

Alpine County

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 1
State Assembly
District 4

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Restored 5 Acres of Floodplain

Created erosion control BMP's for roads within the county

"Make a Splash Day" educated over 150 seventh graders about water related issues

Trained 18 volunteer Citizen Water Quality Monitors

Held annual Creek Day events, involving over 400 community members improved over 200 ft of streambank integrity

Planted over 250 native plants and native seed in restoration of riparian areas

PARTNERS

- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Central Sierra RC&D
- Carson WSD
- USFS
- BLM
- SWRCB
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Washoe Tribe in Woodfords
- PG&E
- Kirkwood Home Tour
- CADFG
- National Forest Service
- RDC
- Diamond Valley High School
- Alpine Historical Society
- High Sierra Flycasters
- Local Stakeholders
- Tahoe Sierra IRWMP
- Bear Valley Residents Inc.
- Rose Foundation
- SYRCL
- Friends of Hope Valley
- California State Parks
- Rose Foundation
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Woodfords High School and many more



170% Matched Funding

Grant Award: \$138,473

Funds raised:	
Federal	0
State	128,000
Local	72,000
Private	35,745
Total	235,745

Water Quality and Education in Alpine County

"A full-time coordinator has: enhanced watershed community capacity; developed and refined watershed assessments and plans; implemented discrete watershed restoration activities; strengthened the already diverse stakeholder partnerships of the Group; led local education and outreach activities; implemented monitoring and assessment protocols that are based on sound science; inspired a long-term commitment to watershed protection and, most importantly, improved water quality in the Upper American, Upper Stanislaus, and Upper Mokelumne headwaters, which are all tributaries to the Bay-Delta System." The Alpine County Watershed Coordinator raised over \$235,000 toward the improvement of the upper watershed while providing valuable services to the watershed and the communities that rely on it. He focused on gathering water quality information and engaging the community around the water in their backyard. In addition to training citizen volunteers on water quality, he provided a basic water education to all the 5th graders in the county giving them a chance to literally "make a splash." Citizens educated on water issues make better water decisions, which is something we can't afford to live without in these times of increasing water scarcity.

Alpine County Creek Day

Helping citizens see their impact on their local creek is the best way to prevent future pollution. The Alpine Watershed Coordinator got people out and involved in their watershed. With an educational forum, hands on restoration activities, and fun for the whole family, alpine county got a close up look at the mess in their backyard. Over

200 feet of stream bank were cleaned and restored annually including the removal of large amounts of trash. When it was done, the creek looked a lot more like a creek and a lot less like a garbage dump. With less garbage and more intact banks, we all have cleaner drinking water.

Erosion Control Workshops

Building can send a significant amount of sediment and debris directly into our rivers and streams, especially in mountainous regions. Sediment affects the homes animals live in and the water we drink. Fortunately, with basic practices, dirt contamination can be kept to a minimum. The Alpine Watershed Coordinator worked with over 35 builders to make sure they were up to date on the latest methods and techniques to keep dirt where it belongs - on the ground.

Markleeville Creek

High Sierra Fly Casters Volunteers, local high schools and citizens came together to restore this highly sensitive area. Non-native vegetation and trash were removed and then volunteers planted over 250 native plants and spread over 60 pounds of seed to restore the newly-cleaned area. Birds, animals, and native plants are returning to the area and the ecosystem is functioning a lot more normally. In addition, the volunteers now have a special connection to their very own place in the watershed.

Contact Info:

17300 State Route 89,
Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2327
www.alpinecounty.ca.com

**1497%
Matched
Funding**

Grant Award: \$214,360

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	2,522,000
Local	652,000
Private	35,000
Total	\$3,209,000



Water Conservation Exhibits Great Success!

"The Arroyo Seco Foundation is grateful to the California Department of Conservation for providing us with financial support to make possible the Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordination Program (ASWC). ASWC has been a great value to our region in the past three and a half years, allowing the Arroyo Seco Watershed to develop a strong organizational base for conservation and better watershed management. We have been able to develop stakeholder and agency organizational vehicles, secure almost \$3 million in additional funding, and win prestigious awards such as the Nahai Water Quality Award from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The DOC grant has propelled restoration and watershed management work forward in a key region of Southern California." The Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordinator has made public outreach on water efficiency a primary goal of his efforts. Water efficiency in Southern California helps reduce the pressure on local utilities to provide water resources to this growing community and reduces drawdown on the Bay-Delta ecosystem. It is a win-win for the entire State of California. Through creative outreach, intensive fund raising, and practical, on-the-ground projects, Arroyo Seco has made a huge difference in the way Southern California sees and uses valuable water resources.

Creating History

Reaching audiences can be challenging, especially when the subject is water. Arroyo Seco used creative means to get the message across that Southern California needs to reduce its water impact. A partnership with the Pasadena History Museum and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California allowed Arroyo Seco to get the message out in a locally significant way. A "Water History" exhibit at the museum

provided a forum for local people to relearn about water and to discuss water issues with experts. Creative education techniques are helping locals rethink their water use.

Rain Gardens

Homeowners often do not realize that they have a significant impact on their rivers and streams every time it rains. Rain gardens keep water on property rather than letting dirt, chemicals, debris and valuable water slip into the storm drain and into our waterways. However, most people are not familiar with rain gardens or do not know how to create them. The Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordinator recognized this problem as an opportunity and rallied the community to create a demonstration rain garden in a local park complete with signage and how-to directions. Public forums were held to assist local landowners in creating a rain garden of their own.

Cleaning up a Canyon

LA residents learn to love their local canyon as an opportunity for outdoor recreation. The Watershed Coordinator organized local volunteers to get out and clean up the canyon. In addition to removing large quantities of trash, the volunteers stabilized trails, removed invasive species and planted native plants. The local park is now a source of pride and personal accomplishment throughout the watershed.

Contact Info:

539 E. Villa St. #2
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 792-2442
www.arroyoseco.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created a "Water History" exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History and information events at the exhibit

Five public forums on Bay Delta Issues

50 presentations to public forums reaching over 8000 people

Received Nahai Water Quality Award

9 workshops for water retention reaching over 150 people

Raised 2.7 million dollars to support Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Study

Engaged 500 volunteers

Water efficient landscaping workshops in high water-use areas

Rose Bowl Stream Restoration program to treat storm water runoff

PARTNERS

- LA Co. Public Works Dept
- Pasadena Water & Power Company
- Valley Water Company
- Raymond Basin Management Board
- North East Trees
- Highland Park Heritage Trust
- Audubon Center
- Altadena Watershed Committee
- LA Bureau of Sanitation
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Friends of the LA River
- National Parks Service
- Pasadena Public Works Department
- California Art Club
- Pasadena Museum of History

Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 4
State Assembly
District 2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created Stream Condition Monitoring Plan to gather data on Battle Creek water quality

Worked to reduce sediment loads by having unused roads in the upper watershed decommissioned

Continued management, restoration and community education on CALFED's Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project

Held 7 workshops to educate landowners on resource management practices

Held 4 community meetings with over 400 people in attendance to address community resource concerns

Created watershed signage to educate the public as they come in and out of the watershed

Distributed 10 education fliers to inform the public of pressing concerns

PARTNERS

- Lassen National Forest
- Tehama County RCD
- Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- CAL FIRE
- Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council
- Manton Fire Safe Council
- USFWS
- DFG
- DWR
- CRWQCB
- The Nature Conservancy



756% Matched Funding

Grant Award: \$87,918

Funds raised:	
Federal	0
State	635,980
Local	19,490
Private	10,000
Total	665,470

Community Supports Restoration Efforts

"Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC) continues to play an important role in the assessment, monitoring, and implementation of projects that protect the anadromous waters of Battle Creek including helping watershed landowners protect water quality and riparian areas. The BCWC Watershed Coordinator has played an important role facilitating collaboration and building consensus to successfully fund and implement these projects." The Watershed Coordinator has played a key role in identifying restoration needs and then reaching out to the public to find creative solutions to local problems. Community action has been critical to the continued success of CALFED's Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project as well as the continued salience of the Battle Creek Watershed. The community is much more aware of their role in the watershed and now takes a more active role in the protection of its resources thanks to the work of the Watershed Coordinator.

CALFED's Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project

BCWC has played an important role in protecting the spawning grounds of endangered anadromous fish populations. By finding resources, raising community awareness, and providing on-the-ground restoration work, the anadromous fish of Battle Creek are one step closer to recovery.

Stream Condition Monitoring

The Watershed Coordinator worked with local community members, and government agencies to create a stream condition

monitoring program. Citizens are now more aware of their local creek and the watershed group can now identify high need areas for restoration creating a maximum return on invested time, money and energy.

Community Education

The Watershed Coordinator held 7 workshops and 4 community meetings; distributed 10 different informational fliers; created signage identifying watershed boundaries; met with countless local agencies; and outreached to landowners one on one to make sure that the community is aware of resource issues and the practical steps they can take to help correct them. Members of the watershed are much more aware of their watershed and the impact they have on it.

Contact Info:

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www.battle-creek.net

0%
 Matched
 Funding

Grant Award: \$138,473

Funds raised:	
Federal	0
State	0
Local	0
Private	0
Total	0



Oaks and Groundwater Outreach

During implementation of the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant, the Cherokee Watershed Alliance Watershed Coordinator implemented diverse activities to develop a formal relationship with the Butte County Resource Conservancy District; promote coordination among local watersheds, implement watershed management, water quality, and citizen involvement through coordination and/or participation in meetings; workshops and opportunities for growers and the general public; watershed tours; citizen water quality testing; and development and distribution of a watershed calendar, an Existing Data Summary, and planning documents. A focus was made to find voluntary solutions to agricultural impacts on the watershed.

Highlighting Watershed Issues to Local Stakeholders

Cherokee Watershed stakeholders became more aware of groundwater recharge processes, recharge areas within the watershed, and issues relating to groundwater recharge through a watershed tour which included a presentation and field trips by car and helicopter of areas of interest within the watershed. 21 individuals participated including RCD members, watershed stakeholders, farmers, business owners, agency staff, the general public, environmentalists, and the press.

Living Among the Oaks Workshop

A group of watershed and resource conservation representatives coordinated by the Watershed Coordinator presented a Living Among the Oaks workshop for 75 homeowners interested in growing and

preserving native oak trees. The workshop included classroom presentations and a walking tour of Butte College's oak trees during which presenters and participants discussed landscaping, road placement, weeds, and grazing practices to encourage oak tree preservation. Free oak seedling shelter tubes, provided by the California Oak Foundation, were distributed to workshop participants.

Existing Data Summary

In order to better understand the watershed and to identify data gaps, the Watershed Coordinator created an Existing Data Summary. The 48-page document contained a summary of existing data including information on groundwater, surface water, land use, physical setting, geologic setting, vegetation, wildlife, and gaps in data. From the data summary, Cherokee Watershed Alliance members were able to approve the development of a formalized Management Strategy that includes voluntary activities for residents to promote a healthy watershed, the identification of a desired state for the watershed, and set watershed goals and objectives. The summary can now be used to create a watershed management plan.

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 Oroville, CA 95965
 (530) 534-0112
www.buttecountyracd.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Initiated a citizen-level surface water quality monitoring effort collecting baseline water quality data

Compiled and distributed an Existing Data Summary. The 48-page document included a summary of existing data and information on groundwater, surface water, land use, physical setting, geologic setting, vegetation, wildlife, and gaps in data

Held a Living Among the Oaks workshop for homeowners interested in growing and preserving native oak trees.

Day in the District Bus Tour highlighting local watershed issues

Held three growers' meetings to educate agriculturists on the latest conservation techniques

PARTNERS

- Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
- CSU, Chico
- CA Department of Conservation
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Butte Community College
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Butte Creek Watershed Alliance
- California Oak Foundation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- University of California
- Cooperative Extension
- California Department of Water Resources