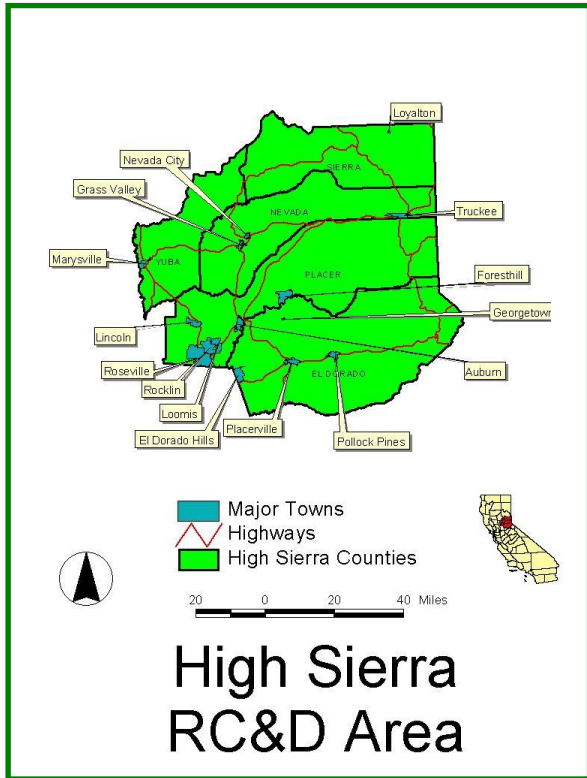


# High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.



## BACKGROUND

The High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area was authorized in 1976 by the Secretary of Agriculture. In 2004, the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The Council includes representatives from five counties (El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra and Yuba), six resource conservation districts (El Dorado, Georgetown Divide, Nevada, Placer, Sierra Valley and Yuba), the Sierra Planning Organization and the Nevada County Land Trust. The organization's annual meeting is on the third Friday of October.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

County	Geographic Size	Population (2000)	Population Growth (1990-2000)
El Dorado	1,145,486 acres	156,299	24.1%
Nevada	623,161 acres	92,033	17.2%
Placer	960,075 acres	248,399	43.8%
Sierra	615,652 acres	3,555	7.1%
Yuba	403,840 acres	60,219	3.4%

## HIGH SIERRA RC&D LEADERSHIP

William J. Bennett, President  
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

John Waskiewicz, Vice President  
Yuba County Resource Conservation District

Jeff Pylman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Nevada County

Robert Wiswell, Past President  
Placer County Resource Conservation District

John Taylor Past Vice President  
Nevada County Land Trust

## HIGH SIERRA RC&D STAFF

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service provides staff support to the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council:

Walter Clevenger, Project Coordinator  
(530) 823-5687 ext. 115  
[walter.clevenger@ca.usda.gov](mailto:walter.clevenger@ca.usda.gov)

Mary Ann Powell, Administrative Assistant  
(530) 823-5687 ext. 101  
[mary.powell@ca.usda.gov](mailto:mary.powell@ca.usda.gov)

## HIGH SIERRA SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

El Dorado County  
Placer County  
Nevada County  
Sierra County  
Yuba County  
Nevada County Land Trust  
Sierra Planning Organization  
El Dorado County RCD  
Georgetown Divide RCD  
Nevada County RCD  
Placer County RCD  
Sierra Valley RCD  
Yuba County RCD

# High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

**Our Vision:** The High Sierra RC&D area is made up of strong, economically viable communities and that its natural resources are conserved for future generations.

**Our Mission:** The High Sierra RC&D Council will provide regional leadership and assistance to communities to strengthen the local economy, rural heritage, conservation and management of our natural resources.

Currently, High Sierra RC&D's focus, goals and objectives include the following:

<b>ELEMENT 1: LAND CONSERVATION</b>
<b>GOAL:</b> Less than 10,000 acres of forest burn per county with the High Sierra RC&D Council boundaries by 2013.
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Forest Fuels Reduction – Fewer Catastrophic fires.
<b>ELEMENT 2: WATER MANAGMENT</b>
<b>GOAL:</b> Increase protection of our water resources (both surface & Ground), including water quality and water use, by completing five watershed projects by 2013.
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b> Coordinate with project sponsors to ensure they have useable information and needed technical assistance to complete five watershed projects by 2013.
<b>ELEMENT 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>GOAL 1:</b> Provide assistance to improve the economic sustainability of the Council area by the developments of agricultural related businesses.
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Promote opportunities in our area that will attract business leading to the creation of natural resource related jobs.
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b> Increase the viability of agricultural community by coordinating regional agritourism events, promotional activities and marketing efforts.
<b>GOAL 2:</b> High Sierra RC&D will look at increasing membership and others way to become sustainable.
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> High Sierra will identify ways to diversify funding sources as a means to be sustainable.
<b>ELEMENT 4: LAND MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>GOAL 1:</b> Work with partners to increase the health of watersheds in the Council Area
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Work with partners to increase watershed projects
<b>GOAL 2:</b> Work with partners on educational and outreach efforts for projects related to economic development, land management and natural resources
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b> Conduct outreach programs that educate the public about opportunities available to them

**Projects that High Sierra is currently working on include:**

- Inventory & GIS of Firefighting Water Resources
- Oregon Ridge Fuel Break
- Forbestown Fuel Break - Phase I
- Mobile Poultry Processing Unit
- Placer Farm & Barn Tour
- Synephrine Bioavailability Study
- Small Farm Progress Days
- Placer County Ag Futures Scholarships
- WSARE Placer Ag Futures
- Sustainable Agriculture Tours
- Forbestown Fuel Break - Phase 2
- Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break
- Environmental Compliance
- Sierra-At-Tahoe Biomass Study Phase