

Tehama County Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 4
State Assembly
District 2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed the Tehama West Watershed Assessment

Created the Tehama East and Tehama West Fire Plan

Negotiated an agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game for the maintenance of state owned grazing lands

Complete trash cleanup projects that removed Approximately 10 tons of garbage

Mapped Arundo infestations along the Sacramento River

Planted approximately 15 acres of oak trees

Trained hundreds of volunteers in watershed monitoring and distributed 74 rain gauges

PARTNERS

- SWRCB
- BLM
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Forest Service
- NRCS
- Tehama County Department of Public Works
- Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Tehama County Sanitary Landfill District
- Tehama County Agriculture Department
- UCCE
- The Nature Conservancy
- Cal Fire
- Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy
- Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- Tehama County RAC



610% Matched Funding

Grant Award: \$132,196

Funds raised:	
Federal	120,340
State	398,820
Local	0
Private	287,150
Total	806,310

Building Relationships to Build a Better Watershed

The Watershed Coordinator developed and coordinated new projects with multiple organizations to improve and protect the Sacramento-Lower Thomas (SLT) Watershed. The work developed relationships with land owners and watershed managers within areas of eastern Tehama County that had no watershed groups. The activities and efforts accomplished during the past three years lead directly towards the achievement of the TCRCD's long term goal of improving upper watershed and riparian health and water quality while at the same time, increasing water quantity. The work was achieved through restoration, clean-up projects, a watershed assessment, native oak restoration, creating a sediment budget, fire plans, strong relationships with key stakeholders, outreach, education, workshops and working one-on-one with local landowners.

Establishment and Protection of Conifer and Oak Woodlands

A comprehensive effort was made to identify areas for reestablishing conifer and oak woodlands as well as funding for reforestation efforts. Approximately 15 acres of formerly open rangeland were planted with funding for this effort obtained through the organization, American Forests. In addition, creation and approval of the Tehama County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan helped lead to the creation of a conservation easement on 15,000 acres of oak woodlands. With the establishment of this easement, a large portion of the County's oak woodlands will be protected in perpetuity.

Building Relationships with Federal Agencies

The Watershed Coordinator has been involved in strengthening the relationship between the TCRCD and the Bureau of Land Management by working on the Bend Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). During that time, a master services agreement (MSA) was prepared by the agency in order to effectively and efficiently procure mapping and survey services from the TCRCD. Among the projects completed through this agreement was an historical survey of the ACEC as well as numerous elderberry surveys. An initial field survey was completed in order to map areas infested by Arundo.

Planning Efforts

The Watershed Coordinator managed the preparation of the Tehama West Watershed Assessment. This document is now being used to guide development of the Tehama West Watershed Management Plan and future project work being developed throughout the watershed. Other planning efforts accomplished during the past three years include preparation of the Tehama County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan, Tehama West Fire Plan, Tehama East Community Wildfire Protection Plan documents, Manton Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Lassen Foothills Fire Vegetation Mapping and Modeling Project.

Contact Info:

2 Sutter Street, Suite D
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-3013 x120

www.tehamacountyRCD.org

261%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$153,400

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	400,000
Local	0
Private	0
Total	400,000



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Constructed a nursery to grow and sell native plants

Created a watershed center complete with a lending library and photographic history of the watershed. Classes for local kids are offered.

Trained 19 volunteers to identify and map invasive weed species

30,000 square feet of broom, Arundo and tree of heaven were removed.

14 people were trained to do macroinvertebrate bioassessment and 42 samples were taken and analyzed

Held 5 land management workshops for local landowners

"Capture, care and feeding of volunteers" paper created

Watershed signage installed throughout the watershed

PARTNERS

- Lake County
- NRCS
- West Lake RCD
- East Lake RCD
- Napa RCD
- Upper Cache Creek
- Watershed Alliance
- DWR
- Middletown School District
- Middletown Rancheria
- Adopt-A-Watershed
- Trout Unlimited
- Montesol Ranch
- SCWA
- Middletown Rancheria
- Berryessa Partners
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Geological Survey

Septic Systems and Trout in the Watershed

"Watershed Coordinators facilitate community coordination among existing groups. With a stronger network of local agencies and stakeholders, the watershed functions more effectively and efficiently. The Upper Putah Creek Watershed Coordinator did an excellent job of connecting stakeholders, coordinating local groups and agencies, and streamlining watershed work with the aim to get work done on-the-ground." The main thrust of the grant was to encourage the Upper Putah Creek Stewardship to actively participate in watershed work and expand stakeholder involvement in Lake and Napa County. This was accomplished by developing opportunities to collaborate on common issues. Outreach and education were used to inform and educate watershed inhabitants about the need to manage their environment on a watershed level. With increased coordination, the watershed will better manage critical water resources and will be better able to address the challenges to come.

Field Days in the Creek

Outreach and education strengthened an already good working relationship with the local school district. "Field Days in the Creek" is an institution in our watershed. We usually have at least five presentations on geology, biology, soils, ecology and Native American subjects. This part of our education program reaches a large segment of the families living in our watershed and provides inspiration to our students to care for their watershed.

Trout in the Classroom

Trout in the Classroom is both an excellent educational opportunity for students and a

chance to build strong partnerships for our organization. This program is supported by two of our partners, Trout Unlimited and the California Department of Fish and Game. At the beginning of the program students are taught the ecology of trout species and are given trout eggs. For six weeks each spring, young students watch their trout eggs hatch and grow to the point where they can be released into a stream. They then take a field trip in order to release them into the stream. This learning experience provides a strong relationship between the student and their watershed and creates educated watershed citizens.

Education Through Targeted Workshops

Workshops were held on the Septic Systems explaining current and future regulations and the proper methods of operating systems. A workshop was held on Soils to aid citizens in learning about their own soil types and where to look for more information on problems they may be experiencing. Good management of potential erosion problems was addressed. A special workshop was held just for citizens with horses who happened to live on small acreages. Emphasis was placed on the relationship of these small plots to their effect on riparian areas. The information provided enabled them to avoid or mitigate problems that arise from erosion, manure control and general horse management. A local veterinarian presented options to control locally prevalent diseases found in horses and mules.

Contact Info:

PO Box 27
Middletown, CA 95461
(707) 987-0663

Upper Sacramento River Exchange

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 4
State Assembly
District 2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Held an annual river-wide clean-up event to remove over 30 cubic yards of debris

Yearly school restoration field trip involving over 500 children removing 10 acres of invasive plants and planting 1,000 native plants

Produced and distributed 10,000 water quality informational brochures

Completed 6 restoration projects

Involved over 3,000 members of the community in outreach events

Initiated student storm drain stencil program

Conducted monitoring on 10 restoration sites

PARTNERS

- Shasta Trinity National Forest
- Siskiyou County Office of Education
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Trout
- Dunsmuir Schools
- City of Dunsmuir
- Dunsmuir Garden Club
- Northern California Resource Center
- National Forest Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- CALTRANS



408%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$163,994

Funds raised:

Federal	2,000
State	335,508
Local	27,999
Private	303,638
Total	669,145

Public Education to Restore an Urban Watershed

The accomplishments that have resulted from the Watershed Coordinator Grant Program are many. The major accomplishments include: 1. The establishment of an annual community river clean-up and festival 2. The formation of a Science and Watershed Education Collaboration with Siskiyou County Office of Education, resource agencies, conservation groups, and the River Exchange; 3. The establishment of an annual stakeholder Watershed Roundtable to discuss watershed needs and solutions; 4. Coordination of community and school restoration activities; 5. Design and implementation of five large scale watershed restoration projects; 6. Improved communication and awareness of watershed values, needs, benefits and features through media coverage, community programming, and outreach; 7. Improved coordination and cooperation among conservation groups, resource agencies, private stakeholders and communities; and, 8. The establishment of an on-going community-based organization that can serve as a resource for individuals to directly participate in the long-term stewardship of the watershed. Through this work, the Watershed Coordinator has built trust in the community and enabled the community to expand our resources and ability to address watershed needs more effectively.

Helping Kids Help their Watershed

The Watershed Coordinator established an annual restoration program for local kids. The kids were taught an overview of the watershed, watershed issues, and their impact on it. They were then taken to a restoration site to remove invasive species

and planting native plants in their place. Over 500 children removed 10 acres of invasive species and planted 1000 native riparian plants. Thanks to the efforts of the Watershed Coordinator, local kids now better understand their watershed, how to protect it and the importance of native plants.

Restoring the Watershed

The Upper Sacramento River is looking much more natural after three years of intensive restoration work. The Watershed Coordinator implemented 6 restoration projects throughout the course of the grant. Restoration occurred on over 5,000 feet of stream bank, 21 acres of upland or riparian habitat, and involved over 3,000 people. One project included the construction of a boundary fence to exclude horses and cattle from a sensitive stream.

Making Water Quality Data Available to the Public

It is important to know what impacts the community is having on the watershed in order to know what needs to be improved. The Watershed Coordinator collected 3 years worth of water quality data through the work of local volunteers as part of the Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program. The data was then made available along with education materials in a newly created watershed library.

Contact Info:

PO Box 784
5819 Sacramento Ave
Dunsmuir, CA 96025
(530) 235-2012
www.riverexchange.org

157%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$63,600

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	100,000
Local	0
Private	0
Total	100,000



“Daylighting” Buried Streams

The watersheds involved in this grant are heavily urbanized with relatively smaller areas of restored ecological habitat. Both combined and separate stormwater and sewage systems are utilized. Where they are separate, especially at the Presidio of San Francisco, there is little to no inspection or treatment of stormwater entering the Crissy Field marsh and San Francisco Bay. Coliform bacteria is a major in the San Francisco Bay watershed and over the course of this grant, specific sources were identified and eliminated, significantly reducing coliform contamination. Nitrate contamination was identified in the drinking water source creek and extensive sampling pinpointed a source area for remediation and reduction of nitrate contamination in the drinking water. Thanks to funding from the Watershed Coordinator Grant, The Urban Watershed Project (UWP) continued as a leader in promoting the restoration of habitat. UWP was successful in working with the managing federal agencies to insure that restoration plans continued to move ahead, most recently with the release (September 2007) of the Tennessee Hollow Environmental Assessment, a process which consumed over ten years of effort.

“Daylighting” Buried Streams

During the grant period over 70,000 cubic yards of debris were removed from the top of a buried, culverted stream. Some of this waste was identified as California Hazardous waste and included lead, mercury, cadmium and PCBs. The removal reduced impacts to water quality and wildlife. The 250-meter reach of creek system has been replanted with native plants and has seen colonization by insects, birds and fish. The watershed

is looking more like a natural area and less like a city thanks to the efforts of the Watershed Coordinator.

Eliminating Bacteria

Coliform contamination was identified as a significant contaminant prior to the beginning of the grant. During the grant period two major point sources of coliform bacteria were identified and eliminated. Both were leaking sewer lines crossing a drinking water source creek that emptied to the San Francisco Bay. The creek was often played in by small children and had been posted by authorities as being unsafe for human contact. The contaminated source reduction improved water quality and reduced potential waterborne disease that may have been transmitted to small children, making the area once again safe for human contact.

Being a Pillar of the Community

Over the period of the grant the Watershed Coordinator introduced, trained and supported hundreds of high school students, tens of undergraduates and a handful of graduate students in examining and studying watersheds and making recommendations to land managers regarding improvements to those watersheds. The Watershed Coordinator also received a “Community Hero” award for over ten years of service to the Presidio of San Francisco and for identifying critical watershed restoration plans and ideas.

Contact Info:

3229A Clement St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 828-2622

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Watershed Coordinator received a “community hero” award

“Daylighted” a section of Los Lobos Creek

Identified and removed sources of nitrate and Coliform bacteria entering the creek

Removed over 70,000 cubic yards of waste from the creek

Completed 4 years worth of planning on a future restoration site

Provided watershed education and restoration for over 200 high school students

Trained several graduate and undergraduate students on water quality monitoring

PARTNERS

- The National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- The Presidio Trust
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- University of California, Berkeley
- San Francisco State University
- San Francisco Unified School District
- Galileo Academy of Science and Technology
- US EPA
- NOAA

West Lake Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 2
State Assembly
District 1

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Held 8 creek clean-up events with over 350 volunteers

Clean ups removed 175 tons of trash, 150 tons of white metal, 40 tons of green waste, 50 tons of recyclables, and more than 1100 tires

Created 3 new watershed groups

Restored a 16 acre meadow

Implemented a stream-lined permitting process

Started a Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Team with 111 volunteers

Conducted a stream inventory and assessment of a 4 mile reach of Middle Creek

PARTNERS

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Big Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- CALFED
- Colusa County RCD
- County of Lake
- East Lake RCD
- Elem Pomo Tribe
- Lake County Historical Society
- Lake County Fair
- Lake County Farm Bureau
- Lake County Land Trust
- Lake County Wine Grape Growers Commission
- Lake County WMA
- Local Schools
- Mendocino County RCD
- NRCS
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Sacramento River Watershed



590%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$148,414

Funds raised:

Federal	440,640
State	425,372
Local	9,467
Private	870
Total	876,349

Educating for Restoration

The Watershed Coordinator Program in the Upper Cache Creek Watershed (UCCW) has proven beneficial in facilitating natural resource protection in the UCCW. Over the past three years, the Watershed Coordinator provided a vital service to the citizens of the UCCW by coordinating efforts, providing technical assistance, and educating the public. The Watershed Coordinator has successfully cultivated partnerships, increased the number of local watershed groups, and helped develop projects to address issues and concerns in the sub-watersheds. The DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant funding has provided the Watershed Coordinator the opportunity to engage with the community and provide opportunities for landowners and stakeholders to participate in having a voice in managing their watersheds. The grant also allowed the Watershed Coordinator to participate in unanticipated projects and activities while still bringing the plans to fruition. The areas of focus were: facilitation, coordination, and collaboration among agencies, partners, citizens, and local watershed groups; providing education and outreach opportunities to create an informed public; coordination of resource protection and restoration activities on public and private lands; improvement of stream channel conditions; providing assistance to the Lake County Weed Management Area; providing coordination, training, and technical assistance to the Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Team; and coordinating activities within and across watershed/geo-political boundaries. The Watershed Coordinator was very successful at getting local citizens to get out and restore their watershed.

Educating Kids about their Watershed

The Watershed Coordinator hosted three annual "Kids-in-the-Creek" events. Up to 150 middle school students each year came out to clean up their creek while learning about watersheds, natural resources, wildlife, pollution, fire safety, erosion, non-native invasive weeds, local native basketry, and local species of concern. Getting hands-on in the creek helps students understand their individual role in protecting their watershed and gives them a sense of ownership over the world they live in.

Restoring Seigler Canyon and Scotts Creek

Siegler Canyon and Scotts Creek are looking much more natural. The Watershed Coordinator assisted in the development of a habitat restoration project on Seigler Canyon Creek and a meadow restoration project on BLM's South Cow Mountain Recreation Area. The Watershed Coordinator identified and designed the project, identified funding sources, and implemented a large scale debris jam removal over a one-mile reach of Scotts Creek removing approximately 7,000 cubic yards of debris. The Watershed Coordinator facilitated the removal of centerline vegetation from the creek and the removal of a Scotch Broom infestation on the bank.

Contact Info:

889 Lakeport Blvd
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 263-4180

www.lakecountyrlds.org

1374%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$190,765

Funds raised:

Federal	136,500
State	1,873,247
Local	300,089
Private	310,056
Total	2,619,892



Cleaning-up our Drinking Water

The Western Shasta RCD is thankful for the DOC funding to support a Watershed Coordinator for both the Cow and Bear Creek watersheds. The purpose of the Watershed Coordinator was to find solutions to areas of concern in both watersheds including water quality exceedences, fecal coliform contamination, livestock issues, high water temperatures in the lower reaches of the creeks, riparian habitat restoration concerns, wildlife restoration, water diversions, fish screens and ladders, opportunities for tailwater recycling and the need for a network of fuels reduction projects to minimize the potential for catastrophic wildfire. The Watershed Coordinator addressed known and anticipated problems by educating and encouraging landowners to participate in federal and state cost share programs, being a point of contact for conservation and restoration, communicating with landowners about their resource concerns, creating and promoting long-term relationships with conservation partners, and becoming the source of information for watershed improvements. The Coordinator involved as many landowners and media outlets as practical in activities and educational programs to restore the long-term health of the watershed.

Outreach to the Watershed

The Coordinator supported education and outreach by increasing watershed education through multiple newspaper articles and educational meetings for landowners highlighting the areas of concern within the watersheds and the restoration efforts addressing these areas of concern. This included the preparation and distribution

of 82 separate press releases aimed at reaching a large number of people in Shasta County, about 8,200 based on conservative estimates of 100 individuals being reached by each press release. Outreach included educational displays at 11 individual community events, 20 different times over the three-year period. The combined attendance at these events equaled 423,370; demonstrations in 12 individual classroom demonstrations to about 240 students in 1st through 6th grades; 3 annual presentations to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, which is aired on television twice after each event and developing a watershed group membership of over 150 active members.

Cleaning up our Drinking Water

The Coordinator identified over twenty water quality improvement projects aimed at addressing the fecal coliform and elevated water temperatures in the Cow Creek Watershed during the grant term. This was accomplished by providing coordination and education to local watershed groups and Technical Advisory Committees. Efforts here resulted in a number of these projects moving to the implementation stage, during which the Coordinator provided coordination for obtaining landowner permissions and the permitting process' associated with the implementation of these projects. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator assisted agriculturists in implementing 37 conservation practices on 5 separate ranches throughout the Cow Creek Watershed.

Contact Info:

6270 Parallel Road
Anderson, CA 96007
(530) 365-7332
www.westernshastarc.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Constructed a tailwater retention pond in the Cow Creek watershed to address *E. coli* and water temperature

Installed two fish screens in the Cow Creek Watershed

Assisted agricultural landowners in implementing 37 conservation practices on 5 separate ranches throughout the Cow Creek

Installed pipe on a 1.15 mile section of ditch which has over 50% water loss through seepage keeping 7 cfs in the creek for in stream benefits

80 newspaper articles and educational meetings for landowners on watershed issues

Implemented a video fish weir technology pilot project on Bear Creek

Completed an 18-month water quality monitoring study

PARTNERS

- Department of Conservation
- CALFED
- Watershed Groups
- USF&W
- California Department of Fish and Game
- NRCS
- State Water Quality Control Board
- DWR
- Fire Safe Council
- Shasta County
- CALFIRE
- Sacramento River Watershed Program
- Local Community Members and many more

Westside Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 16
State Assembly
District 30

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held permitting workshop to assist landowners
- Negotiated a lower price for landowners implementing Tamarisk Treatment Projects
- Coordinated annual watershed tours for local stakeholders
- Wrote a Watershed Management Plan
- Created a Tree Bank whereby students propagate tree cuttings for restoration projects
- Installed fencing projects to restore riparian habitat
- Collected 3 years of rainfall data and correlated it to NRCS field clipping data

PARTNERS

- Sage Associates
- Department of Conservation
- CARCD
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Fish and Game
- CALFED
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Department of Water Resources
- Westlands Water District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Coalinga High School
- West Hills College
- Fresno Agricultural Commissioners Office
- Packard Foundation
- Sustainable Conservation
- Alnus Ecological
- Wilbur-Ellis
- Cache Creek Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Board and many more



55%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$106,614

Funds raised:	
Federal	0
State	55,000
Local	3,500
Private	0
Total	58,500

Rainfall, Tamarisk and Tree Propagation

The Watershed Coordinator worked with landowners and stakeholders in the watershed to implement best management practices that will improve the water quality of the Arroyo Pasajero and its tributaries and reduce flooding into the California Aqueduct. This was accomplished through the following objectives: increasing the visibility of the Arroyo Pasajero in order to better address water quality issues and reduce flooding into the Aqueduct; assisting with monitoring activities in order to assist agencies in determining the previous and current affects of plans as they are implemented; securing funding for projects to assist landowners with the cost of implementing plans and holding education and outreach events. With these efforts, the Watershed Coordinator has brought about a more organized, cleaner watershed that is better able to address water quality and other watershed issues.

Tree Bank

Teaching students to protect their watershed is an important step in building educated watershed citizens. The Watershed Coordinator initiated a Tree Bank in which students at Coalinga High School and West Hills College propagated tree cuttings. Students were taught tree basics, the importance of trees and the basics of Watershed Science. Students were then given cuttings to propagate. After raising the trees, the students planted their trees at a restoration site, mostly along sensitive riparian corridors that needed stream bank stabilization. Students are now able to visit their trees and see the enhancement of their own watershed.

Removing Tamarisk

Eradicating Tamarisk from the watershed is important to watershed health. The invasive plant can take over watersheds and is difficult to remove once it becomes established. The Watershed Coordinator knew how important the removal of Tamarisk was and worked within her watershed to remove it. She found large infestations and worked with landowners for removal. She then helped them acquire the necessary permits. When the money she had relied on to help these landowners suddenly was unavailable, she worked to find other sources. She negotiated with a treatment company to provide the landowners with low-cost treatments and then wrote a grant to fill in some of the funding. Without the hard work and resourcefulness of the Watershed Coordinator, Tamarisk would have a stronger footing in the watershed.

Gathering Data to Inform Practice

To better understand how rainfall patterns influence flood and erosion problems within the watershed, the Watershed Coordinator collected rainfall data for the watershed over the three-year life of the grant. Once collected, she produced an annual monitoring report that was distributed to stakeholders. As part of the application of the data, she correlated rainfall data with field clipping data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Better understanding how watershed practices work together improves the management practices that are implemented.

Contact Info:

PO Box 38
Tranquility, CA 93668
(559) 647-9198

1442%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$229,662
(no breakdown available)

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	0
Local	0
Private	0
Total	3,312,588.94



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Held 25 workshops for landowners on a broad range of management topics with 12 to 30 attendees per workshop

Created a Permit Coordination Program to facilitate the implementation of restoration projects

Completed two farm and ranch clean ups including removing trash from stream channels, reshaping banks, and native plantings

Worked with 7 landowners to develop site-specific restoration plans

Restored two sloughs including trash clean-up, stream bank restoration and native plantings

Coordinated the Yolo Floodsafe Program to mitigate potential impacts of floodwaters. The program is now undergoing a feasibility study

PARTNERS

- SLEWS program
- Audubon California Landowner Stewardship Program
- Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Solano RCD
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- CalFed
- BASF
- CDEFA

Facilitating Community Efforts

The overall goals of this Watershed Coordinator grant was to work with, facilitate and support sub-watershed or “tributary” groups, toward the ultimate goal of getting conservation projects on the landscape. A second key goal was to successfully develop a permit coordination program to reduce that barrier to conservation practice installation. Through our efforts, four fairly cohesive sub-watershed groups were identified and supported in the Lower Willow Slough Watershed and an adjacent watershed. Two small grants resulted in clean-up and revegetation of riparian sites and we participated in the formation of the 501(c)3 Delta Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. After over two years of effort, we have in place a functioning permit coordination program for riparian projects in Yolo County.

Workshops to Encourage Good Management

Over the course of the grant, the Watershed Coordinator held 25 workshops covering topics of interest to, and suggested by landowners. The majority of these have been single topic, 2-hour workshops on management practices such as Roadside Revegetation, Monitoring on Your Farm, Water Structures for Wildlife, Water Quality, Water Use Efficiency, Native Pollinators, and BioEngineering. Landowners particularly benefited from our two-part Conservation Planning workshops, after which they received a beautifully illustrated map of conservation projects planned for their farm. Many of these have directly resulted in implementation of part or all of their plans.

Helping Landowners Implement Habitat Improvement Projects

Obtaining the permits to do riparian revegetation or restoration projects can be sufficiently challenging so as to prevent projects from being undertaken. The Watershed Coordinator co-facilitated the development of a local permit coordination program through a training process sponsored by Sustainable Conservation. Our effort here was to obtain pre approval from all required agencies for specific practices such that landowner project permits could be covered through the Yolo RCD Permit Program. In the course of these activities, we desired to broaden and strengthen our partnerships with other local and regional conservations organizations, the county, and the irrigation district.

Building Capacity in the Community

The Watershed Coordinator built local capacity by working with, facilitating and supporting existing watershed groups, particularly sub-watershed or “tributary” groups, within the Willow Slough Watershed and southern areas of Yolo County. He helped them to further their goals, determine where groups are lacking and desired, and assist in developing and completing watershed plans in those areas. This is a preliminary step to the ultimate, long-range goal of getting conservation projects on the landscape. The Watershed Coordinator directly supported four local groups and assisted multiple others.

Contact Info:

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Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 662-2037
www.yolorcd.org

Yuba County Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate
District 1
State Assembly
District 2 & 3

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hired an Irrigation and Monitoring specialist to work one-on-one with agriculturists to improve their irrigation systems

Created a Lower Feather River/ Honcut Creek Watershed Assessment

Developed the multi-language Education and Outreach Program to work with all landowners

Implemented the Individual Oak and Oak Woodland Management Plan to promote Oak Regeneration

Initiated a Farm and Ranch Clean-up Program

Installed an educational garden at Dobbins Elementary School

Carried out a Best Management Practice Effectiveness study to evaluate success

PARTNERS

- Yuba County RCD
- Sutter RCD
- Butte County RCD
- NRCS
- Department of Conservation
- CARCD
- CalFed
- DWR
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- SWRCB
- City of Yuba City
- Butte-Yuba-Sutter Sub-Watershed Coalition
- Lower Feather River Watershed Group
- Dobbins Elementary School
- Sutter Union High School
- Yuba Fire Safe Council
- Yuba River Conservancy
- Yuba County Water Agency
- PG&E



803%
Matched
Funding

Grant Award: \$165,096

Funds raised:

Federal	5,000
State	1,318,464
Local	3,000
Private	0
Total	1,326,464

Oaks and Children Grow in Yuba County

Watershed Coordinators play a critical link among science, government agencies, landowners and local citizens. They identify, assess and provide scientific understanding of watershed issues to local citizens in understandable formats. The Lower Feather River Watershed Coordinator exemplified this useful service. First, he completed a Feather River Watershed Assessment to identify watershed needs. He then facilitated stakeholders in the creation of a management plan that set community priorities for watershed restoration. With prioritized goals, the Watershed Coordinator worked with various members of the community to implement high-priority projects. He worked with agriculturists to install better irrigation systems, create an agricultural waiver program, developed educational fliers in English and Spanish, implemented a farm and ranch clean-up program, and created Best Management Practices for local fields. He also worked with the community in implementing an urban stream restoration program, developed a watershed coalition, created a voluntary oak management program, installed an educational garden at Dobbins Elementary School, presented to four science classes at Sutter Union High School, and held local clean-up events. The Watershed Coordinator did an excellent job of using solid scientific evidence to build community programs that improved the watershed.

Working with Local Needs

The Watershed Coordinator developed a multi-language education and outreach program, which targets underserved communities in Yuba and Sutter Counties, by highlighting various agency programs that

endorse watershed-friendly farming practices. The program consisted of developing, producing and distributing printed materials translated in seven languages and a translator network to promote interest in available services and programs.

Oak Restoration

The Watershed Coordinator developed the Yuba County Voluntary Individual Oak and Oak Woodland Management Plan which focuses on the retention and regeneration of all oak species indigenous to Yuba County. Management practices include: wildlife habitat preservation/restoration; promoting size, shape and species variety; fire suppression; oak woodland incorporation in proposed development areas; replacement of felled trees; educating the public on the important impact oak woodlands have on soil and water regeneration, restoration, and easement projects.

Educating Kids

The Dobbins Elementary School became home to an educational garden teaching students about the importance of water conservation. The Watershed Coordinator demonstrated the water cycle and basic concepts of watershed science. He also presented to 4 science classes at Sutter Union High School on the importance of water quality and monitoring. The presentation covered testing techniques and the importance of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH on the local watershed.

Contact Info:

1511B Butte House Rd
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For more information on the Watershed Coordinator Grant Program, please contact the grant administrators Gail Chun (gail.chun@conservation.ca.gov) or David Thesell (david.thesell@conservation.ca.gov).



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