



GLENN COUNTY



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



**2008 Outstanding District of  
the Year Award  
By California Organization of  
District Employees**

**Glenn County Resource Conservation District  
2008-2009 Annual Report**

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September 21, 2009

Dear Community:

What a year it has been... The first half wonderful! The second half not as successful due to the State of California's economic crisis, as we like to say. But, we have ridden the "grant funded" rollercoaster and we are here to stay!

The County of Glenn is a wonderful place to be. Support is available for our community in almost any area of need: farming, ranching, dairies, gardening, emergency personnel, education and more. We need to remember this and not take these services for granted, especially when budget cuts are affecting most everyone in the County and California as a whole. Our thoughts continue to be with those who have experienced this personally.

However, we are proud to say we are here, even if part-time, and looking towards the brighter future to accomplish our mission. 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."*** The next year we will strive to accomplish our mission to assist in enhancing our community's unique, local atmosphere and offerings.

In conclusion, the Glenn County Resource Conservation Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to present this FY 2008/2009 Annual Report to you and our community. The enclosure is filled with project summaries, events and more in which we participated in over the past twelve months.

Sincerely,

Mike Landini  
President

## 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 2,300 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 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

- ⇒ \$400,000 for a watershed plan awarded by the DWR (*Years 07-10*)
- ⇒ \$7,500 for riparian restoration awarded by the USFWS (*Years 07-12*)
- ⇒ \$5,000 for Arundo removal awarded by private gravel miner (*Years 07-12*)
- ⇒ \$203,995 for a Watershed Coordinator through the DOC Watershed Grant Program (*Years 08-12*)

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

- ⇒ \$746,000 for local projects in the categories of cropland, rangeland, water, organic, and dairies

### USDA-NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- ⇒ \$25,000 for local projects to add native grass plantings and hedgerows

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**Total \$1,387,495 Project Investment**

## **FEE FOR SERVICE**

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

*The Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program was developed to assist members of their non-profit 501 (c) 6 to manage their discharges of agricultural waste to surface or ground waters so they do not cause or contribute to surface or ground water pollution; and, to enhance and improve water quality in the Sacramento River Watershed while sustaining the economic viability of agriculture, associated values of managed wetlands and sources of safe drinking water. The purpose and goals undertaken by the MOU are for the District to provide Outreach and Education services to help meet their obligations to the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, thus to comply with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Conditional Waiver for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Resolution No. R5-2003-015). Commonly, it is referred to as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.*

## **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 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).

Within this reporting period the accomplished projects noted above were instrumental in the continuance of developing the Watershed Restoration Plan. However, the project became suspended due to the State of California's bond freeze December 19, 2009. This halted the project to a complete stop until funding resumes. The District is hopeful the work will resume in Fall 2009.

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

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 (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:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Funded Applications</b>	<b>Total \$ Amount</b>
Cropland	3	\$94,000
Rangeland	9	\$172,000
Water	3	\$194,000
Organic	2	\$65,000
Dairies	31	\$221,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$746,000</b>

By Rob Vlach, District Conservationist, NRCS

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### **USDA-NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 reauthorized WHIP as a voluntary approach to improving wildlife habitat in our Nation. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers WHIP to provide both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP cost-share agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from one year after the last conservation practice is implemented but not more than 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

Glenn County Summary:

Category	Funded Applications	Total \$ Amount
Regular: Native Grass	1	\$4,000
Pollinator: Hedgerows	2	\$21,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>

By Rob Vlach, District Conservationist, NRCS

**EVENTS**

**Glenn County Farm Day for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders hosted by Glenn County Farm Bureau and Young Farmers & Ranchers**

*District Staff provided a demonstration to students on how to turn “dirty” water into “clean” water using natural filters, such as grass, gravel, and soil. The demonstration was viewed on the local news that evening!*

**Pedrozo Dairy and Cheese Tour for High School FFA**

*District Staff and partners organized a field day for high school FFA and other students to learn about the dairy industry and cheese making process. The day was a success and ended with cheese sampling and pairing with other local donated food items!*

**Speak-Off Contest**


*District organized the Annual Speak-Off Contest for High School students.*

**Natural Resources & Range Camp**

*District sponsored a High School student to attend the camp to learn about natural resources and rangelands.*

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Program & Funding Organizations**

 CA Department of Conservation (DOC)	\$203,995
CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)	\$400,000
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	\$7,500
Private Gravel Miner	\$5,000
USDA-NRCS EQIP	\$746,000
USDA-NRCS WHIP	\$25,000
Private Donations	\$2,039
<b>Total Brought to Glenn County as a Result of District Efforts</b>	<b>\$1,389,534</b>

**In-Kind & Match Value**

**Overhead Provided by NRCS**

Office Supplies	\$720
Rent	\$4,800
Equipment	\$1,200
Vehicles	\$8,000
Salaries/Technical Support/Engineer	\$250,000

**Other**

Multiple sponsors for events (*value unknown*)

***Total Value of Additional Support*** **\$264,720+**

**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.

*Projects Where Funding Has Been Applied For:*

- ⇒ \$21,887 for a Western Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- ⇒ \$91,851 for a Growing Glenn – A County Farmers’ Market

**FUNDING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**STATE**

California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Water Resources

**FEDERAL**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

**LOCAL**

Multiple

**OTHER**

Private Donators

***THANK YOU*** sponsors and all partners for allowing us to accomplish so much!  
(List does not name all sponsors as to honor those who want to remain private.)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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