

Nevada County Resource Conservation District & Natural Resources Conservation Service 2011 Annual Report

Introduction

Formed on January 4, 1944, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD), with agency partner Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), assists Nevada County and western Sierra County residents on over 936,924 acres of land.

In this 67th year, the

NCRCD and NRCS continue to offer technical assistance, educational programs, and solutions regarding pasture management, forestry improvement, erosion control, pond management, invasive weed control, fuels management, wildlife habitat improvement,

and orchard and vineyard management.

Founded with a mission to promote responsible resource management, the NCRCD remains committed to conservation of our natural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The NCRCD is governed by a board of

directors appointed by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and made up of local landowners who provide input for local resource management.



Nevada County Fiscal Year Accomplishments

- 15,141 acres of Conservation Planning Completed
- 32 acres of Cropland Conservation Applied
- 837 acres of Conservation Applied to Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- 9,822 acres of Grazing Land Conservation Applied
- 1,821 acres of Forestland Conservation Applied
- 2,606 acres of Conservation Applied to Improve Water Quality
- 549 acres of Irrigation Improvement Applied

Conservation Seminar Series

The NCRCD began a year-long seminar and workshop series beginning in March 2011. We hosted classes on *Pond Management*, *Backyard Chickens*, *Tree Diseases*, and *Northern California Bats*.

These seminars were so

well received that we continued the series into the fall with an introduction class for *Rural Property Management* and *The 'Dirt' on Soils* class that provided individual homeowners with a soils map of their property.

To promote responsible resource management, the NCRCD and NRCS are committed to assisting Nevada County residents and landowners with forestry health, vegetation management, wildlife habitat, livestock grazing,

pasture planting, soils information and much more.

We offer individual site visits to any landowner to assess their property and to lend a hand on planning or answering any questions they may have.



Community Shaded Fuelbreak

Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded this grant to the NCRCD in May of 2008 to complete the remaining 30% of the Nevada County Community Shaded Fuel Break.

GIS work was completed in this large area to define the parcels designated within the project. The best routes accessible by heavy equipment and man-power for the project, as well as the most defensible routes in the event of a catastrophic fire event were determined. CalFire, Nevada County

Consolidated Fire, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) were instrumental in assisting with this survey.

Once the database was complete, area maps were developed for all those agencies involved to use as a base for on-the-ground-work and other projects. The NCRCD hired Applied Forest Management (AFM) as project managers to oversee the ground work in the fuelbreak. AFM began the process of contacting landowners in the

designated area through letter writing and door-to-door contact. As the work progressed, more and more individuals were encouraged to join the project based on the positive results they saw and feedback received from their neighbors.

This project employed over 25 people including an archeologist, a biologist, GIS experts and ground crews. The ground work on this project was completed on July 20, 2011.



Before and after fuelbreak clearing



Arbor Day Plant Give-Away



Seedlings for the give-away



Nevada County residents at the event

The NCRCD and the NRCS in partnership with Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) gave away native plant seedlings in April of 2011 to commemorate National Arbor Day. We gave away Western Redbuds, Red Columbine, California Aster, Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar and Douglas Fir seedlings to Nevada County residents who attended the annual event.

Each year we choose plants that will encourage residents to use native plants or those that are drought tolerant. Many of these plants attract pollinators as well.

SPI was available to answer questions regarding forestry health and tree diseases. Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in

Anderson, California.

PG&E was onsite to offer information about Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place, the proper choices for planting near power lines and other situations, and landscaping tips.

For more information regarding services provided by Sierra Pacific Industries or PG&E go to www.spi-ind.com and www.pge.com.

Educational Seminars at the Fair

The new 'Ag-Sperience' area of the Nevada County fair enjoyed a very successful second year. The NCRCD hosted their annual conservation seminars that included *Fruit Trees & Orchards*, *Testing Your Water Well*, *Pond Landscaping*, *Forest Raptors of Nevada County*, *Landscaping with Natives*, *Birds of Prey*, *Weed Control On Your Property* and many others.

We were pleased to have an

additional tent this year, provided by PG&E, to display our educational materials, literature, photos, and plant materials. In addition to our *Healthy Forests* display, we added two new sections. One was researched and created by one of our Associate Directors, Carol Hollingsworth, on *Historical and Present Fencing for Agricultural Land in Nevada County*. The second was created by our Director Lynn

Lorenson on mining history with *Pay Dirt Pans Out*.

Our presenters were from *Bierwagen's Donner Trail Fruit*, *Sierra Foothills Audubon Society*, *Navo & Sons*, *Peter' Drilling & Pump Service*, *Sierra Pacific Industries*, *Cranmer Engineering*, *Grass Valley Pest & Weed Control* and many other organizations and groups that graciously volunteer their time to inform and educate Nevada County residents.



Fencing display

Keith Crabtree Honored as Conservationist of the Year

Each year, the Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) host a conservation dinner event recognizing landowners from Nevada and western Sierra County for their extraordinary efforts in natural resource conservation.

This year's event was to honor Keith Crabtree who received three separate awards for his lifelong service to conservation and rural property outreach here in Nevada County. Keith was selected as the Nevada County 2010 Conservationist of the Year by the NCRCD and the NRCS. The Conservationist of the Year award was a wonderful life prize to honor



Keith and Venae Crabtree

Keith's endless energy, passion, concern and tireless efforts on behalf of rural property conservation and outreach. In addition, Keith received a Congressional Award for Lifetime Achievement in Conservation Work by US Congressman Tom McClintock, presented by his representative Kimberly Pruet. His third award was from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, presented by Ed Scofield and Nate Beason, for his dedication to conservation and outstanding efforts in conserving natural resources and enriching Nevada County's natural environment.

Additionally, Roger Ingram, Nevada County Farm Advisor, received the Grassland Award for his tireless work educating landowners about grazing practices; Jeanette Clark received the Community Award for her leadership in fire safety in her community; and Robert Ingram received the Outstanding Leadership Award for his dedication to the NCRCD. Guest speaker Walter Levings, Natural Resources Officer for the Tahoe National Forest in Nevada City, spoke about the state of our national forests.



Nevada County Board of Supervisors Ed Scofield and Nate Beason presenting Keith with the 2010 Conservationist of the Year Award

Wildlife Nesting Box Program

The NCRCD continued their partnership with the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society in providing educational information on local birds, their habitats, and nesting requirements.

The Audubon Society supplied us with blue bird, wren, wood duck, barn owl, kestrel, screech owl, and bat nesting boxes. Donations from

these boxes went back to Audubon for additional supplies. Our program provided literature on different bird species, nesting box plans for those residents who wish to make their own nesting box, and informational articles on a variety of habitat issues.

We partnered with several other organizations for

fundraising events and placement of owl boxes for rodent control.



NCRCD Partners

- Alpine County Resource Conservation District
- Amador County Resource Conservation District
- Bear River Watershed Group
- Bear Yuba Land Trust
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Cascade Shores Home Owners Association
- El Dorado County Resource Conservation District
- Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
- Florin Resource Conservation District
- Future Farmers of America
- Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District
- Local Agency Formation Commission
- Mariposa Resource Conservation District
- Master Gardeners
- Mono Resource Conservation District
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner
- Nevada County Board of Supervisors
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
- Nevada County Fairgrounds
- Nevada County Farm Bureau
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Placer County Resource Conservation District
- Public and Private Landowners
- Regional Water Quality Boards
- Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Tahoe National Forest Service
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
- Tuolumne Resource Conservation District
- UC Cooperative Extension
- Yuba-Bear Watershed Council
- YubaNet
- Yuba River Ranger District
- Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release
- Wolf Creek Community Alliance

NCRC Board of Directors

Robert Ingram, President
Lynn Lorenson, Vice-President
David Gallino, Secretary / Treasurer
David Vertin, Director
Janey Powers, Director

Associate Directors

Carol Hollingsworth
Keith Crabtree

NCRC Staff

Jan Blake, District Administrator
Sabrina Nicholson, Admin. Assistant

NRCS Staff

Jason Jackson, District Conservationist
Tony Sunseri, Soil Conservationist
Fanny Ye, Soil Conservationist

Voluntary Private Lands Conservation Assistance in Nevada County

With the mission of “Helping People Help the Land,” the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) delivers voluntary programs, products and services that help Nevada County residents protect and improve natural resources on non-federal lands.

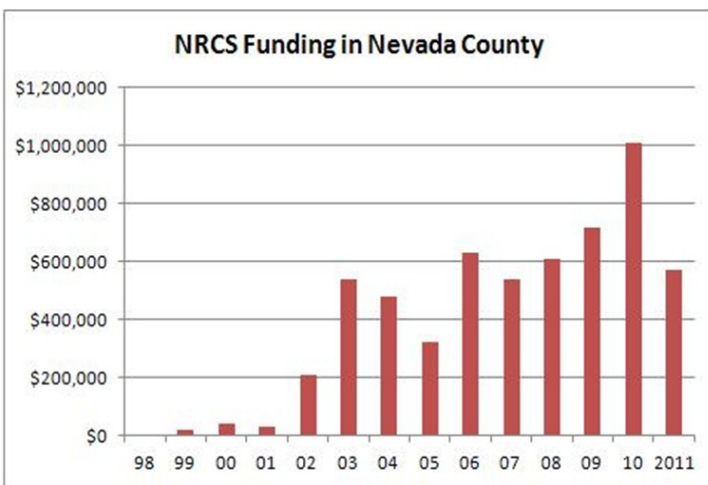
Your locally based NRCS staff works directly with farmers, ranchers and others to provide technical assistance suited to each client’s specific needs. We provide technical information and guidance, plan conservation systems and practices, and offer financial assistance for conservation activities through the programs of the 2008 Farm Bill.

These voluntary programs help Nevada County residents improve land stewardship on working croplands, rangelands, and forest lands, conserve water supplies, enhance wildlife habitat, preserve high-quality farmland, protect



Touring Four Frog Farm

native plants and animals, and improve stream conditions. NRCS programs also provide upstream flood prevention, emergency watershed protection, urban conservation, and assistance for local community projects designed to improve social, economic and environmental conditions. As a result of our voluntary technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, urban and developing areas.



Nevada County Resource Conservation District

Your partner in local conservation and agriculture

www.ncrcd.org • www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov