society and is a member of the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). He is also on the board of directors for the Shasta Ranch Road Association.

Director of the Board, Bill Hirt

William H. Hirt has been a Board Director since March 2005 after having been involved with the organization for a little over a year. He has lived in Siskiyou County since August 1991, when he joined the faculty at College of the Siskiyous as the geology instructor. He learned about the RCD's work through conversations with another of its board members, and hopes to be able to draw upon his professional background to assist the district in addressing some of the geological and hydrological questions it deals with.

Director of the Board, Don Meamber

Don Meamber became a Board member for the Shasta Valley RCD in March of 2004. After graduating from UC Davis, he worked for three years as a sales rep. for John Deere Co. Don and his wife Sheila returned in 1968 to the family cattle ranch, which once included half the town of Montague until the later 1800's. He first became involved in conservation in 1976, signing a 40-year lease with the City of Montague to use its wastewater to irrigate pasture, rather than discharging into the stream. In 1993 the CRMP Coordinator, Dave Webb, got Don involved with restoring his stretch of the Shasta River, which led to fencing, planting trees, a fish screen, four tail water recovery projects, etc. These efforts were followed by being honored with recognition awards from the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force in 1996 and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2007 for his restoration accomplishments on his portion of the Shasta River and the Oregon Slough. Over the years, Don has hosted numerous public and educational group tours of the River, including two UC Cooperative Extension "Cattle Tours" in 1994 and 2000 and the NCRWQCB 2007 bus tour of the watershed.

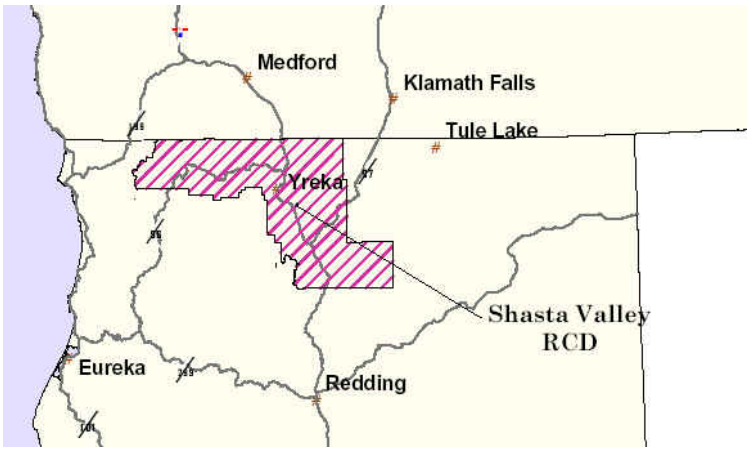
Director of the Board, Rick Lemos

Rick Lemos became a board member for the Shasta Valley RCD in March 2009. Rick is a 5th generation Siskiyou County Cattle Rancher. He has worked for several irrigation districts in Siskiyou County including, Grenada Irrigation District and is currently serving on the Shasta Water Association Board. Rick also served on the SOSS board for 2 years.

Our Mission

The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District's mission is to enhance the conservation and economic stability of natural resources by coordinating and supporting landowner activities, both public and private, and by providing information, education, and project implementation to residents within all watersheds in the district boundaries.

RCD Jurisdiction



The Shasta Valley RCD service area includes the Klamath watershed and all its minor tributaries from the California State line near Keno to below Happy Camp, the entire portion of the Applegate River in California, the lower end of the Scott River, the entire Shasta watershed, and the Siskiyou County portions of the Sacramento watershed, McCloud watershed and Fall River watershed.

2008-2009 Employees

RCD

Adriane Garayalde	District Administrator
Brenda Nystrom	Finance Manager
Karen Mallory	Monitoring Specialist
Dave Webb	Senior Proj/CRMP Coordinator
Amy Campbell	Project Coordinator
Timothy Beck	Project Coordinator
Steve Hill	Planning Specialist
Andrew Braugh	ITP Coordinator

Rotary Trap / Coho Studies

Andrea Collins	Seth Daniels
Andrew Wentz	Annie Horton
Stephen Stenhouse	Jack Herr
Brad Klosner	Denton Lopez
Kristen Kirkby	Luciano Chiaramonte
Don Rehberg Jr.	Joelle Adams
Michelle Jeffers	Noah Ellis
Byron Littleton	Christopher Adams
Heather Langendorf	Whitney Crombie

Bill Chesney, Supervisor

Live Box being installed by the Dept. of Fish and Game RST Crew on the Shasta River in February 2010.

North Trail Floodplain Restoration

Lisa Unkefer, with Aqua Terra, performing an Uplands Assessment.

Yreka Creek Enhancement Project

The Shasta Valley RCD has been managing several projects on Yreka Creek. In 2007 the Resource Advisory Committee funded the Yreka Creek Uplands Assessment, which documented baseline upland conditions, and the Aquatic Resource Needs Assessment, which developed fisheries resource needs. The recommendations from these reports will be combined with the City of Yreka's Ecological Stormwater Assessment into an Implementation Plan to be completed in February 2010. This plan prioritizes potential projects for the restoration and enhancement of Yreka Creek to be implemented as funding is secured.

The Shasta Valley RCD is also managing a project on Yreka Creek for the City of Yreka. The Yreka Creek North Trail Project involves floodplain restoration, habitat enhancement, and trail development along Deer Creek Way. Funded largely by the state River Parkways Program, debris removal, site grading, and replanting of native species will take place on nearly six acres. In addition, a trail network, footbridges, picnic areas, and a parking lot will be constructed to create a natural streamside park. This project is slated for construction in 2010.

Small Dams Removed from Shasta River to Improve Water Quality Conditions for Salmon!

Hayes & Sons, finishing the pipeline on the Fiock Ranch in Fall of 2009.

Shasta Water Association Dam prior to removal (in winter). Photo by Jennifer Silveira USFWS

The Shasta River drains 795,000 square miles in Siskiyou County, California and flows into the Klamath River near the Oregon border. The Shasta River has long been recognized as the single most important spawning tributary for salmon in the Klamath Basin. Poor water quality conditions include elevated stream temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels. Salmon need cool, clean, oxygenated water in order to thrive.

The Shasta River is listed as impaired on the 303 (d) list of the Federal Clean Water Act due to elevated stream temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels. The Shasta River TMDL was adopted by the USEPA and became State law on January 26, 2007. The TMDL contains an Action Plan with the following requirements designed to reduce water temperatures and increase dissolved oxygen levels:

- Remove five minor impoundments or dams on the Shasta River.
- Protect streams from cattle grazing to increase shade and riparian vegetation.
- Reduce tail-water return flows that introduce warm nutrient rich water from pastureland.
- Reduce sediment, nutrients and other oxygen consuming materials from cities/towns, roads, etc.
- Increase dedicated cold water to the Shasta River.
- Address poor water quality conditions in Lake Shastina.

Since October 2007, all five of the dams were removed from the river. Now that removed, water quality conditions are being seen and are improving in hopes that salmon will once again be able to more freely migrate up the river to spawn and reproduce.

Thanks to the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, the cooperation of local ranchers and grant funding from several agencies, including the State Water Resource Control Board, Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, five small dams were removed from the Shasta River to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead trout.

Building RCD's Capacity for the Watershed-Wide Programmatic Incidental Take Permit

The Shasta Valley RCD, in coordination with the Siskiyou RCD, the Department of Fish and Game DFG), Natural Resource Conservation Service, Siskiyou County (through IRWMP planning) and Fish and Wildlife Service has worked for the past 3-4 years to develop an implementation process for the watershed-wide permitting program for incidental take of coho salmon. This included the completion of various analyses to determine the best approach. Several requirements were identified for the use of Capacity Building funds provided by the aforementioned agencies – the major focus being on the development of an Operations Manual [as required under DFG funding], staff development, the application process for potential sub-permittees, and monitoring requirements. This article provides some detail about the process and results.

What is Capacity Building?

The concept of capacity building in nonprofits is similar to the concept of organizational development, organizational effectiveness and/or organizational performance management in for-profits. Capacity building efforts can include a broad range of approaches, eg, granting operating funds, granting management development funds, providing training and development sessions, providing coaching, supporting collaboration with other organizations, etc.

The Watershed-wide Permitting Program has become an added responsibility for the RCD within the Shasta River Watershed. Because of the requirements/responsibilities documented within the permit, a resource for capacity building became the highest priority for the RCD during the permit's pre-implementation period. While it is difficult to establish the exact amount of time and resources it will take to administer a watershed-wide permit prior to knowing the number of landowners who will participate, general management practices still apply. The RCD needs to ensure that plans are developed, staffing is adequate and trained, and cost estimates are based on real experiences.

Capacity Building Team

The RCD's received funding for capacity building through State and Federal grant sources. To ensure the Program is ready for implementation, a 'capacity building team' was created to assist the RCD as well as provide transparency and accountability. The 'team' consists of one representative from each funding agency, one or two representatives from CDFG, at least one RCD Board member from each RCD, and the Program Coordinators assigned to the capacity building project by each RCD.

Roles:

CA Department of Fish and Game

- Provide guidance and input on content of Operations Manual including planning documents and process development.
- Funding agency representatives
- Provide input for the process of building capacity and ensure tasks are completed in accordance with grant contracts.

RCD Board member

- Provide input and are the 'decision makers' for any procedure, policy or program content that directly affects the RCD.

RCD's Program Coordinator

- Completes the bulk of the work to define and complete capacity building needs, including the development of a workplan.
- Completes all draft products for review by the team.
- Completes bi-monthly progress reports.
- Maintains records of all components of the workplan and Operations Manual.

Personnel Assessment and Requirements

Personnel assessments were developed to determine the number of hours the RCD would require to perform the tasks associated with the Watershed-wide Permitting Program as well as determine if hiring additional or more qualified personnel is needed. The following steps were done to make these determinations:

- Identified tasks required for completion
- Performed a job analysis to ensure qualified individuals could be brought on board.
- Developed job description and qualification documents for each position.
- Evaluated if existing staff are qualified and/or have hours available to perform the required tasks.
- Pursued additional staff where needed (note: some required staff will be obtained once the program is implemented and not before).

Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team—SSRT

A requirement of the Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team (SSRT) is to submit an annual progress report to the Fish and Game Commission. The purpose of the report is to show the Commission the accomplishments achieved in the Shasta and Scott River Watersheds since the inception of the California Coho Recovery Plan's Shasta and Scott Pilot Program. Each accomplishment is linked to a recovery recommendation in the Pilot Program. The data below is information submitted to the Commission in 2009 to show the accomplishments of the Shasta Valley RCD since the approval of the Pilot Program in June 2004.

Category of Pilot Project Recommendations	Amount Funded	Riparian Fencing (ft)	Fish Passage / Usable Stream Opened (mi)	Fish Screens (count)	Riparian Planting (ac)	Instream Structures Installed (count)	Stockwater Stream Access Improvements (count)	Stockwater Systems Installed (count)	Studies (count)	Other Projects - Planning and Coordination(count)
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$34,375.00	4,500								
Measures to Improve Water Quality	$63,034.00								1	1
Educating the public	$331,286.00									6
Measures to Improve Water Quality Instream Flow Studies Irrigation Water Conservation Measures	$20,103.00								1	
Measures to Improve Water Quality Investigating the Klamath- Shasta Diversion Instream Flow Studies Irrigation Water Conservation Measures	$8,238.00								1	
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$29,202.00			6						
Irrigation Water Conservation Measures	$132,695.12									4
Investigating the Klamath- Shasta Diversion	$43,375.00								1	
Identify and Address Fish Barriers	$26,000.00		14							
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$167,251.00	17,000					5			
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$84,492.81	3,500						1		
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$68,634.81	3,000					3			
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$94,884.00			1						
Coho Surveys and Assessments	$81,309.00								2	
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$21,175.00	2,100								

Shasta and Scott Coho Recovery Team—SSRT continued

Category of Pilot Project Recommen-dations	Amount Funded	Riparian Fencing (ft)	Fish Passage / Usable Stream Opened (mi)	Fish Screens (count)	Riparian Planting (ac)	Instream Structures Installed (count)	Stockwater Stream Access Improvements (count)	Stockwater Systems Installed (count)	Studies (count)	Other Projects - Planning and Coordination(count)
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$18,229.00								1	
Identify and Address Fish Barriers Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$2,846,802.00		10	1	1					
Identify and Address Fish Barriers Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$54,000.00		1	1						
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$23,963.00			1						
Measures to Improve Water Quality	$735,490.00								1	
Outreach and Exchange Information	$4,800.00									1
Conduct LFA and Instream and Riparian Habitat	$61,375.00								1	
Outreach and Exchange Information	$11,750.00									1
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions Identify and Address Fish Barriers	$4,539,638.00		11	1						
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$76,436.00		8	2						
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$38,587.00			1						
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$52,565.00			1						
Map, Screen and Maintain Screens of Diversions	$88,864.00			6						
Outreach and Exchange Information Educating the public	$140,667.00									6
TOTALS	**$9,899,220.74**	**30,100**	**44**	**21**	**1**	**0**	**8**	**1**	**9**	**19**

Note: The data provided are the accomplishments of the Shasta Valley RCD only and does not reflect other projects completed by individuals, organization and/or agencies outside of the scope of the RCD.

2008-2009 Grant Management

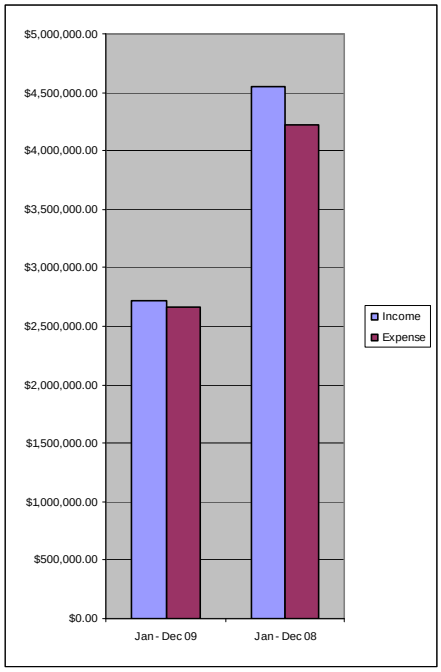
Contract Source	Contract/Job Name	Contract Amt.
FWS	Aquatic Habitat Needs Study Plan	18,229.00
CDFG	Arajuo Dam - 308	981,915.00
PSMFC	Araujo Dam - KRA-4	252,502.00
NFWF	Araujo Dam Fish	253,200.00
Prop 50	Araujo Dam Restoration	878,274.00
FWS	Aruja Dam - FWS G027	32,597.00
FWS	Aruja Dam - J038	50,000.00
NRCS-WHIP	Aruja Dam - NRCS	378,987.00
CDFG	Beck Livestock Exclusion Fence	21,175.00
FWS	Burton Fish Passage	54,000.00
BOR	Coho Habitat and Migration Study	170,000.00
BOR	Coho Habitat and Migration Study	97,500.00
CDFG	Cold Creek Screening and Passage	65,077.00
USFWS	Cold Creek Screening and Passage	25,000.00
FWS	Cottonwood Creek Fence	35,200.00
BOR	Cottonwood Creek Fence II	34,110.00
FWS	CRMP Coordinator 2008	15,000.00
FWS	CRMP Coordinator 2009	15,000.00
CDFG	CRMP Coordinator 319	137,280.00
USFWS	CRMP Coordinator FWS 2007	20,000.00
CDFG	Edson-Foulke - Cantara	101,985.00
CDFG	Edson-Foulke Fish Screen	94,884.00
CDFG	Fiock Fish Screen	76,807.00
BOR	Fish Screen Assistance	38,060.00
CDFG	Greco Fish Screen	23,963.00
USFWS	Greco Fish Screen FWS	40,000.00
PSMFC	Grenada Irrig. Dist. Fish Passage	17,039.00
USFWS	Grenada Irrigation Dist. Fish Passage	51,000.00
DWR	Groundwater Management	50,000.00
BOR	Groundwater-BOR	15,000.00
USFS	Hotlum Fire	20,000.00
NRCS	Irrigation Water Management 2007	4,000.00
Sonoma	ITP Development II	11,875.00
FWS	ITP Assistance - J042	44,500.00
NRCS	ITP Assistance - NRCS-2	17,828.00
DFG	ITP Assistance—Siskiyou RCD	26,733.60
Prop50	ITP Assistance/Planning	26,712.00
Sonoma	ITP Development- Legal Bills ONLY	35,625.00
Sis. RCD	ITP Implementation Database	9,893.00
CDFG	Klamath River Otolith	14,870.00
PSMFC	Klamath River Otolith	10,868.00
BOR	Klamath River Restoration Program	78,609.00
CDFG	Little Shasta - Cowley Fish Screen	67,697.00
CDFG	Little Shasta Fish Screen -Soule	38,587.00
CDFG	Micke Fish Screen	52,565.00
CDFG	Monitoring of Restoration Projects	61,375.00
FWS	Montague-Grenada Road Weir	28,347.00
FWS	Nelson Ranch Riparian Planting	21,000.00
SVRCD	Other Donations	5,000.00
FWS	Parks Creek (SWA)	26,000.00
CDFG	Parks Creek Fish Screen	35,664.00
FWS	Parks Creek Fish Screen	48,390.00
CDFG	Root Riparian Fence	49,602.00
CDFG	Rotary Trap 2007	170,424.00
CDFG	Rotary Trap 2008	174,465.14
PSMFC	Rotary Trap 2009 Disaster Relief	195,997.00
CDFG	Rotary Trap 2010	186,972.00
CDFG	Seiad Creek Fish Screen and Passage	76,436.00
FWS	Shasta River Exclusion Fencing (FIOCK)	44,000.00
BOR	Shasta River Exclusion Fencing (FIOCK)	20,042.00
PSMFC	Shasta River Spawning Gravel Plan	14,000.00
PSMFC	Shasta River Water Tailwater Reduction	16,357.00
CDFG	Shasta Water Assoc - DFG307	1,356,460.83
USFWS	Shasta Water Assoc - FWS J022	54,183.00
FWS	Shasta Water Assoc - FWS J029	44,000.00
FWS	Shasta Water Assoc - FWS W002	66,000.00
Prop50	Shasta Water Assoc. Dam Restoration	1,926,350.00
NOAA	Shasta Water Association	240,000.00
USFWS	Shasta Water Association-J051	130,000.00
SWRCB	Shasta Water Association-SWRCB	635,000.24
CDFG	SRWA Project Augmentation	18,295.00
PSMFC	SRWA Tailwater Capture and Reuse– I	14,186.00
NCRC	SSRT Reporting & Database Entry	4,760.00
SWRCB	Tailwater Reduction SWRCB	735,490.00
SWRCB	TMDL Implentation	4,999.00
SWRCB	TMDL Support 2009	25,000.00
River Exng	Upper Sacramento Watershed Assessment	23,000.00
NFWF	Water Trust Capacity Building	20,470.00
Private Donor	Water Trust Planning	24,000.00
RAC	Yreka Creek-Aquatic/Uplands Assessment	154,000.00
NFWF	Yreka Creek Habitat Enhancement	75,000.00
City of Yreka	Yreka Creek Lidar	8,000.00
City of Yreka	Yreka Crk Acquisition and Development	86,411.60
City of Yreka	Yreka Crk Stormwater	13,875.00
	Total	***$11,337,698.40***

Financial Report

Statement of Accrued A/R and A/P

January through December

	Jan - Dec 09	Jan - Dec 08
Income		
Federal Grants-542700	450,876.36	1,169,765.59
Grazing Leases-540811	13,450.10	21,164.70
Miscellaneous Income-560200	79,544.46	6,906.61
Other Grants-540810	16,114.89	41,546.95
State Grants-540800	2,148,477.44	3,301,918.58
Tree Sale-540817	3,990.00	4,746.50
Total Income	2,712,453.25	4,546,048.93
Expense		
Contract Labor	2,156,410.03	3,139,350.45
Grazing Expenses-540811	5,345.44	9,818.27
Loan Interest	4,059.13	3,213.46
Operations-728000	27,987.61	46,089.78
Personnel	390,076.72	473,471.93
Project Expenses	78,365.81	543,253.98
Non-Grant Admin Costs	1,629.67	551.74
Total Expense	2,663,874.41	4,215,749.61



* Personnel includes Fisheries Technicians and Coho Trapping Employees*

Administrative Funds Only
Statement of Accrued A/R and A/P

January through December

	Jan - Dec 09	Jan - Dec 08
Income		
Federal Grants-542700	11,719.40	32,993.55
Grazing Leases-540811	0.00	10,582.35
Miscellaneous Income-560200	11,339.41	6,378.20
Other Grants-540810	203.65	466.30
State Grants-540800	93,226.01	151,145.61
Total Income	116,488.47	201,566.01
Expense		
Contract Labor	11,450.40	8,900.04
Loans	4,059.13	3,213.46
Operations-728000	15,445.46	20,615.74
Personnel	89,704.89	42,997.75
Project Expenses	58.16	5,024.89
Total Expense	120,718.04	80,751.88

Tailwater

The Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District is implementing a project aimed at improving water quality in the Shasta River through reduction of irrigation return flows, Tailwater. The project involves identifying alternative individual Tailwater projects within the Shasta Valley, screening and evaluating those projects, and selecting top ranked projects for implementation. Funding has been provided under a grant from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Eliminating Tailwater discharges to the Shasta River can be approached in two basic ways, reduction of Tailwater produced from irrigated fields, and reuse of Tailwater either on the field from which it originates, or on other fields. Tailwater reduction involves better managing the water delivery and application. The basic elements of a successful Tailwater reduction program within the Shasta River Water Association would be as follows:

- Eliminating or modifying the rotational distribution of water so that water delivery better matches crop requirements.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation of the Association distribution system to enable more precise, flexible delivery of water without increasing system spillage, including providing sufficient operations staff, and
- Identifying improved on-farm irrigation practices that are compatible with small scale, part time farming and creating incentives and financial means for water users to adopt them.

Dam Removal– Piping for Landowners- Bob Manley Interview

Bob Manley, who owns the land the Araujo Dam was built on, said that "Ranchers got what they wanted and the wildlife got the best thing."

- *How has the project you personally?* The project has given us a much higher level of control of irrigation water on the ranch. By having the control, it has saved us time and has also met my personal needs of not seeing resources wasted.
- *How has it impacted your property?* In terms of property; in the pasture area, it has helped dry out the boggy areas which made for stronger, healthier pasture. There was a small area out by the dam area that was lower and sub irrigated, so that has dried out and helped the land.
- *Describe your experience working with the RCD?* At a personal level, the individual people representing the RCD I worked with, I have nothing but the highest regard for, couldn't have enough positive things to say about the people. Overall organizationally, I feel there were some discrepancies between the reality of completing the project and the "selling of the project" at the beginning. I feel that it is part of the reality of dealing with projects and budgeting in general and agencies. Everyone had the best interest of the goals set forth by the RCD. The people were great!
- *Describe your experience with the other agencies?* In general I felt that I could understand the point of view by all agencies. As long as there is the perception that Fish and Game is perceived as a law enforcement agency, that will increase peoples' hesitancy to work with them when they are trying to do the right thing. This is strongly related to the Incidental Take Permit.
- *In your opinion, did the construction phase of the project run smoothly?* I would say that the project was separated into 3 parts. Construction of Pipeline on the West side of the river, went VERY smoothly, first phase. Construction on East side, not nearly as organized, quick, or direct, and the 3rd phase. Dam Removal and Pump station, seemed to be done very meticulously with a very high sense of organization.
- *What is your personal opinion of the effect of dam removal on the river?* I think that being positive, what I have seen in the river is a re-appearance of gravel sites in the fall, below the dam, that I had not seen before and that we are seeing greater numbers of spawning fish on these gravel bars. Overall, the project has given us such a larger sense over the control of water. As far as seeing it from fish side and ranch management side; I would say both are positive.
- *Would you recommend this type of project for other water diverters?* I would recommend it; considerations that I would ask for would be: More of a cut-dry level of expectations. If someone says there is monies to accomplish certain things, it should be there. Also I feel there needs to be a larger level of understanding between Fish & Game, all agencies and the landowners. What are the goals that we are ALL working for and what are the steps to accomplish them? All Tailwater is bad? We have to have minimum flows? The only place minimum flows come from is Tailwater? These were statements made at meetings!! Tailwater and the ITP; which is deemed good/bad? Setting a stage for some real hostility down the road. Not for us, we are not depending on it. Our ranch is not my primary livelihood. I have the position to look at it from a Natural Resource point of view. But I feel like I have a lot of latitude that many other landowners do not have when it comes to how the other landowners feel. I share their frustration and paranoia. Landowners are feeling like they are in a neglected position. There needs to be a single point of view that people can live with!

Program, continued from Page 5

Positions Needed and Estimated Hours

The RCD identified four (4) positions necessary for carrying out the various aspects of watershed-wide permitting; Project Manager, Planning Specialist, Monitoring Specialist, and Field Coordinator. Using a cost analysis, the RCD determined the estimated number of hours and funding needed each year for personnel. The estimate included tasks required for completion by the year indicated in the permit and the estimated time and rate it would require to complete each task.

Implementation Design

Approach and Workplan Development

The ITP is an exclusive and highly complex document that has turned goals and objectives of the CDFG Commission approved Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon into several deliverables, with numerous tasks to be completed according to an aggressive schedule. Many of these deliverables are best implemented by first creating a process that addresses key elements in management. In order to prepare the RCD for the management of a watershed-wide program, a workplan was developed. The workplan consists of 6 focused areas: Agency Coordination; Education; Personnel Development; Process Development; Planning; Permit Fee Structure.

Sub-permittee Fee Schedule

Under a Watershed-Wide Permitting Program (Program), each RCD is responsible to perform tasks under three functional areas; general administration, monitoring and reporting. The RCD is preparing a cost estimate for carrying out tasks required under these three functional areas. Agricultural operators who choose to participate in the program and obtain a sub-permit will be responsible to cover the cost of these functions using a fee schedule.

Through a grant contract with CDFG, the RCD's obtained the assistance of an economic consulting firm to help determine the best methodology for calculating a fee that is fair and economical for agricultural operators. The consultant is also charged with designing and providing a tool that can be used each year to re-calculate the annual fee amount based on that year's statistics.

Economic Analysis

The consulting firm, Economic Planning Systems (EPSYS), worked with RCD staff to gather program information, landscape factors, permitting requirements and agricultural operator concerns. EPSYS then developed a technical memo that provided three alternatives for calculating fees, these were listed as:

- Fixed cost across all sub-permittees where fees would be exact for each sub-permittee.
- Variable costs across all sub-permittees where fees would be dependent on the responsibilities of the sub-permittee.
- A mix of fixed and variable costs.

The RCD reviewed each alternative and developed specific criteria and definitions to be used in the methodology as it will apply to the RCD (i.e. Shasta Valley's use of multiple Irrigation Districts, Water User Associations and the like).

Administrative/Application Process

Multiple steps have been described for the process by which an agricultural operator ("applicant") may submit an *Application for an Incidental Take Sub-permit and a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement* (Application) to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) through the Watershed-wide Permitting Program. To begin the application process the applicant will complete an *Interest to Participate Form* (Interest Form). Completing the Interest Form (or the Application) does not commit any applicant to participate in either Program. The applicant will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the process prior to signing a Sub-permit or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600) issued by DFG pursuant to either Program.

Monitoring

Monitoring allows stakeholders to measure the effectiveness of projects through time and under a range of changing environmental conditions such as flooding or drought, channel shifts and erosion, beaver activity, or the effects of animal grazing. In addition, monitoring helps identify maintenance and project repair needs, and can provide information on ways to improve and refine management/restoration techniques. Monitoring can also be used to evaluate watershed restoration strategy— not limited to a single project, to learn from mistakes and adapt future restoration projects to the lessons learned.

Monitoring is designed and conducted to provide data useful to understand why techniques and practices work, and, equally important, why some fail. Thus modifications to a restoration project, and future projects in the same watershed, are informed by data analysis, rather than trial and error.

For more information about the Program, contact Drew Braugh, SVRCD Program Coordinator at (530)842.6121 ext. 106.

215 Executive Court, Suite A
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Phone: 530-842-6121 x:106

RCD
SHASTA VALLEY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

We're on the Web!

www.svrcd.org

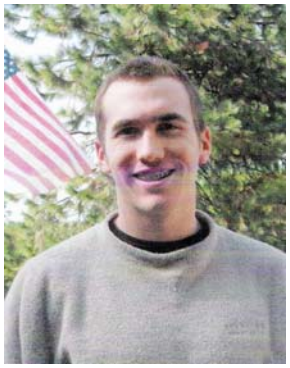
Also find us at Facebook.com

Scholarships

Our 2008 scholarship recipients are Kristy Bussard of Yreka, CA., Ashley Parry of Etna, CA. Our 2009 scholarship recipients are Anders Dombrowski of Mt.Shasta, CA., and Taylor Pehl-Munson of Etna, CA.

Kristy Bussard

Kristy planned on attending Oregon State University in the fall of 2008 to pursue an education in Zoology. Kristy has a passion for animals and wants to work with them in her future.



Anders Dombrowski

Ashley Parry

Ashley attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and was accepted into the program of Agricultural Systems Management, a program that incorporates field work, Ag engineering, and Ag business.

Anders plans on attending College of the Siskiyous in Weed to pursue his general education degree and follow on to U.C. Davis to pursue a degree in Forestry.

Taylor Pehl-Munson

Taylor plans to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and also achieve his bachelors degree in Agriculture Systems Management, specializing in irrigation systems.