



GLENN COUNTY



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Upper Stony Creek

**Glenn County Resource Conservation District  
2007-2008 Annual Report**

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## INTRODUCTION

Established in 1989, the Glenn County Resource Conservation District (“District”) was organized to provide leadership to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources, our environment, and our county’s economic viability.

Our mission is:

***“To promote a sustainable, economically healthy county, through the management of natural resources, maintain a desirable environment, and address local resource issues in a timely manner.”***

Our function is:

***“To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.”***

As a “Special District”, organized under the California Public Resources Code, Division 9, we have many powers to carry out our goals and objectives. Priority issues include outreach and education on water resources, maintaining our agricultural land base, range management, control and/or eradication of invasive species, as well as evaluating the potential impacts of loss of wildlife habitat, maintaining air quality, and researching and promoting alternative methods for energy. One of the primary areas the District has actively been working in is the Lower Stony Creek Watershed.

The District Board, comprised of local landowner volunteers, dedicates their personal time to represent the local voice on natural resource concerns. ***It is estimated that the volunteers worked over 1,700 hours during this period.*** We thank them and their hard work in making Glenn County a better place to live!

The District is funded entirely by grants, donations, and contracts, and receives no general tax revenues. Thank you to our sponsors!

## PURPOSE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*“The Legislature hereby declares that resource conservation is of fundamental importance to the prosperity and welfare of the people of this state.”*

Conservation Districts emerged during the 1930s as a way to prevent the soil erosion problems of the Dust Bowl from recurring. Formed as independent local liaisons between the federal government and landowners, Conservation Districts have always worked closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

In California, they are termed Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) and are "Special Districts" organized under the state Public Resources Code, Division 9. Each district has a locally elected or appointed volunteer board of directors made up of landowners in that district. RCDs address a wide variety of conservation issues such as forest fuel management, water and air quality, wildlife habitat restoration, soil erosion control, conservation education, and much more.

California now has 103 Resource Conservation Districts, most of which are funded largely through grants. A few receive limited funds through county property tax revenues. The Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service provide training and in-kind support, as well as a watershed grant program for districts.

Today, RCDs work in urban areas as well as with farmers and ranchers on agricultural-related concerns. California's size and geographical diversity, along with an ever-growing population, make natural resources stewardship a great challenge in the Golden State.

Source: California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, [www.carcd.org](http://www.carcd.org)

## PROJECTS

### Lower Stony Creek Watershed Project

- ⇒ \$763,200 for an assessment and analysis, monitoring program, and demonstration site awarded by SWRCB (*Years 05-07*)
- ⇒ \$400,000 for a watershed plan awarded by the DWR (*Years 07-09*)
- ⇒ \$25,000 for Arundo and Tamarix removal awarded by the WMA (*Years 07-08*)
- ⇒ \$7,500 for riparian restoration awarded by the USFWS (*Years 07-12*)
- ⇒ \$5,000 for Arundo removal awarded by private gravel miner (*Years 07-09*)

### USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- ⇒ \$1,255,920 for local projects such as ground service water improvements, grazing land, and crop land

### USDA-NRCS Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- ⇒ \$2,358,344 for 78 contracts providing stewardship, existing practice, and enhancement payments over the expected life of the contract; they include 80,412 acres

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**Total \$4,814,964 Project Investment**

## FEE FOR SERVICE

### Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program – Outreach and Education Memorandum of Understanding

## HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

### Lower Stony Creek Watershed Project

In 2004, the District organized a Landowner Advisory Committee (LAC) to help guide the District in implementing projects in the Lower Stony Creek Watershed. The District also organized a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of local, state, and federal government agencies with interests in the natural resources of the watershed. While the LAC acts as the voice of landowners, TAC assists the District in reviewing environmental reports and provides advice on how to be successful in implementing projects to the benefit of all those involved in the watershed. These two groups guide the Lower Stony Creek Watershed Project.

During 2005-2006, the District finished drafting a watershed assessment and analysis, established a demonstration site for *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix* removal and bank stabilization and implemented the initial practices, finished drafting a monitoring program, and worked on a Memorandum of Agreement to implement a Permit Coordination Program. A Notice of Determination for the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lower Stony Creek Permit Coordination Program was also achieved. In addition, the District received funding to develop a watershed restoration plan and to begin removing *Arundo* and *Tamarix* just below Black Butte Dam.

During 2007-2008, the District focused on developing the Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan with the LAC and TAC. In addition, 20 acres of *Arundo donax* was removed just Below Black Butte Dam, workshops were held for stakeholders, such as the Bioengineering and Erosion Management Workshop, there was continued effort to implement landowner driven projects, and the majority of all Stony Creek Watershed Project documents were posted on [www.glenncountyrwd.org](http://www.glenncountyrwd.org).

The accomplished projects noted above will be instrumental when seeking funds for future projects dedicated to addressing non-native, invasive vegetation removal and the problem of channel widening and incision in the lower watershed.

This on-going project is currently funded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Department of Food and Ag (CDFA), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We thank them for their support and look forward to continuing our working relationship.



Lower Stony Creek Watershed



*Arundo donax* & *Tamarisk* dominates Stony Creek



Erosion devastates landowners in the watershed



### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Glenn County Summary:

| Fund Code          | Sub Fund     | Funds Available    | Apps      | Funds Requested    | Contracts Obligated |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| GSWC               |              | \$329,917          | 5         | \$329,917          | 5                   |
| Regular EQIP       |              | \$0                | 17        | \$0                | 0                   |
|                    | Range        | \$205,090          | 7         | \$505,723          | 2                   |
|                    | Crop         | \$692,637          | 13        | \$1,097,254        | 3                   |
| Air Quality-Engine |              | \$52,537           | 1         | \$52,537           | 1                   |
|                    | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$1,255,920</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>\$1,985,431</b> | <b>11</b>           |

By Rob Vlach, District Conservationist, NRCS



## Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, range land, and forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program provides equitable access to benefits, to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location. *Note: Numbers are based on expected life of the contract.*



### Glenn County Summary:

| Sacramento-Stone Corral |                      |           | Lower Butte  |                     |           |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| County                  | Funds                | Contracts | County       | Funds               | Contracts |
| Butte                   |                      |           | Butte        | \$ 2,297,624.00     | 118       |
| Colusa                  | \$ 946,652.00        | 61        | Colusa       | \$ 200,887.00       | 11        |
| <b>Glenn</b>            | <b>\$ 905,265.00</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>Glenn</b> | <b>\$ 56,431.00</b> | <b>7</b>  |
| Sutter                  | \$ 289,671.00        | 24        | Sutter       | \$ 59,728.00        | 5         |
| Yolo                    | \$ 174,939.00        | 10        | Yolo         |                     |           |
| Total                   | \$ 2,316,527.00      | 166       | Total        | \$ 2,614,670.00     | 141       |

By Rob Vlach, District Conservationist, NRCS

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Program & Funding Organizations

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) – Phase III  | \$763,200          |
| CA Department of Food and Ag – WMA (CDFA)  | \$25,000           |
| CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)   | \$400,000          |
|  US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) | \$7,500            |
|  Private Gravel Miner                 | \$5,000            |
| USDA-NRCS EQUIP  | \$1,255,920        |
| USDA-NRCS CSP  | \$2,358,344        |
| County of Glenn  | \$6,491            |
| Private Donations  | \$3,136            |
| <b>Total Brought to Glenn County as a Result of District Efforts</b>   | <b>\$4,824,591</b> |

### In-Kind & Match Value

#### Overhead Provided by NRCS

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Office Supplies                     | \$1,500   |
| Rent                                | \$40,000  |
| Equipment                           | \$1,200   |
| Vehicles                            | \$8,000   |
| Salaries/Technical Support/Engineer | \$250,000 |

**Other**

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| California State University, Chico | \$49,663 |
| City of Orland                     | \$25,960 |
| Landowner                          | \$34,915 |
| US Army Corps of Engineers         | \$6,912  |

**Total Value of Additional Support** **\$418,150**

**FUTURE PROJECT FUNDING**

The District continuously works to obtain sustainable funding through all avenues in order to further the critical natural resources goals and objectives in Glenn County.

⇒ \$203,995 for a Watershed Coordinator through the DOC Watershed Grant Program

*Pending project funding:*

⇒ \$321,192 for an Arundo and Tamarix removal project on 351 acres through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, WHIP

The District is also working with the City of Orland in order to find funding for the Stony Creek Interpretive Recreation Area.

**FUNDING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**STATE**

- California Department of Food and Ag
- California Department of Water Resources
- California State Water Resources Control Board

**FEDERAL**

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

**LOCAL**

- County of Glenn
- City of Orland

**OTHER**

- Private Donators

*THANK YOU* sponsors and all partners for allowing us to accomplish so much!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### GLENN COUNTY



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