

2003 Annual Report of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District



The Board: George Thackeray, President Don Howell, Ernie Wilkinson (retired), Dave Black, Dan Hayden, and Bill Krum (not in photo)

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.

Board Meetings: During the year 2003 a total of seventeen (17) meetings were held. Twelve (12) Regular Board Meetings, three (3) Special Board Meetings, and one (1) Special Information Meeting featured RCD projects, programs, and opportunities for conservation in the Scott River watershed. April 23rd the District was host to the North Coast Region CARCD Spring Meeting held at Bob’s Ranch House.

Directors: **George Thackeray** has served on the Board since 1997 and was re-elected by fellow Directors to a third term as President. **Dave Back** has served on the Board since 1982, **Dan Hayden** since 1990, and **Don Howell** since 2000. After serving on the board since 1993, **Ernie Wilkinson** resigned his directorship effective at the close of the April 3rd meeting with sincere thanks to his fellow Board members and to the staff for his ten-plus years of pleasant and productive association. The Board in turn regretfully accepted his resignation and thanked him for his dedicated service. In March **Bill Krum** was appointed by the Board as an Associate Director, and then in May appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fill Ernie’s vacated position. Bill was welcomed to his directorship at the June 5th meeting. Ernie continues to work with the District in his new position with NRCS.

Staff: **Carolyn Pimentel** has served as District Manager since 1996, **Gary Black** as Senior Project Coordinator since 1995, **Brenda Hurlimann** as the District Bookkeeper since 1998, and **Danielle Quigley** as Technical Project Coordinator since 2000. **Rhonda Muse** joined the staff as Council Coordinator in July of 2002 and in 2003 also took on the Strategic Action Planning responsibilities. **Bill Watrous** started in 2002 for part-time fish screen maintenance. **Crystal Bowman** started in October as Watershed Education Coordinator. **Teresa Johnson** was subcontracted to organize and catalogue our library, and **Terry Bishop** to maintain our RCD and SRWC websites. Many other part-time temporary employees and subcontractors help out in various specialized needs. The District follows their policies for public bidding processes for procurement of professional & construction services, and procurement of materials needed to complete projects. The success of the District is truly a team effort of many individuals.

Proposals, Policies & Resolutions:

- **May** – Ten (10) Project Proposals were submitted to CA Department of Fish and Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service for funding consideration.
- **July** - Adoption of Procurement Policies for Supplies & Equip.
- **August** - Membership with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Certificate of Consent to Self Insure Workers’ Compensation Liabilities, and Special District Risk Management Workers’ Compensation Program.
- **October** - Adopted a change in Program Recognition for NRCS Programs.

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District Budgets:

- The FY 2003-2004 budgets were approved in August, but are a bit misleading as they are calculated on the total remaining contract funds on multi-year projects:
 - Regular fund: Revenue of \$2,705,083, and Expenses of \$2,504,508
 - Special fund: Revenue of \$136,089, and Expenses of \$123,718.
- Actual project activity totals for the calendar year of 2003 were:
 - Project Costs = \$1,114,186
 - Administration = \$106,277* Of this amount \$90,761 is held as retention by funding sources until project completion, which can be more than one year on multi-year contract agreements.

Actual Costs for 2003 Calendar Year: 1.2 million

Total FY 2003-2004 Budgets: 2.8 million

Project & Program Categorization:

- Since last year, projects have been categorized by program type to help better identify accomplishments. A database was started several years ago by a Humboldt State graduated student, but lacks the level of detail necessary. Plans are underway to custom design a database program system to meet project effectiveness tracking needs.
- The amounts listed next to each program category below indicate the dollar accomplishments in 2003.

Program Categories:

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

Fisheries: \$243,696

- **Adult Coho Spawning Surveys:** Funded by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage and Jobs In The Woods programs.
- **Scott River Fish Screening Programs:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission.
- **Scott River Fish Screen Maintenance Program:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Fish Passage and Diversion Improvement Programs:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game, and US Fish and



Example of the diversion fish screens designed and installed by the District. So far 45 have been completed throughout the Scott River watershed.



Portion of piping an open diversion ditch on the Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement Project

Water Supply: \$653,470

- **Assessment of Scott River Flow Enhancement Options:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Scott River Gauging and Meso-habitat Typing:** Funded by US Fish & Wildlife Service..
- **Sugar Creek Flow Enhancement Through Diversion Piping:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Scott River Water Balance:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Emergency Flow Enhancement:** Funded by Dean Witter Foundation.

Water Quality: \$28,246

- **Habitat Typing:** Funded by US Fish & Wildlife Service
- **Shackleford / Mill Water Quality Improvement:** Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.



Riparian: \$64,315

- **7 Riparian Related Projects:** On the ground enhancements and protections including planting and fencing were funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game, State Water Resource Control Board, Wildlife Conservation Board, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Land: \$20,972

- **Fuel Zone Modification Demonstration** : Funded by Klamath National Forest.
- **Newton Enhancement Project**: Funded by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- **Moffett Creek Upland Gross Assessment & Road Decommission & Abandonment**: Funded by State Water Resources Control Board, and CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Etna Creek & Mill Creek Erosion Inventories**: Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game



Road Crossing Improvements

Outreach & Education: \$123,488

- **District Capacity Building Program**: Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game
- **Scott River Watershed Education Programs**: Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game.
- **Scott River Watershed Council**: Funded by CA Dept. of Fish & Game, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Task Force.
- **Program Administration**: Siskiyou RCD administrative overhead at 10% of project costs.



Fuel zone modification

Strategic Action Planning: \$86,275

- **Scott River Strategic Action Planning & Assessment**: Funded by State Water Resource Control Board Proposition 13, and Cantara Trustee Council.
- **Initial Phase of the Scott River Strategic Action Plan**: Completion set for January 2004. The Initial Phase of the Scott River Strategic Action Plan (SAP) will serve as a working document to provide a 'blueprint' for implementing restoration projects throughout the watershed.
- The project-planning concept used in the development and implementation of the SAP is to 'provide the most accurate, extensive and compelling scientific background possible, for identifying issues and action relative to natural resource management on the Scott River watershed'. The purpose of this process is to identify the current conditions of the watershed and indicate the best methods for improving them.
- Strategic actions are identified in the SAP by topic and priority indicators are specified as high, medium, or low in terms of completion timeframes.
- As the SAP is implemented, future phases will begin being developed, and proposed changes to the document are expected. The SAP will always be a *living document*.

NRCS: Our sister agency providing technical

- Bill Gardiner, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservationist provided Farm Bill information, programs, and workshop opportunities throughout the year.
- \$50 million has been designated for the Klamath Basin with approximately 6 million dollars dedicated to the Lower Klamath Basin for on-the-ground projects in addition to the regular NRCS programs for the next several years.
- Dan Hayden and Don Howell were appointed to the EQIP Work Group. This local Work Group ranks and makes allocations on project applications for EQIP. 31 projects were funded in Siskiyou County totaling 1.2 million dollars and split evenly between the Scott and Shasta Valleys. Projects averaged \$50K and were principally for water conservation.
- Lorrie Bundy has now been assigned to the Yreka office as Agricultural Engineer.
- Ernie Wilkinson was hired in July on a part-time basis to assist with landowner contacts for workshops and management systems for enhanced pasture productivity and profitability.
- A five-member scientific watershed planning team is being assembled to help with Klamath Basin issues to define project inventory, analyze and develop requirements for how funds will be used for the next 4-5 years.
- NRCS is also working with the District on an Irrigation Water Management cooperative agreement, Graze Management Incentive Program, and technical assistance from the National Riparian Service Team.



Siskiyou Resource Conservation District

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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

Summary of 1992 through 2003 Accomplishments:

WATER QUANTITY CONSERVATION:

- Installed 12 stock watering systems with 11 cfs of flow returned to the river, and more systems scheduled for installation.
- Installed 38 sets of moisture sensors for 20 landowners to improve irrigation efficiency.
- Designed/installed efficient water delivery systems by piping inefficient open earthen ditches to increase flows in Sugar Creek up to 3.5 cfs.
- Working with irrigation districts and diversion ditch owners for water management efficiency.
- Water Balance, Phase 1, year one completed in 1999, and additional projects are continuing to seek better understanding of watershed hydrological balances within the watershed.

WATER QUALITY AND SOIL EROSION REDUCTION:

- Completed sediment studies for 1998 and 2000.
- Completed 17,150 feet of fish friendly stream channel enhancements, bank stabilization, and installed 313+ instream structures on private properties.
- Improved upland road related practices by inventorying over 400 miles of roads, implemented erosion reduction improvements of out-sloping, culvert removal, and rocking on 127 miles of roads, and decommissioning 19.2 miles of both public and private roads.
- Fenced 95% of privately owned portions of the Scott River mainstem, and 40% of the tributaries.
- Planted 187 acres of riparian zone with pine, cottonwood and willows at a planting density of 160 to 260 trees per acre.

FISHERIES & WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS:

- Collected water temperature data since 1995, and continuing as an ongoing program.
 - Installed 45 fish screens throughout the Scott River Watershed.
 - Collecting macro invertebrate data since 1998, and continuing as an ongoing program.
 - Improved fish passage by installing weirs to replace gravel dams at 10 diversions.
 - Completed the newly established habitat assessment and studies program.
 - Completed three years of adult coho spawning surveys.
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