

# Sacramento - Lower Thomes Watershed

Better wildfire management for cleaner water and spring-run Chinook salmon habitat

Tehama County; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 2



## TEHAMA COUNTY RCD



The Lassen foothills of the Sacramento Valley provide abundant habitat for anadromous fish. Unfortunately, intense wildfires lead to increased erosion and degraded water quality for fish habitat. The Tehama County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator helped address fire and fuels management through the RCD Chipper Program. The Coordinator also helped to develop 30 miles of grant-funded fuel breaks. The RCD assisted Cal Fire in completing three miles of roadside fuel breaks. These breaks have significantly increased the ability of fire fighters to control the spread and impact of catastrophic wildfires.

In order to improve fish habitat enhancement plans, the Watershed Coordinator conducted a survey of stream geomorphology and fish passage conditions within Antelope Creek and integrated his findings into the plan. The creek is a tributary to the Sacramento River and has potential as spawning habitat for the endangered spring-run Chinook salmon.

The Coordinator also operated the RCD Irrigation Mobile Lab Program. This service provides growers with an on site evaluation of their irrigation systems and technical assistance to increase irrigation efficiency, conserve water, improve production, and even reduce their power requirements.

For more information, visit the Tehama County RCD website at <http://www.tehamacountyrcd.org>

- Obtained funding to complete 30 miles of wildfire fuel breaks
- Completed 3 miles of roadside fuel breaks
- Helped growers conserve water over the four-year period through the Irrigation Mobile Lab
- Designed an erosion control and soil stabilization project that will return the impacted area to a natural stream bed slope and reduce sediments generated by erosion at Childs Meadow
- 7,132 acre conservation easement established in the western portion of the watershed will protect and preserve a significant area of threatened oak woodlands
- Developed a model of fire ecology and fire return intervals of the Lassen Foothills

***“The Coordinator’s initiatives to reduce sediment production within the watersheds of the Sacramento River are anticipated to result in improved water quality conditions”***  
***- Vicky Dawley, Executive Director  
Tehama County RCD***

**PARTNERS INCLUDED:** Cal Fire Tehama Glenn Unit • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Lassen National Forest • Mendocino National Forest • USFWS • Bureau of Reclamation • Tehama County Public Works Department • Tehama County Agriculture Department • Tehama County Board of Supervisors • California Fire Safe Council • Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee • The Nature Conservancy • Glenn County RCD • Western Shasta RCD • Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group • Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District