

2002 Annual Report of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District



The Board: George, Don, Ernie, Dave, and Dan.

Board Meetings: During the year 2002 a total of eighteen (18) meetings were conducted for business and information. Thirteen (13) regular board meetings were held with one rescheduled due to a lack of quorum, and five (5) special board meetings were held for specific business.

Meet the Directors: George Thackeray has served on the Board since 1997 and was re-elected by fellow Directors this year to a second term as President of the Board. Dave Back has served on the Board since 1982, Dan Hayden since 1990, Ernie Wilkinson since 1993, and Don Howell since 2000. In December the Board of Supervisors reappoint Directors David Black, Dan Hayden, and Ernest Wilkinson to Board for four-year terms expiring November 29, 2006. Ernie and Dave served on the District Finance Committee with Don Howell as alternate. The Finance committee reviews and develops personnel policy improvements, guidelines for pay rates, and financial templates for proposal writing. For the first time the District will provide 5% SEP retirement plan benefit for staff serving over two year service. Job Performance Evaluations have become too numerous to hold annually in December or January and are now staggered by anniversary month of hire. Ernie and Dave also participate as individuals on the Scott River Watershed Council.

Did you know...

- The Board of Directors are local landowners that volunteer their time and expertise.
- The Directors are appointed to four-year terms by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors.
- The Siskiyou RCD is a non-taxing Special District of the County of Siskiyou operating solely on grant funding.

Meet the Staff: Carolyn Pimentel has served as District Manager since 1996, Gary Black is Senior Project Coordinator having started with the District in 1995, Brenda Hurlimann has been Bookkeeper since 1998, and Danielle Quigley has been our Technical Project Coordinator since 2000. Jeffy Marx has served as the Scott River Watershed CRMP Coordinator since 1996 and Scott River Watershed Council Coordinator since 1999 and has also taken on the task of Scott River Watershed Strategic Action Planning Coordinator. In a yearlong effort, Jeffy and the RCD have finally been successful in turning over her responsibilities as Council Coordinator to a new Coordinator. Jeffy will officially be on extended leave of absence for the next year although she will be available on a limited basis for consulting and grant writing. In July Rhonda Muse joined the staff as Council Coordinator and will take over the Strategic Action Planning responsibilities as well. Mike Schafer was upland Project Coordinator with the District since 2000, but left the District in March. Mike Duguay helped out with Council Coordination and Project Coordination since mid 2001 for about ten months, but has also left the District. In March Ric Costales was contracted on a limited basis for to coordinate the Moffett Creek Gross Assessment Project (# 62). In August Ken Harris was also contracted on a limited basis as Project Coordinator for Etna Road Erosion Inventory (# 73) and Mill Creek Road Erosion Inventory (# 78). The office copy machine was replaced with a Mita KM-2530 rental from Ohlund's Office Supply, Yreka.



The Staff: Rhonda, Jeffy, Danielle, Carolyn, Gary, and Brenda

NRCS: Our sister agency providing technical assistance & programs

- Lorrie Bundy has been reassigned to the Yreka office and will gradually be moving permanently to that location.
- Approximately 6 million dollars will be dedicated to the Lower Klamath Basin for on-the-ground projects in addition to the regular NRCS programs.
- Bill Gardiner, NRCS Conservationist is trying to acquire additional staff for planning and administration of program funds.
- The local Working Group ranks and allocates project applications for EQIP
- NRCS will provide Microsoft Project planning software for use in the Yreka NRCS Field Office, RCD's, and local Watershed Council and CRMP.

In Memory:

- March - Randy Seelbrede, NRCS Yreka Office Conservationist retired, and soon after sadly passed away after loosing a battle with bone marrow cancer.
- September - Frank Jackson passed away, former Conservationist for many years starting in 1956 for the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS).

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Program

Categories:

- **Fish**
- **Water Quality**
- **Water Supply**
- **Riparian**
- **Land**
- **Planning**
- **Outreach & Education**

Program Categorization:

In May projects began being categorized by program type to better identify accomplishments. By September Brenda had entered 123 projects into the RCD access database. Program Categories were revised by the RCD staff and accepted by the Board in December.

Fisheries Issues:

- February - Siskiyou RCD wrote a comment letter regarding Prepublication of Scientific Evaluation of Biological Opinions on Endangered & Threatened Fishes in the Klamath Basin by National Research Council.
- July - Fish and Game Commission toured Scott and Shasta Valleys. The 2106 Code will be enacted, and plans are starting for the recovery planning effort.
- October – December negative press articles of misinformation regarding salmon kills on Scott & Shasta are seen in the SF Chronicle article.
- 11 Fish Related projects were in progress in 2002 investing **\$330,527.96** into the local watershed and economy.

Riparian:

- 7 Riparian Related projects delivered **\$94,496.94** of on the ground enhancements and protection with planting and fencing.

Water Quality & Supply:

- 7 Water Related projects were in progress throughout the year accounting for **\$27,727.93**.

Land:

- 5 Upland projects inventoried opportunities for road erosion reduction on South Fork, Shackleford / Mill, and Mof-fett Creeks totaling **\$145,108.33**

Scott River Strategic Action Plan:

- March - Subcontracted consultants for SAP, Haling & Assoc. are having internal staffing problems, and having trouble with deliverables. RCD & SRWC sent letter. A Special Board meeting was called regarding the situation and a special meeting with all parties was requested.
- April – The dispute was resolved with Haling & Assoc. releasing all parties from contract with a settlement of \$5,000 to Haling and delivery of all draft documents from Haling to RCD.
- June - Approval of evaluation proposal in the amount of \$2,500 from George Williamson of Planwest Partners to get SAP back on track.
- December the Plan Outline was revised.
- **\$23,203.26** has been invested so far.

Outreach & Education:

- The Etna Union High School District Watershed Education Program is in it's 4th year. Investing **\$6,407.23** in our kids for 2002!
- The Scott River Watershed Council is in it's 10th year investing **\$60,255.37** this year alone in broad-based resource conservation project proposals, assessment and planning recommendations for the District.

Presentations to the Board:

- February - Resource Management Power Point presentation on their skills and services.
- June - Special Meeting to meet with agency representatives from NCWAP to learn about this program and what is expected of the RCD, concerns and clarification. Resulted in an effort for the RCD to coordinate with Steve Sterling, NCWAP Agency Lead to plan for a public informational meeting in September.
- July - NCWAP has completed first reports of the first 3 watersheds of Gualala, Mattole and Redwood Creeks and work is underway on federal lands and on some private lands in the Scott. NCWAP will be a component of the coho recovery team effort, and will be relied on heavily for TMDL.
- October - TMDL presentation by David Leland, Donald Coates, and Bryan McFadin of the NCRWQCB.
- November - Russ Henly, CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) – NCWAP & CDF current and future activities in the Scott River Watershed regarding CDF's road data collection pilot project.

Audit: FY 1999-2000 & 2000-2001

- In January the engagement process started for the Siskiyou RCD Audit for FY 1999-2000 & 2000-2001, and in October after District comments were included Gary P. Allen, CPA completed these Audits.

Total Budget :
\$ 745,291.38

District Budget:

- In February a Resolution for simplification of the FY Budget was approved.
- In May the draft FY 2002-2003 budget approved and July the final budget was accepted for the total revenue at \$3.6 million, which is a bit misleading because full amounts of multi-year contracts were appropriated.
- In September the Finance committee recommendations: 1. Use \$9,000 from investment account funds to cover cash flow shortfalls in operating account when absolute needed, but was never needed. 2. Hold off on health care benefits until financially feasible. 3. Add space on performance evaluations for directors' comments.

- **Project Costs**
\$ 687,727.00
- **Administration**
\$ 57,564.38



Example of the diversion fish screens designed and installed by the District. So far 24 have been completed with 31 more scheduled for installation.

Policies:

- March - Board decision to revoke requirement for Director signature in addition to DM signature on outgoing invoices to expedite billing procedures.
- May - Review of revised draft policies for Procurement: Professional Services & Construction, and approval and adoption in June.
- December – Still waiting for Procurement Policies for Supplies & Equip.
- December - Board of Supervisors reappoint Directors David Black, Dan Hayden, and Ernest Wilkinson to the Siskiyou RCD Board of Directors for four-year terms expiring November 29, 2006.

Outreach:

- February – District Manager and Director Ernie Wilkinson met with Senator Maurice Johannessen in Yreka to share District project accomplishments of last 45 years that amount to \$7.5 million dollars.
- February – Gary Black and Don Howell went to an informal gathered with friends and directors of north state RCD's, and later met with Bob Trainer, staffer for CDFG Commission.
- April - Siskiyou RCD Press release: Over one millions dollars of funding has been awarded to Siskiyou RCD for resource conservation projects.
- May - RCD/SRWC display board at the Tulalake Migratory Bird Festival on May 11, 2002
- July - Jeffy attended and brought back a notebook binder for the RCD library from the RCRC Conference in Redding.
- September - Directors Howell, Black, and Manager Pimentel attend the joint District meeting on September 25th in Klamath Falls.
- October - Director Howell and District Manager travel to Santa Rosa for North Coast Area RCD meeting. Siskiyou RCD receives recognition as Conservationists of the Year 2002.
- November - Rhonda Muse, Carolyn Pimentel, and Don Howell attend the CARCD Annual Meeting in Redding.



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Monthly Board Meetings:

First Thursday evening of each month at the District Office. The public is welcome! Please call the District office to be placed on our mailing list (either postal or email) for monthly agendas.

WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.SISQTEL.NET/~SISQRCD/SISKIYOURCD.HTML

Siskiyou RCD Awarded Conservationist of the Year 2002 By North Coast Area Association of RCD's

2002 Proposals & Projects:

- 35 new project proposals were developed.
 - 5 were not submitted needing further development or review.
- 21 proposals were confirmed for funding (11 were submitted before 2002).
 - 16 proposals were not funded.
 - 2 proposals are pending notification of funding.
 - 1 project was funded, but refused by RCD due to lack of match.
- 38 project contracts were open & active throughout 2002.
- 11 projects were completed.

