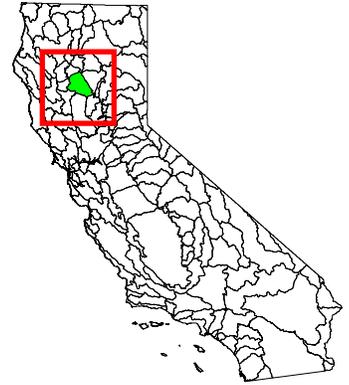


Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Sacramento-Lower Thomas Watershed



Amount Funded: \$57,110

Match Provided: \$14,361

Additional Funding Obtained: \$618,971

Watershed Coordinator: Nani Teves

Watershed Goal: To improve upper watershed and riparian health, water quality and water quantity within the Tehama County RCD.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assisting the Tehama County RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed health through information exchange and enhanced education and outreach activities.

- Surveyed in staff gauges on Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek with a NRCS engineer. Collected and analyzed one sample on Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek.
- Recruited 20 volunteers to collect rain data for the Citizens Monitoring Project.
- Attended the Watershed Coordinator Forum at the CARCD Annual Meeting.
- Submitted grant proposals to the DOC and CALFED.



Watershed Coordinator and NRCS crew survey Red Bank Creek

Performance Measure: Mailing list for stakeholder meetings increased by 50 landowners and completion of project design for one greenhouse project.

- Added 74 new landowners to the mailing list.
- Organized a greenhouse project with Reeds Creek School and facilitated four activities including math in the greenhouse, replanting, a greenhouse experiment, and a wrap-up activity.
- Assisted the SLEWS project with mentoring Corning High School students in a riparian restoration project.
- Coordinated one benthic macroinvertebrate sampling day with Shasta College (Professor Morgan Hannaford). Thirteen Red Bluff High School and Shasta College students participated in the event.
- Planned a vernal pool monitoring program. Conducted four field trips to identify appropriate monitoring timing, meeting with the landowner, evaluating species present and potential monitoring techniques with the Nature Conservancy and NRCS, and fixing the location of the pool using GPS.

- Conducted RDM Field Monitoring on Coyote Creek Conservation Area in order to develop a grazing management plan for the 02-03 grazing period.
- Facilitated six stakeholder meetings and attended an additional 31 local meetings.

Objective 2: Improve strategies for long-term planning and management of resources within the watershed.

- Photographed housing development sites on agriculture land for the Watershed Assessment.
- Documented references collected for the Watershed Assessment in one document.
- Updated the TCRC website with current activities.

Performance Measure: Active website and documented summary of past and present Westside watershed resources and conditions.

- Created the TCRC website and updated it every two months.
- Developed an extensive checklist of information to be included in the Watershed Assessment.
- Gathered 42 applications for inclusion in the Watershed Assessment.
- Completed a table of concerns and current watershed activities gathered through a 300 - person survey and watershed group surveys.
- Five areas of special concern photographed and entered into a photo library.
- Created a biomass feasibility study.

Objective 3: Provide assistance for an irrigation mobile laboratory.

- This objective was adapted with the hiring and training of an Irrigation Mobile Lab Project Manager and field technician. Task 3.2 was changed from 30 evaluations to 21 evaluations, and tasks 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 were replaced with tasks 1.0, 1.3a, 1.9, and 1.10.
- Technician is currently working independently and is leading the mobile lab program.
- Assisted Irrigation Mobile Lab with harvesting walnuts at the UC Cooperative Extension experimental site.

Performance Measure: Successful completion of 21 irrigation evaluations and seasonal reports to agencies and landowners stating results of Mobile Lab activities including benefits to the watershed.

- Assisted with 20 irrigation evaluations, approximating 1200 acres of orchard land evaluated.
- Participated in a walnut harvest on four UC Cooperative Extension research plots.

Objective 4: Work directly with CSU Chico to implement removal of *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix* as well as replace native vegetation in some riparian areas on Reeds and Red Bank Creeks.

- Met with CSU Chico and Tehama County Department of Agriculture to analyze aerial photos for changes at restoration sites occurring over time.
- Met with CSU Chico partners to review landowner agreements.

Performance Measure: Landowner agreements in place for removal of approximately 35 acres of invasive plant species and monitoring forms completed for eradication sites.

- 77 written agreements signed and verbal permission given for eradication at all sites targeted for treatment this season.
- Over 20 acres of *Arundo* was treated on Red Bank Creek and all the Tamarisk was treated on Reeds Creek.
- Over 200 landowners adjacent to Red Bank Creek were sent a Red Bank Creek Management Strategy for comments, agreement forms, and distribution of educational materials.
- Organized one stakeholder meeting with Matt Kondolf and Bitterroot Restoration to discuss creek characteristics and revegetation potential.
- Coordinated seven team meetings and two field days.
- Monitored treatment effectiveness on Brickyard Creek, a tributary of Reeds Creek.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Status</u>
Watershed Coordinator to improve upper watershed and riparian health	\$132,196 requested from the Dept. of Conservation	Grant awarded
Watershed management program for western Tehama County	\$460,775 requested from CALFED	Approved for funding pending corrections

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Increased outreach and coordination efforts by participating in local watershed meetings and activities.
- Completed a biomass feasibility study on the west side of Tehama County.
- Expanded the district’s service area into southern Tehama County.
- Established baseline water quality conditions of Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek.
- Brought landowners and government agencies together in partnerships for conservation.

Ulatis Resource Conservation District
(Name changed to Solano RCD)
Lower Sacramento River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$69,190
Match Provided: \$18,913
Additional Funding Obtained: \$597,972
Watershed Coordinator: Kathleen Robins

Watershed Goal A: Promote Community-based Watershed Stewardship in Solano County.

Watershed Goal B: Promote Cooperation and Information Sharing between Solano County Stakeholder Groups, Local Agency Personnel, Environmental Groups and Other Watershed Interests.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective A-1: Foster development, coordination and funding of local stewardship groups for Solano County creeks.

- After three years of watershed coordination funding, Solano RCD is a leader and partner in County-wide watershed activity. Solano RCD is a participant in everyday watershed activity in the county, providing facilitation, group development and grant proposal writing expertise where needed. The district works both at the county level and at the small watershed level, though its county level work has brought the most durable results and partnerships.



The Solano RCD Conservation Education Center's Watershed Friendly demo garden

Performance Measure: Three functioning local stewardship groups (each with at least 20 stakeholders); written work priority list of four projects for each group; monitoring protocol in hands of stakeholders; three grant proposals written to support work of each group.

- Helped to develop or coordinate five stewardship groups: Sweeney Creek, Pleasants Creek, Horse Creek, Ledgewood Creek, and Lake Berryessa Watershed Group. Each of these groups has 25 or more regular participants and strong agency support.

Objective A-2: Seek agency partnerships and funding to develop a “Welcome to the Watershed” stewardship orientation and training program for rural landowners.

Performance Measure: Eleven signed MOUs with stakeholder agencies and organizations in Solano County to support project; project description and workplan in hands of stakeholders; two grant proposals written to support and extend project.

- This objective was not fully met due to the current funding climate. The Welcome to the Watershed program was envisioned to be a comprehensive program with many layers and parts. While enthusiasm for the concept has been virtually universal, large-scale commitment to fund it has been almost completely absent.
- Three separate grant proposals were submitted in an attempt to fund the program.
- MOU completed with the following signatories: NRCS, Dixon RCD, Solano Irrigation District, Solano Water Agency, Suisun RCD, and Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District. The seven cities in the county have signed on to the program in principal.

Objective A-3: Develop a farmer-written Farm Conservation Plan Program to help farmers develop watershed appropriate conservation plans and comply with USDA funding requirements.

- Two pilot workshops have been scheduled for February.

Performance Measure: Twenty field days yielding 20 completed farmer-written farm conservation plans; evaluations of process and product by the 20 participants and the 3 RCDs; documentation of 6 month follow-up with participants regarding actual usefulness of FCP with program improvement recommendations; write 3 grant proposals to support continuation and expansion of project.



Non-native species in Pleasants Creek

- Received primary funding for the program from the Great Valley Center's LEGACI program. Supplemental funding provided by the NRCS.
- The RCD has developed a series of 12 field days and short courses to run August '03 through July '04 to present these units to rural stakeholders throughout the county. Plans for implementation of this project with partners Yolo County RCD and Dixon RCD are in process, though behind schedule.

Objective B-1: Foster continued development of Countywide Watershed Partnership Group.

- Recent conversation has been focused on the local State Water Resources Control Board's consolidated proposal, future funding opportunities and necessities, WMA activities and the Conditional Ag Waiver.
- The group has become a forum to share watershed information and develop working partnerships with other members.

Performance Measure: Six quarterly meeting of the Solano County Watershed Partnership Group; biannual updates of existing *Solano County Watershed Groups and Projects Compendium*; priority list of projects for the group to address; 4 grant proposals written to support those projects.

- Six meetings of the Solano County Watershed Partnership Group were convened and attended by stakeholder representatives from all over the county.
- All performance measures have been completed, but require ongoing review and revision.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

The following grant applications were submitted during this quarter:

- A \$90,000 grant to enhance weed management activities in Solano County watersheds was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- A \$208,100 grant to continue and expand watershed coordination in the Ulatis, Dixon and Putah Creek watersheds was awarded by DOC.
- A \$1,400,000 grant to build understanding and protection for two urban creeks was submitted to CALFED and SWRCB as part of the consolidated grant process.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

Solano RCD's capacity to work at a watershed level in the region has grown exponentially. Among our professional peers, there is greater understanding that our interests are best served regionally, and that scarce resources require creative leveraging. The grant provided the district an opportunity to be a major part of this paradigm shift and to take a leadership role in developing a shared stewardship for the watershed.

West Lake Resource Conservation District

Upper Cache Creek Watershed



Amount Funded: \$75,912

Match Provided: \$19,758

Additional Funding Obtained: \$638,225

Watershed Coordinator: Greg Dills

Watershed Goal: Improve watershed conditions on Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Increase community involvement in watershed activities.

- Submitted a watershed coordinator proposal to DOC.
- Prepared an application to the EPA's Watershed Initiative Grant Program in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, Yolo County RCD, and the Patwin Tribes in Yolo County. It is a coordinated watershed management project with each partner developing complementary components.

Performance Measure: Six or more fund raising events/activities held, 6 or more grant applications submitted, one new CRMP formed, twelve Power Point presentations and three hundred students involved in watershed education events.

- Seven grant applications submitted during the term of the grant.
- One CRMP group was formed during the grant period, with another group showing interest in formation.
- Over 12 PowerPoint presentations have been given to a variety of groups.
- More than 400 students have been exposed to watershed management and natural resource protection issues.



Volunteers remove trash from Scotts Creek on Creek Cleanup Day 2003

Objective 2: Improve stream channel conditions by reducing solid waste in the Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

- The creeks identified for the 2004 cleanup program are: Cache Creek, Cole Creek, Kelsey Creek, Middle Creek, Scotts Creek and South Fork of Scotts Creek.

Performance Measure: Minimum 60 cubic yards of rubbish and recyclables removed each year.

- Two community cleanup days were held in 2002 with two additional events held in October 2003.
- Over 250 volunteers participated in cleanup activities. Multiple cubic yards of trash, tires, appliances and recyclables were removed from the Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

Objective 3: Coordinate implementation of the Schindler Creek/High Valley CRMP stream bank restoration project.

- All tasks successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Two thousand twenty feet of streambank restoration implemented.

- All components of the Schindler Creek Restoration Project have been successfully completed.

Objective 4: Coordinate implementation of the Middle Creek Restoration Project.

- All tasks successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Two streambank projects implemented.

- The Middle Creek Restoration Project was successfully completed in July 2002.

Objective 5: Survey, map and begin eradication of *Arundo donax* in Lake County.

- All tasks successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Survey and map a minimum of 12 colonies of *A. donax* and perform eradication.

- All surveying, mapping, and eradication efforts have exceeded the initial requirements. The survey effort has identified 413 sites with *A. donax* eradicated from 40 of these sites.

Objective 6: Establish Biological and Habitat Assessment Citizen Monitoring Team.

- The 319(h) grant scheduled to fund field training of the citizen monitoring team was delayed due to state budget difficulties and the contract freeze imposed by the governor. The contract is expected to be completed and work initiated by January 2004.

Performance Measure: Establish 6 monitoring sites for annual sampling of water quality in the Clear Lake Basin.

- Six sites have been identified and although funding has been delayed, training and monitoring did take place during the term of the grant. A monitoring team is waiting for equipment to start sampling.

Objective 7: Coordinate natural resource management efforts with BLM on the Cow Mt. Recreation Area, specifically in Eight Mile Valley.

- All tasks successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Produce a watershed assessment of Eight Mile Valley; install a minimum of a one-mile post and cable barrier to protect sensitive species on the floor of Eight Mile Valley and design an implementation project for Eight Mile Valley.

- The watershed assessment has been completed and a portion of the post and cable project has been performed. Currently, the design for the implementation project is being developed.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending

- Awarded a three-year grant from DOC to continue the watershed coordinator position. Grant amount was \$148,414.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed

- The watershed coordinator facilitated coordination between 11 state and federal agencies and six Native American tribes to accomplish numerous projects in the watershed.
- The grant supported the formation of a weed management area (WMA) that led to the mapping and eradication of non-native invasive species and additional fund raising.
- The watershed coordinator was able to plan and implement a 5-mile long fuel break and other fuel breaks in the watershed.
- Formation of the Lower Lake Watershed Council (CRMP) was instigated and facilitated by the watershed coordinator. This active council is working with the local community to raise community awareness about general watershed issues and is currently working with high school students to implement a water quality monitoring program.
- The watershed coordinator established more than a dozen new partnerships between the conservation district and local businesses. In one instance, a local vineyard donated several hundred cubic yards of crushed rock for the Schindler Creek Restoration Project.

Westside Resource Conservation District
Upper Los Gatos-Avenal
(Sub-watershed: Arroyo Pasajero)



Amount Funded: \$36,222
Match Provided: \$11,000
Additional Funding Obtained: \$376,728
Watershed Coordinator: Linda Ballentine

Watershed Goal: To improve the water quality of the Arroyo Pasajero/
Domengine Watershed and protect the California Aqueduct by reducing erosion,
sedimentation and flooding.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: To increase the visibility of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP among landowners,
agencies and other organizations.

- Met with Amanda Peisch (DWR) to discuss monitoring projects, Pam Buford (RWQCB) to discuss CEQA follow-up issues, and with Leedy Dunkle (CCC) to discuss projects that require use of their crews.
- Worked with landowners and the BLM to negotiate an additional contract for project implementation.

Performance Measure: Increased attendance and involvement in CRMP; new names added to mailing list; development of three additional ranch plans which identify conservation practices that relieve erosion and flooding.

- Three landowners, one conservation organization (CA Rangeland Trust), and one agency representative (USFWS) joined the Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP.
- Ten names were added to the CRMP's mailing list.
- One new ranch monitoring plan (Los Gatos Creek Ranch) was developed and two ranch plans were amended (Birdwell Ranch and Kreyenhagen Ranch).
- Conservation practices implemented were:
 - Varian Ranch: water distribution (installed 5,000 feet of pipeline and three troughs).
 - Birdwell Ranch: Installed approximately 10,000 feet of new/repared fence line, and one new water tank, several troughs and a new pump.
 - Whitehouse Ranch and Gragnani Ranch: Installed new fencing and water distribution system.
 - Los Gatos Creek and Coalinga Mineral Springs Road: Over 150 acres treated for yellow starthistle.

Objective 2: Improve watershed conditions in the Arroyo Pasajero by reducing erosion and flooding.

- Downloaded data from rain gauges, replaced batteries and mapped rain gauge stations.
- Copied and delivered annual monitoring reports to DWR.
- Met with Larry Rathbun of West Hills College for assistance with developing a weed mapping program.
- Preparing to send Watershed Management Plan, Ranch Plans and biological data to the State Clearinghouse to meet CEQA circulation requirements.

Performance Measure: Implementation and support of monitoring practices that result in the collection of data that indicates reduction in sediment erosion and flooding in the Arroyo Pasajero.

- Ten rain gauges were installed in locations throughout the watershed. Unfortunately, the units experienced software problems and were sent back to the manufacturer (Rainwise) for replacement. The gauges were reinstalled but data collection has been limited as a result.
- Westside RCD is developing a dynamic web site that will display the gauges on a map and show rainfall frequency to interested users.

Objective 3: Procure funding for CRMP landowner watershed improvement project implementation.

- Prepared a full proposal for the consolidated RFP and submitted it to the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Submitted a watershed coordinator proposal to DOC .
- Evaluating the \$200,000 NFWF Putting It Together grant for resubmittal to NRCS.

Performance Measure: Obtain funding to support the implementation of ranch plans and monitoring plans through 2004.

- Received a Packard Foundation grant of \$100,000 for riparian restoration on Kester Ranch.
- Received a BLM grant of \$60,000 for weed management.
- Received a three year DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant of \$106,614.
- Received a grant of \$3,500 from Westlands Water District for the purchase of plant materials to assist the Tree Bank program.

Objective 4: Plan and hold education and outreach events.

- Working with Nita Vail (California Rangeland Trust) to conduct a joint event in the future.
- Working with the CCC to develop a “Unity Day” work day on a project in the watershed.

Performance Measure: Increased awareness of the Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP activities, create attendance at meetings, workshops and tours.

- Coordinated two workshops:
 - Wildlife Habitat Restoration (September 2002) – focused on wildlife habitat projects implemented in the lower watershed by Turk Station and by Viets-Allen Ranch.

- Weed/Invasive Plant Management and Eradication (June, 2003) – classroom instruction on identification and treatment of noxious and invasive weed species as well as on-site observation of tamarisk growth and a removal test plot. Training was also provided on weed mapping and the permitting process.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

- Awarded a three-year watershed coordinator grant from DOC for \$106,614.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Landowners who became inactive with the CRMP are becoming active again.
- A landowner who purchased property in the Coaling Mineral Springs Road area received funding for spraying yellow star thistle last year. This year, he is participating again and is very enthusiastic about the program.