

High Sierra RC&D Council

2009-2010 Annual Report



Council Members

*Bill Bennett, President
Georgetown Divide RCD*

*John Taylor, Vice-President
Nevada County Land Trust*

*John Waskiewicz, Secretary/CFO
Yuba County RCD*

*Robert Wiswell Jr., Past President
Placer County RCD*

*Ray Nutting
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors*

*Dale Pierce
El Dorado RCD*

*Jeff Pylman
Nevada County Agriculture
Commissioner*

*Eric Carr
Nevada County RCD*

*Jennifer Montgomery
Placer County Board of Supervisors*

*Tim Beals
Sierra County*

*Beenie Rose
Sierra Valley RCD*

*Roger Abe
Yuba County Board of Supervisors*

*Brent Smith
SEDCorp*



William Bennett, President of the High Sierra RC&D, (left) was awarded by his peers **RC&D Council Member of the Year** at this year's Pacific Rim Regional Conference held in Homer, Alaska. HSRC&D council was also selected as **Council of the Year**.

President's Message...

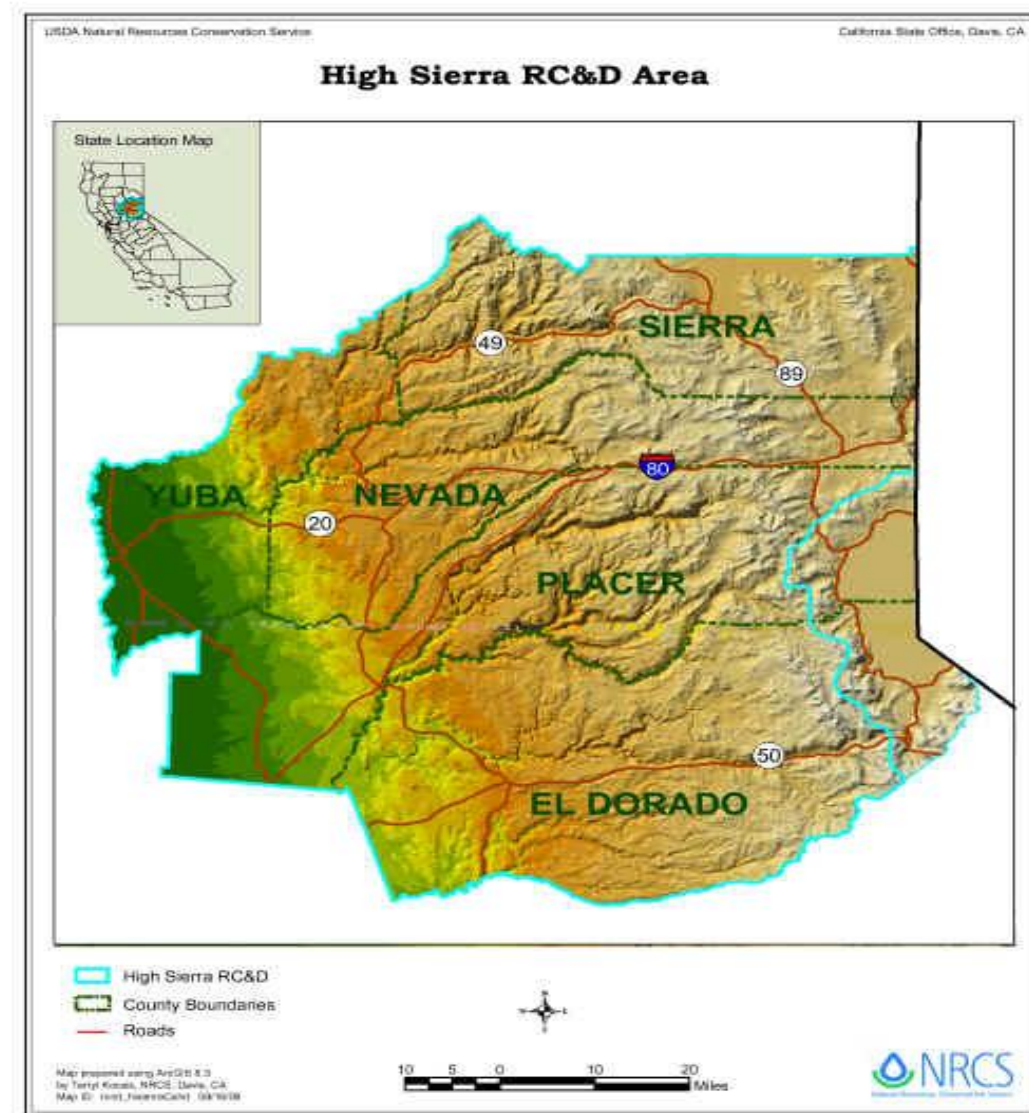
This has been another great year for the High Sierra RC&D. We have administered quite a few on-the-ground grant projects, including a number of fuel break and fire-related projects. We conducted forums to determine needs of the 5 counties we serve, helped a number for small businesses, and supported or conducted several workshops and tours in the area. Our mobile poultry processor remains busy too!

We are just launching our new website, www.HighSierraRCandD.org, which will provide valuable information for our partners, sponsors and funders and will include information on our current 15 active projects.

When I was told one of last year's wildfires was stopped at one of our fuel load reduction projects from the previous year, I knew we were making a difference. It was my pleasure to accept the Pac Rim's **Council of the Year Award** for our High Sierra Council at the annual conference in Homer, Alaska two weeks ago.

As you may know our friend and NRCS Project Coordinator, Kay Joy Barge is moving to a new assignment at NRCS. She has accepted the Branch Chief position for the new Business Management Leaders Program, building future leaders for NRCS. She has brought us very far in the last 4 years. I want to thank her for all her hard and skillful work, which has made us so successful. We will miss Kay very, very much but we wish her well in her new assignment.

William J. Bennett,
President



For additional information, please contact the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council

Since 1976

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Visit our new website

www.highsierrarcandd.org

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Community Development Sinclair Family Farm Cold Storage Facility



Keith and Karin Sinclair, who operate **Sinclair Family Farm** in Penryn, received their final permits in June for a cold-storage business in the old Penryn packing shed. Farmers had expressed the need to have a cold storage facility for more than two years. Once HSRC&D brought federal, state and local agencies together with the Sinclair's the facility was opened within five months.

Fortezza Winery, Auburn CA



High Sierra RC&D assisted **Lisa Mann**, owner of **Fortezza Winery**, with her Rural Development Value Added Producer Grant. Once awarded Lisa was able to move her vineyard into wine production. The grant provided matching funds to convert the raw agricultural commodity (wine grapes) into a value added product (bottled wine). 2010 will be the first year Fortezza will harvest a full crop of grapes.

April 8, 2010 Meat Processing Summit, Sacramento, CA



On April 8, 2010 a California Meat Processing Summit was held in Sacramento, between USDA agencies, livestock producers and niche meat processors (sponsored by HSRC&D). It was held to identify potential solutions to the lack of USDA inspected harvest and meat processing facilities in California. The 'Opportunities and Challenges' were identified during the summit.

MOBILE POULTRY PROCESSOR

The Mobile Poultry Processor is getting a good work out. If you would like information on how to rent the processor you can contact, **Patty Bielen**, 530-477-9349 bielen6@att.net. Costs per day run from \$100 to \$125.



Visit www.HighSierraRCandD.org to download rental agreement

HSRC&D Hosts Roundtables on Jobs, Economic Growth

In January High Sierra RC&D, and other RC&D's throughout California, in partnership with USDA Rural Development State Director Dr. Glenda Humiston, held California wide roundtables on job creation and economic growth, as directed by USDA Secretary Vilsack. HSRC&D facilitated roundtables in Grass Valley, Nevada County and Oregon House, Yuba County. The roundtables included business owners, residents, state and local officials, union members, non-profit organizations, community leaders, economists and other interested parties. Participants discussed steps and shared ideas on creating jobs and improving economic opportunities in their rural communities. To see the entire summary visit www.frbsf.org/publications/community/review/122006/moncrief.pdf

PLACER COUNTY AG TOUR

June 10, 2009

High Sierra RC&D again co-sponsored the 2010 Placer County Ag Tour. The theme of this year's tour was "**Growing...the Next Generation**". Tour buses full of Placer County politicians and decision makers visited Del Oro and Lincoln High School where the FFA and 4H play a big role in both of the schools ag programs. Lunch again was prepared and 'served-up' by the Placer Nevada Cattlewomen.



Mark White, Placer County RCD Resource Management Planner and Placer Nevada Cattlewomen

Land Management/Land Conservation

Forbestown Phase 1 Completed



The project brought together private landowners, community members and agencies, along with the Yuba and Butte Fire Safe Councils, to develop a plan to protect the town of Forbestown from the threat of wildfire. The total project encompassed 530 acres. The project was broken into five phases to make the project easier to fund. Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 has been funded and is in the planning phase and Phase 4 just received funding.

Yuba Foothills Biomass Feasibility Study

The study will determine if a small scale biomass plant located in the Yuba County foothills could operate economically.

Budget & Expenditures 2009/2010 Actual	
Revenue	
Grant Funds Received	\$ 196,166.87
Operation Funds Received	\$ 22,998.87
Total Income	\$ 219,165.74
Expenses	
Grant Funds Expended	\$ 189,386.73
Operations Funds Expended	\$ 29,624.58
Total Expenses	\$ 219,011.31
Net Income for FY 2009/2010	\$ 154.43