

**El Dorado County
&
Georgetown Divide
Resource Conservation Districts**

**2013-2014
Annual Report**



“to promote the responsible stewardship of natural resources...”



Your Resource Conservation District

Mission

"To promote the responsible stewardship of natural resources"

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are grassroots government organizations that advise and assist individual landowners and public agencies in planning and implementation of conservation practices for the protection, restoration, or development of land, water, and related natural resources. As a local government entity, RCDs can work with any local, state or federal agency through simple cooperative agreements. Many times the RCD can get conservation activities on the ground faster, more efficient and with greater local sensitivity than any other government entity.

RCDs derived from Soil Conservation Districts in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1935, the Federal Government passed legislation establishing the Soil Conservation Service to address the impacts of drought and soil loss resulting from the "Dust Bowl" crisis in the early 1930s. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the Governors of each state, recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form locally led and locally governed Soil Conservation Districts. These Soil Conservation Districts were originally empowered to manage soil and water resources for conservation. Through time,

as growing awareness to the vast complexities natural resource concerns was realized and their associated effects on communities, these authorities and powers expanded to include the prevention or control of soil erosion, water conservation and distribution, agricultural enhancement, and erosion stabilization, including, but not limited to, terraces, ditches, levees, and dams or other structures, and the planting of trees, shrubs, grasses, or other vegetation. The responsibility was divided among counties, and the name was changed to Resource Conservation Districts.

Today, the El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD's) are addressing some of the more complex resource issues facing the region. It's ability to address these complicated and sometimes unique issues stem from the leadership of its boards and organizational capacity to ensure accountability and trust amongst landowners and other partners. For over 80 years, your local RCD's has proven to be a partner in locally led conservation. Bringing science, research, technology, collaboration and experience to the people and communities of El Dorado County.





In recognition of Ron Huston – Valued Board Member for 24 years.

Board of Directors

Georgetown Divide RCD

William J. Bennett – President
Linda Sanford – Vice-President
David DeLongchamp – Secretary
Rich Milner – Board member
Tim Palmer – Board member

El Dorado County RCD

Chuck Mitchell – President
Carlan Meyer – Vice-President
Dale Pierce – Secretary
Ann Johnson – Board member
John James – Board member

Staff List

District Manager: Mark Egbert
Soil Technician: Fred Hunt
AmeriCorps: Micah Eggleton & Matt Lasser

District Conservationist: Danny Marquis
Soil Conservationist: Brook Fuller
Soil Conservationist: Livy Coe
Farm Bill Assistant: Linda Bosnich



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www.eldoradocountyrcd.org
www.georgetowndividercd.org



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

A Word on Stewardship

Stewardship is an ethic, a way of thinking and acting responsibly in the world around you. Natural resource stewardship means taking responsibility for the health and well-being of your land, it's resources, and the watershed that lies within.

The RCD's focus it's conservation technical assistance efforts on private lands but also provides assistance to public agencies on a variety of landscapes including forestland, cropland, and rangeland.

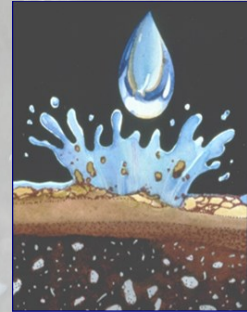
Each landowner receives a comprehensive conservation plan that starts with identifying the goals and objectives of the land manager. Being a non-regulatory and non-enforcement agency, the plan focuses on solving complex environmental and/or operational issues within the operational capacity of the land manager.

Common resource issues relate to soil productivity, soil erosion and sediment control, Cropland Management (irrigation efficiency, integrated pest management, and land Treatments), Forestland Management (timber-stand improvement, vegetation management, pest control, reforestation, community wildfire protection), Rangeland Management (grazing management, noxious weeds, wildlife enhancement, water distribution). Additional considerations involve mitigation, carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, energy efficiency, regulatory compliance and disaster relief.



Stormwater

The Districts work in cooperation with the County of El Dorado to implement the storm water program. The District is responsible for the review and approval of erosion and sediment control plans for every development project required to adhere to the county grading ordinance.



The districts work with county staff and developers to ensure soil and construction materials do not become a pollutant.

The District is staffed with certified professional erosion control specialists, who are licensed by the state as qualified storm water developers and practitioners familiar with the principles and theory of soil transport, federal, state and local regulations, and management measures appropriate to ensure compliance.



Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project

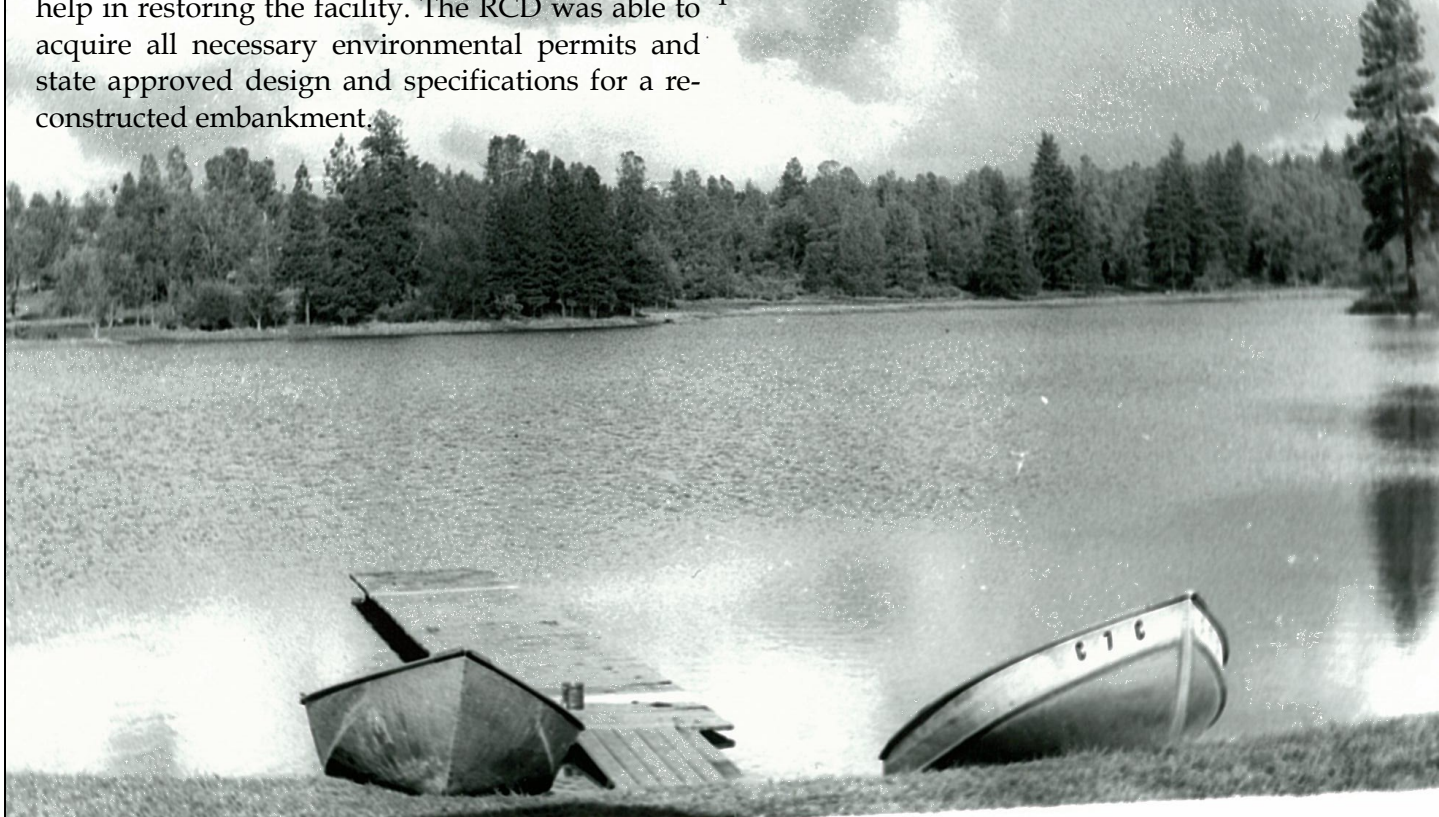
Finnon Lake was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1905. In 1956 the facility was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the embankment and found the hydraulic fill material could liquefy if subjected to a Maximum Credible Earthquake. The State mandated the dam be reconstructed to meet seismic stability standards. As an important water supply to combat wildfires, in 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the facility for \$1. The lake, however, was still mandated to operate under a storage restriction of 50 acre feet.

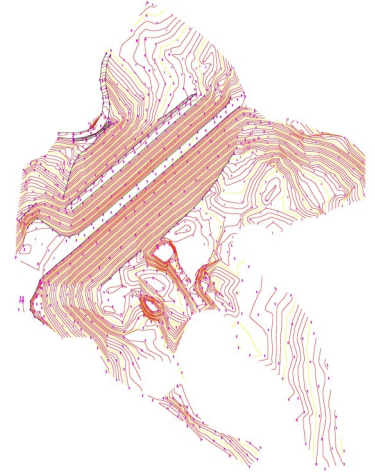
In 2005 the MVFA approached the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District seeking help in restoring the facility. The RCD was able to acquire all necessary environmental permits and state approved design and specifications for a reconstructed embankment.

In 2011, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) awarded the RCD in the amount of \$610,000, the El Dorado County Water Agency contributed \$100,000 and the Department of Water Resources provided an additional \$260,000.

Doug Veerkamp General Engineering and Youngdahl Consulting Group were hired and construction efforts resulted in restoring 518 acre-feet of water storage, enhancement of fishery and aquatic habitats, improving 5.5 acres of wetland habitat, improving 5.9 acres of forested habitat and securing a sustainable water supply to combat wildfires. Indirect benefits include supporting beneficial uses such as public access, camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, boating and other uses associated with the facility that are currently not supported.

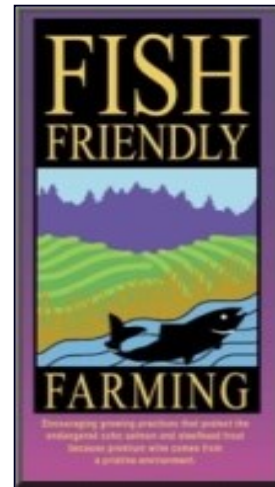
The State Division of Dams issued the final approval in 2014.





Fish Friendly Farming

The El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District's (RCD's) contacted the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) about working together to bring the Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification program (FFF) to El Dorado County. The two organizations submitted a successful grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A total of 58 sites were certified and there is more in line. The certified sites encompass 4026 acres comprised of Christmas tree's, irrigated orchards, vineyards, vegetable crops and range lands. As part of the certification more than 75,640 linear feet (14.3 miles) of creeks were assessed, 21.9 miles of roads were assessed, and 7 major projects were identified .



The FFF program is a voluntary program. Landowners interested in participating in the program should contact their local RCD office. Benefits of becoming enrolled in the program include completion of a comprehensive conservation plan, potential regulatory relief and environmentally friendly marketing support. Many growers are using the certification for labeling purposes. This program has been delivered at no cost to the grower.



Fish Friendly Farming Farms and Ranches in El Dorado County



Safari Estate Vineyard
Walker Vineyard
C.G. Di Arie Vineyard and Winery
Sierra Vista Vineyards and Winery
Meadow View Gardens
Schaefer Vineyards
Madrona Vineyards
Goodness Orchard
Smokey Ridge Ranch

Meyer Ranch
Quartz Hill Vineyard
Lave Cap Vineyards and Winery
Herbert Vineyard
Arrastra Vineyard
Carson Ridge Evergreens
Sumu Kaw/ Enye
McDee Christmas Tree Farm
Sun Mountain Farm

Boeger Winery, Inc.
Vine Hill Vineyards
Indian Rock Tree Farm
Crystal Creek Tree Farm
Kingsgate Farm
Holly's Hill Vineyards, Inc.

Hinrichs Farm
D'Artagnan Vineyards
J&J Vineyards
Ranali Vineyard at Lands End Ranch
El Dorado Vineyards
Mad Dog Mesa
Rancho Olivio Vineyards
La Chouette Vineyards
Crose Family Vineyards
Saluti Cellars

Miraflores Vineyard and Winery
Wofford Acres Vineyards
Bycroft Road Vineyards
Mais Fica Vineyards
Cielo Estate Winery
Jack Russell Brewery
Upcountry Ranch
Naked Vine Vineyards
Green Valley Olive
Cal Tex Cattle Cooperative

Z&B Ranch
Crystal Springs Vineyards
Sauber Vineyards
Clos des Knolls
Musso Family Vineyards
Chsistopherson Vineyards
Naylor Vineyard
Forni Home Ranch



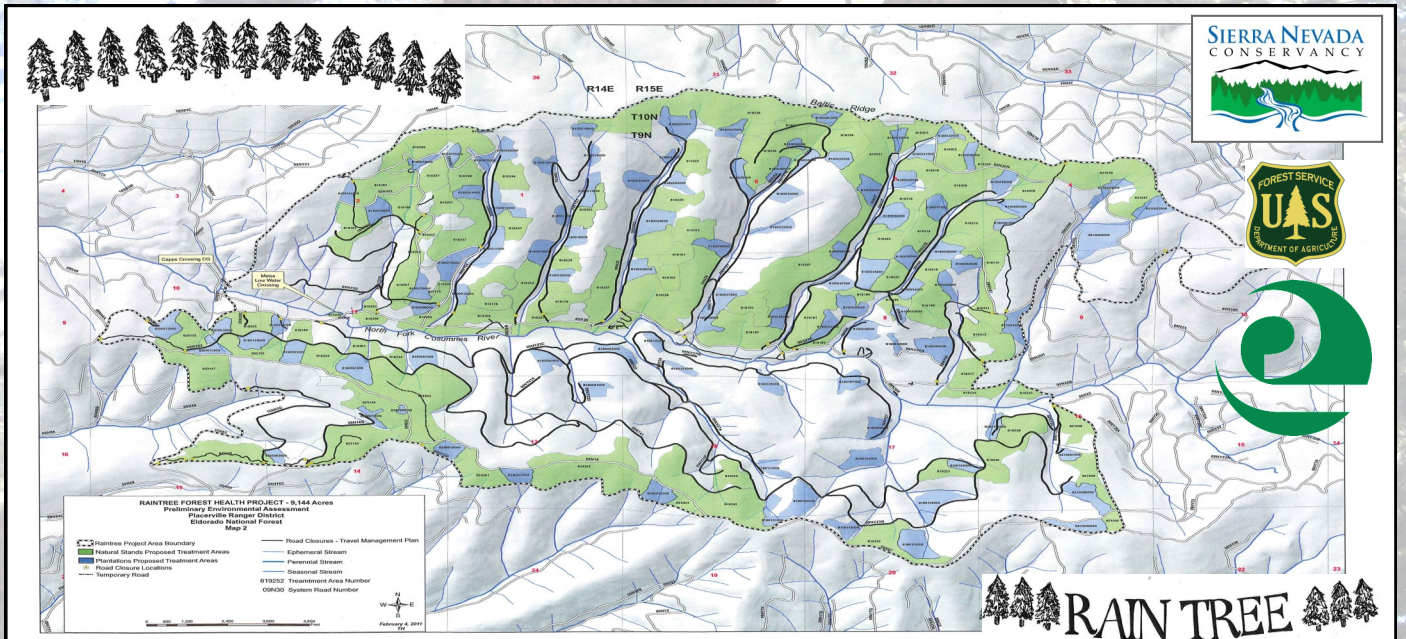
Raintree Forest Health Project

The Raintree Healthy Forest Project proposes restorative and preventative treatments and management actions in order to improve forest health and re-establish a sustainable landscape condition on public lands with the Raintree project area.

Project activities include activities to reduce fuel loads and fire hazards, and to improve wildlife habitat, watershed condition, and forest growth, while considering effects on other resources and activities.

Proposed activities would include commercial and pre-commercial understory thinning of mixed conifer stands and plantations, enhancing aspen and hardwood habitat, removing hazard trees adjacent to system roads and dispersed camping areas, reconstructing and repairing system roads, grapple and machine piling, mastication brush and small trees, restoring watershed function, and prescribed understory burning.

The purpose and need of the proposed treatment activities in the Raintree project area is to modify the forest vegetation in order to put it on a trajectory toward the desired conditions for: (1) reduce tree density; (2) sustained old forest conditions; (3) enhanced wildlife habitat; (4) reduced wildfire risk; (5) improved long-term scenic sustainability; (6) increased recreational opportunities; (7) enhanced riparian conservation areas; and (8) maximized revenue derived from commercial products to perform essential and costly biomass removal and surface fuel treatments.



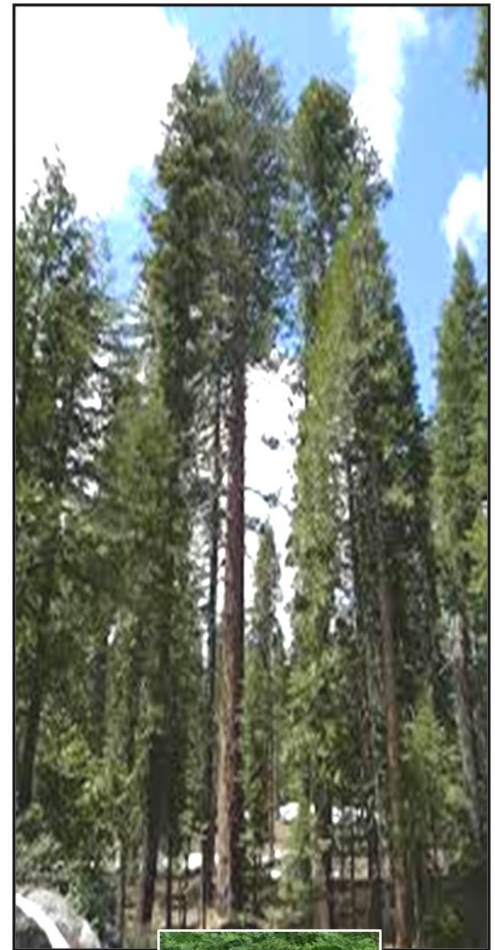
Seedling Program

The forests of the Sierra Nevada are some of the most productive tree growing areas in the world. With careful thought and planning, you should be able to grow a healthy stand of trees that achieves your goals as a landowner. Reforestation and restoration projects yield better air and water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, greater biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability, healthier forests, reduced soil erosion, and increased timber production.

Container seedling production at the CALFIRE L.A. Moran Reforestation Center ceased operations in 2003 and in 2011 CALFIRE closed its Magalia Reforestation Center. CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry are continuing to evaluate strategies for providing nursery and reforestation services for the state's public and private forests, consistent with statutory authorities. Central to these efforts are identification of new funding sources or partnerships to support reforestation efforts. As such, the RCD's have entered into agreement with the USFS Nursery in Camino to produce seedlings for distribution to forest landowners throughout California.

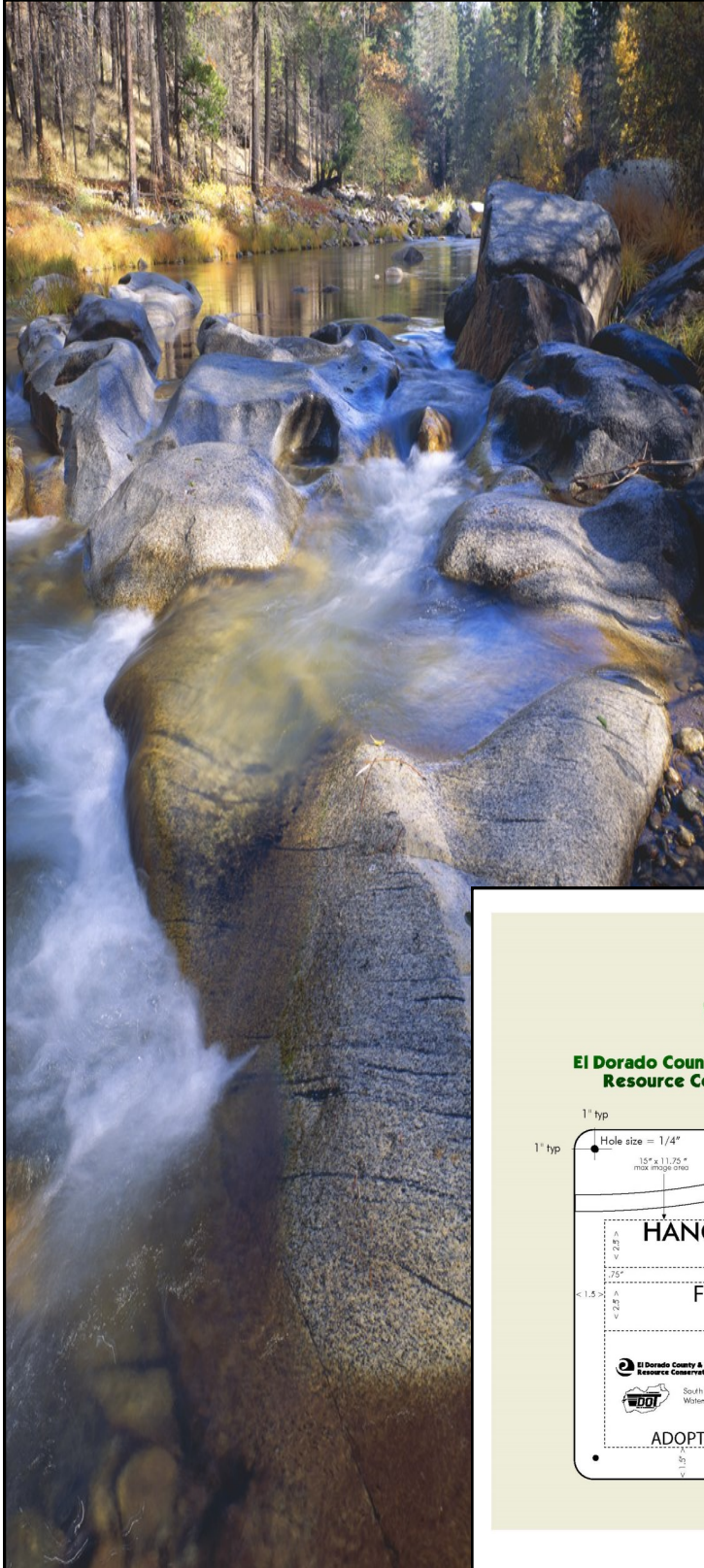
The RCD's can supply seedlings grown from parent trees native to the same elevation and geographical zone as your property (known as seed zones). Planting seedlings from the appropriate seed zone will ensure that they will tolerate the climate and soil type where you are.

All seedlings grown at the USFS Placerville Nursery are grown to USFS Region 5 specifications and shall meet phyto-sanitary certification regulations pertaining to shipments of trees.



Division 9 of the PRC§9409 allows for the RCD's to make improvements or conduct operations on public lands, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on private lands, with the consent of the owners thereof, in furtherance of the prevention or control of soil erosion, water conservation and distribution, agricultural enhancement, and erosion stabilization, including, but not limited to, terraces, ditches, levees, and dams or other structures, and the planting of trees, shrubs,

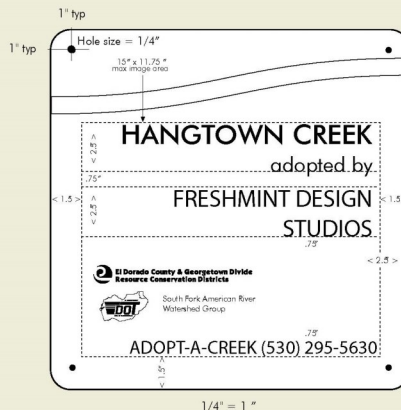
Watershed Signage Program



Increasing watershed awareness through signage is a great way to be involved with stewardship activities. Residents and organizations can purchase stream identification signs by contact the RCD office. Over 25 signs have been installed this year.



**El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide
Resource Conservation Districts**



Sign Panels

PMS 300 epoxy powder coated .125 aluminum 18"x18" signs with 1/2" radius corners, mounted in one of three manners:

Mount on 22"x22"x2" redwood panel with a bevel edge; mount to a single 4"x4"x5" pressure treated (copper or equivalent.)



Wood panel/post



Copy shown is for illustration only. Final layout must be approved by the Adopt-A-Creek Coordinator.

Camp Sacramento

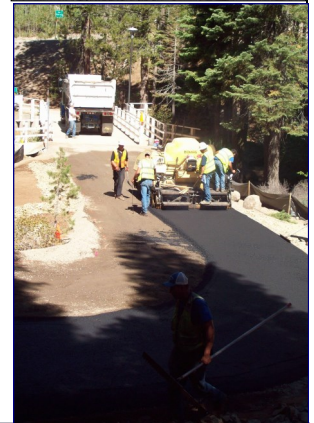
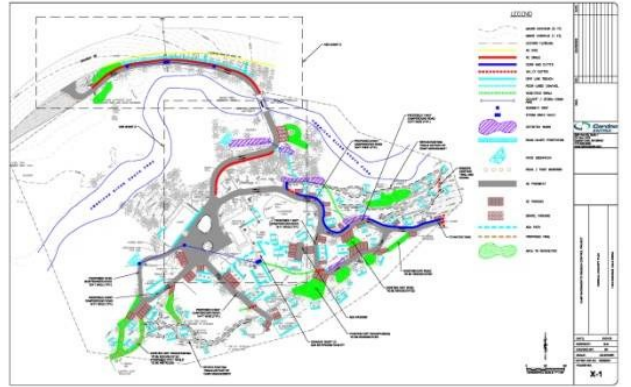


Camp Sacramento is a high sierra family camp located along Highway 50 at an elevation of 6500 feet. For 90 years, the camp has provided recreational opportunities for thousands of people from all over the world. The RCD's acquired funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and the USFS to enable increased opportunity for tourism and recreation, and undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of public lands by improving an existing recreation destination.

Improvements will also attract more users while improving safety. Furthermore, Camp Sacramento provides a parking

area for one of the trail heads that leads to "Lovers Leap", which is a destination for extreme climbers from all over the world.

Preliminary assessments have shown extensive sediment transport directly to the South Fork American River effecting riparian and aquatic habitats. This project has restored the priority high use degraded road system, restored degraded trails, and addressed modified hydrological features within camp. Ultimately, the project will reduce runoff carrying sediment to the South Fork American River resulting in the improvement of water quality.





City of Placerville – Gold Bug Park



Before Treatment



After Treatment

After Treatment – 2 years



In April 1980, Hangtown's Gold Bug Park Development Committee, Inc, was formed to clean up, protect, and defend the property for public use. On February 1, 1985, the park was approved for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and also as a State Point of Interest on the California registry.

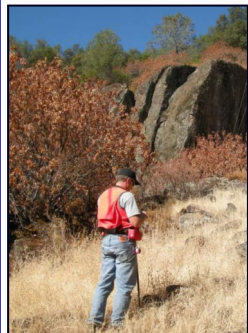
Gold Bug Park is owned and operated by the City of Placerville. The City is the only municipality in the state of California to own a gold mine. The RCD's are a partner in the effort to help clean and protect Gold Bug Park. One major accomplishment was the completion of the Gold Bug Park Fire Safe Implementation Plan. The removal of 20'+ high manzanita stands and other non-desirable vegetation dramatically changed the landscape. Restorative actions were planned and implemented through community based volunteer programs. The RCD's and the City are working together to re-establish and protect existing native vegetation, eliminate exotic invasive species, and improving the trail system. The RCD's are coordinating several volunteer activities throughout the year. More than 4 events with over 112 community volunteers have come together. Please contact the RCD's to sign up for the next Gold Bug Park event!

HANGTOWN CREEK TRASH ROUNDUP

FRIDAY APRIL 2:00PM



Community Wildfire Protection

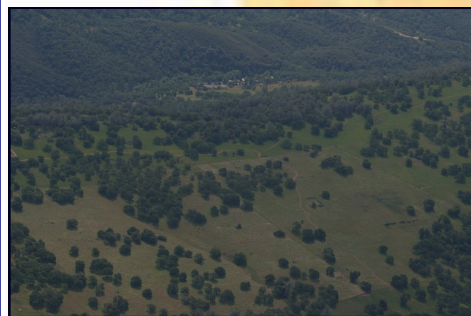


The RCD's have partnered with CALFIRE, the USFS, BLM, State Parks, local Fire Departments and various communities throughout the County to bring awareness and advocacy to understanding the effects of catastrophic wildfire, and ways to protect your home and natural resources from loss due to fire. RCD's work primarily on private lands. Many people living in the foothills relocate here because of the beautiful landscape and privacy rural settings provide. However, through a series of workshops and educational seminars conducted over the past several years, landowners are learning about the benefits of taking steps towards the responsible stewardship of their land. Since 2007, the RCD's have conducted fuel load reduction practices on over 2000 acres bringing in over \$2,131,498.00 on-the-ground community wildfire protection programs.



USDA Forest Service
State & Private Forestry

Fuels treatments are being executed all over the Sierra Nevada. Concern has been expressed by resource agencies and environmental organizations that these treatments can have adverse effects on wildlife and plants listed under state and federal Endangered Species Acts. There is additional concern that unless properly addressed, fuels treatments can open habitats to invasion by exotic plant species. Although these concerns may be addressed in part through environmental compliance procedures there is a pressing need for forest managers and contractors to become better informed about how to proactively design their treatments to protect sensitive biological resources. These residents have other concerns (e.g., erosion, noise, dust, etc.) as well, and they are not well informed about the methods used for fuels treatments and their short and long-term impacts and benefits.



To be fully supportive of fuels treatments, and to ensure the appropriate tools are used to construct them, the RCD's are hosting a series of workshops discussing vegetation treatment options, and the environmental assessments conducted to ensure an understanding of all the resources being protected through these programs.

Perimeter shaded fuel break (just after treatment (below) One year after treatment 2011 (above))





Watershed Education Summit



Public Education and K-12 Curriculum



The RCD's partners with teachers, local agricultural and resource based groups to conduct a wide variety of educational programs. These programs are designed to meet California state standards for k-12 curriculum. The RCD's also conduct workshops to education residents about resource problems and solutions. Topics covered include erosion and sediment control, forestry, integrated pest management, nutrient management, habitat improvement, pond management, reforestation, timber stand improvement, fuels management, irrigation management, rural roads, rangeland assessment and management, and a variety of other topics. These workshops are always planned using partners from UCCE, Ag Commissioner, NRCS, SPI, USFS, Ag in the Classroom, and County departments.



Farm Day demonstrations and exhibits teach students something new about where our food, fiber, and shelter comes from.





Sage Map Contest



A local organization of Surveyors Architects Geologists and Engineers (S.A.G.E) is dedicated to a unique type of community service. Started in 1975, SAGE contributes to a wide array of community projects from review and consultation of projects for government agencies and public utilities to evaluating if local regulations are fair to county residents.



In honor of National Geographic Awareness week, the SAGE Map contest was introduced 18 years ago to promote a better understanding of the importance of geography in our world and to encourage the creative talents of our youth in our community.



The RCD's are proud to help organize this contest in association with S.A.G.E. Through this contest, students are challenged to promote science, and get kids exposed to what surveying, architecture, geology and engineering is all about.



The Student Map Drawing Contest is growing in popularity. This year 425 maps were submitted to the contest. Many teachers made this a class project. All maps were displayed during the contest at the County Government Center and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place maps will be displayed at the El Dorado County Fair. Our local newspapers ran great stories with pictures of maps and students. Prizes and ribbons were awarded to kindergarten thru 12th grade. All grades receive cash prizes and special recognition from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and SAGE.

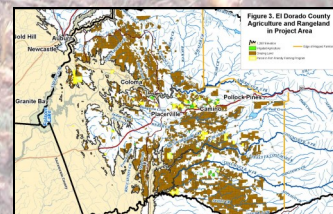
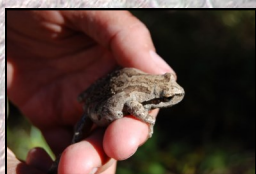
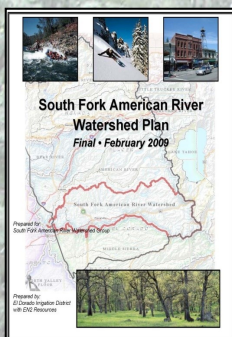


Visit the Map Contest website (<http://www.eldoradorcd.org/sage/pages/welcome.htm>) for 2014 winners.



Community Based Watershed Planning

The South Fork American River Watershed Group (SFARWG) represents a collaboration of a broad group of local stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies; sovereign Tribal nations; non-profit/non-governmental organizations; and private citizens. This round-table offers a means for all interested citizens to express their concerns for natural resource issues in the watershed, and to provide input into and guide implementation of the Watershed Plan. Today, the SFAR Watershed Group is facilitated by the RCD's and is re-calibrating to address issues as diverse as water quality data management, urban storm water runoff issues, recreation and forest management.



NRCS Partnership



SOIL SURVEY OF

The El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), are progressing a conservation planning initiative by improving and sustaining natural resources founded upon a shared vision - "People in Partnership with a Healthy Land."

Consistent with this vision, the RCD's proposes to maintain the conservation initiative that supports the mission: "Local people leading a voluntary, coordinated, and integrated watershed approach to address natural and human resource conservation needs." Together the RCD's and the NRCS have brought locally led conservation to El Dorado County in a non-regulatory, non-enforcement voluntary manner. We build our programs on trust and accountability. Working on private lands, listening to growers, and understanding how we can help them achieve their goals is what our Conservation Technical Assistance program is based on.

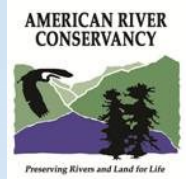
The Farm Bill is also an important incentive program providing funds to implement conservation practices.





Sierra Nevada

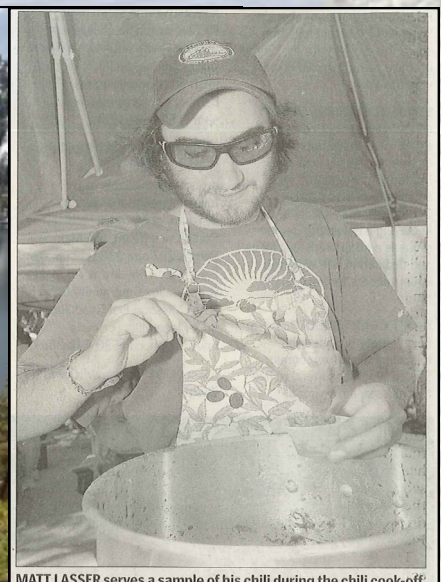
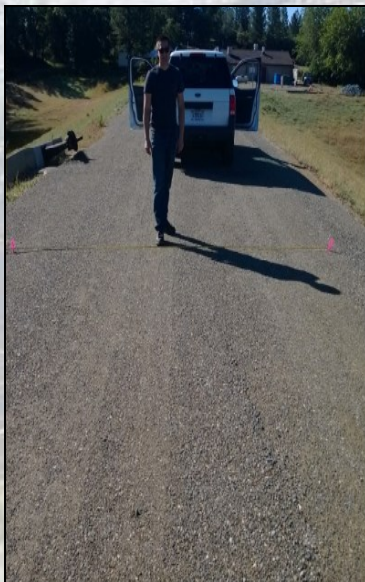
AmeriCorps Program



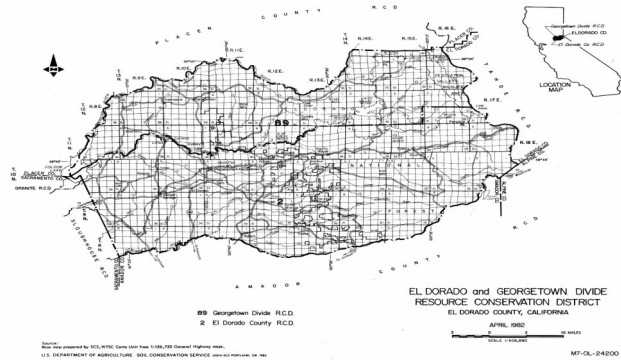
The Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP), a program of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, places twenty-seven full time AmeriCorps members at different conservation organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada to assess and restore impaired watershed habitats and increase community stewardship by conducting watershed restoration and ecological monitoring, watershed education, and volunteer recruitment and support.

The RCD's have partnered with the American River Conservancy to jointly host two AmeriCorps representatives in El Dorado County. The AmeriCorps partnership brings energy, ideas and creativity to our various watershed based educational and restoration programs. "We simply wouldn't have as much opportunity to bring so much energy and character to our programs without our AmeriCorps partner" - Mark Egbert, District Manager.

Matt Lasser and Micah Eggleton were this years AmeriCorps members. They are busy leading the way on restoration projects at Gold Bug Park, Wakamatsu Colony, and Fannon Lake. They are also leading educational programs such as the Watershed Education Summit, Farm Day, and the local SAGE Map Contest. We are proud to support the AmeriCorps program and encourage you to help support legislation to keep this program alive for the benefit of its members and our community.



MATT LASSER serves a sample of his chili during the chili cook-off.



Statement of Net Assets & Governmental Fund Balance Sheet

ASSETS	El Dorado County RCD	Georgetown Divide RCD
Cash & Investments	\$633,171	\$292,791
Capital assets	\$6,918	\$8,376
Total Assets	\$659,927	\$296,149
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$25,179	\$168,422
NET ASSETS		
Invested in Capital assets	\$1,526	\$874
Unrestricted	\$367,053	\$126,853
Total net assets	\$634,748	\$127,727