

# BUTTE COUNTY RCD

## 2006-2011 Long Range Strategic Plan

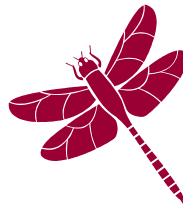
### ADOPTED September 27, 2006

The 2006-2011 BC-RCD Long Range Strategic Plan is a culmination of BC-RCD Board of Directors' input, stakeholders' ideas, partners' suggestions and the 2006 BC-RCD Stakeholder Survey. For each priority there is a defining statement. For each defining statement there are one or more essential objectives, with associated key actions. The BC-RCD would like to thank all the participants in the District's planning process for their essential energy and commitment. Six priorities have been identified.

**Vision Statement:** To be reviewed and shortened (see VI. below)

**Mission Statement:** To conserve the resources of Butte County for the benefit of its citizens, its resources and its economy.

**Motto:** Cooperation, Not Regulation



#### I. WISE LAND USE PLANNING AND EROSION CONTROL MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Defining Statement: The BC-RCD shall assist private landowners and governmental (local, state and federal) agencies with effective resource management to prevent watershed damage and costly erosion repairs. This also helps improve water quality, fish habitat, and the general health of the watershed.

Essential Objective I.A.: As the Butte County General Plan is updated, 2006-2009, the BC-RCD has a unique opportunity to participate in the public process. Generous technical assistance should be offered where and when it is appropriate throughout the updating process.

Key Action I.A.1.: Board and staff participation in the Citizen's Advisory Committee or other panels to whatever extent and level of participation yet to be decided by the Butte County Board of Supervisors and the Directors of the BC-RCD.

Key Action I.A.2.: Report to watershed, landowner, and other stakeholder groups regarding the progress of the General Plan Update process. BC-RCD website expansion is required.

Key Action I.A.3.: Investigate additional avenues of dissemination for the updated USDA/ NRCS Butte County Soil Survey. Potential district sales at cost of “hard copies” or CD’s may compliment the free version currently available on the NRCS website.

Essential Objective I.B.: As natural resource needs are identified through the General Plan Update process, the BC-RCD shall integrate those identified resource needs into the District’s planning priorities, thereby integrating broad based partnerships including Butte County Development Services.

Key Action I.B.1.: Additional value will be added to the Butte County General Planning update process by requesting assistance from the CALFED Watershed Program in order to integrate and coordinate local, state and federal resource programs.

Essential Objective I.C.: Partner with NRCS to provide conservation planning assistance to landowners. The development of a BC-RCD Technical Service Provider (TSP) program will assist in creating a sustainable funding source for the District and enhance the partnership of the BC-RCD and the NRCS Field Office.

Key Action I.C.1.: Develop the technical expertise of District staff in order to provide TSP services for NRCS programs, including farm energy assessment.

Essential Objective I.D.: Work with Department of Water Resources (DWR) and local partners to develop a gravel removal, flood control, and maintenance plan for 2006 DWR Sycamore Creek project, as appropriate.

Key Action I.D.1.: Participate in preliminary project planning meetings to determine future Key Actions for the BC-RCD, as appropriate.

Essential Objective I.E.: Work with DWR and local partners to develop a gravel removal, flood control, and maintenance plan for 2006 Cherokee Canal, as appropriate.

Key Action I.E.1.: Participate in preliminary project planning meetings to determine future Key Actions.

Essential Objective I.F.: The southern areas in Butte County have not had the benefit of an Existing Conditions Report to support and develop future resource management projects. In partnership with Sutter County RCD, Yuba County RCD and the City of Yuba, the Butte County RCD shall investigate and build the District's capacity to facilitate resource management in the Lower Feather River Hydrologic Unit Control (HUC) and Honcut Creek Watershed.

Key Action I.F.1.: BC-RCD shall complete the contract negotiations and performance on the CALFED Watershed Program Grant contract 2006-2009.

Essential Objective I.G.: Erosion on the rural roads in Butte County is a major contributor of sediment thereby compromising the integrity of flood control channels for many of the watersheds of Butte County.

Key Action I.G.1.: Develop rural roads maintenance and grading standards to be used by Butte County Public Works, rural roads grading operators, and other interested parties. Maintenance of the network of rural roads should be coordinated with Lassen National Forest, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and California Department of Fire & Forestry (CDF)

## **II. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Defining Statement: Conservation and restoration projects will not have long-term benefits unless landowners, citizens, agencies, and legislators understand why these efforts are valuable to our communities and the ecosystem as a whole. The BC-RCD is committed to expanding outreach programs in each watershed and corresponding K-12 conservation education programs on a county-wide basis.

Essential Objective II.A.: The State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Irrigated Lands Program and other state water quality regulatory programs are evolving, thereby creating a need for landowners to be aware of the non-point source programs and the voluntary practices designed to reduce runoff.

Key Action II.A.1.: Schedule BC-RCD educational outreach programs for landowners, e.g. field days and tours, in partnership with the Butte County Agricultural

Commissioner's Office. Additional partners may include Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, Butte County Farm Bureau, local Pest Control Advisors, and sister RCD's.

Key Action II.A.2.: Technical assistance for promotion of "Best Management Practices" shall be available. Baseline water quality data may be required in some areas to challenge and/or support BMP's efficacy under some specific circumstances.

Essential Objective II.B.: The BC-RCD shall promote K-12 watershed conservation education through the support of existing programs developed by area partners.

Key Action II.B.1.: Continued support of the Center for Land Based Learning's SLEWS Program. Expand support network to include in-kind contributions from BC-RCD Directors and Associate Directors who may participate as volunteer mentors.

Key Action II.B.2.: Continued support of Half Moon Bay's Range Camp with cash donations for Butte County student attendance, if funds are available. Continue to recruit student participation from all Butte County schools.

Key Action II.B.3.: Continued support of CARCD Speak-Off Competition for Butte County High School students as staff time and funding allows. Butte County 4-H leadership is an essential partner.

Key Action II.B.4.: Continued support of the partnership of 4-H, FFA, and County agricultural teachers for the construction of bird and bat boxes for profit and/or donation sale.

Essential Objective II.C.: "Day in the District" bus tour or other District celebration of accomplishments should be scheduled on an annual basis.

Key Action II.C.1: 2006 "Day in the District" is scheduled for Nov 15, 2006.

Essential Objective II.D: Maintain fair booth presence at both the Silver Dollar Fair and Butte County Fair.

### **III. ENHANCEMENT OF WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY TECHNICAL DATA**

Defining Statement: The surface water and groundwater resources are invaluable assets to the citizens of Butte County. The BC-RCD shall seek to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of the resources through technical investigations and cooperative land management activities.

Essential Objective III.A: The BC-RCD shall develop a voluntary Butte County watershed monitoring program designed to provide private landowners, resource managers, and local, state, and federal government agencies with technical information regarding the status of Butte County's water quantity and water quality.

Key Action III.A.1: Possible monitoring topics and projects to include: infiltration, erosion, wildlife habitat, bioassessment (Stream Teams), percolation, invasive weeds, fire danger, threatened and endangered species, and aquifer recharge zones. All implementation steps must be contingent upon voluntary participation of the landowners.

Essential Objective III.B.: Develop specific conservation easement monitoring programs with partners including CALTRANS, insuring that in-house staff meets CA Fish & Game and US Fish & Wildlife "Qualified Expert" criteria.

Key Action III.B.1.: Upon the successful completion of CALTRANS/ BC-RCD Conservation Easement and the Property Management & Monitoring Plan, develop a BC-RCD financial program to invest the endowment, manage the easement, and meet full reporting criteria.

Essential Objective III.C.: Continued support of Tehama County RCD Mobile Irrigation Lab Program either through in-kind or cash match. Continued promotion of TC-RCD Mobile Irrigation Lab services to Butte County producers.

### **IV. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY USE**

Defining Statement: BC-RCD recognizes that state and federal legislation is essential for the private sector to expand investment in energy conversion technologies that use agricultural wastes as a fuel source. Forest thinnings, orchard trimmings, and rice straw should be considered as sustainable fuel sources instead of disposal liabilities.

Essential Objective IV.A: BC-RCD will participate in a regional, collaborative approach to research future alternative energy opportunities and hurdles.

Key Action IV.A.1.: Participate in a workshop with the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, and other partners including the regional forest products industry, the public utilities industry, the Butte County Air Quality District and Agricultural Commissioner Office, and CARCD.

Key Action IV.A.2.: The BC-RCD shall present and disseminate current information regarding alternative energy programs and efforts in California.

## **V. FOREST, RANGE AND CULTIVATED LAND HEALTH**

Defining Statement: Healthy, well-managed forest and grazing lands are important to Butte County residents for food and fiber, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, and rural lifestyles. Conservation of timber, soil, and water resources on both timber and grazing lands will result in healthy and productive watersheds.

Essential Objective V.A: Enhance the partnership with the BC-RCD and the Butte County Fire Safe Council to leverage programmatic efforts and funding opportunities.

Key Action V.A.1.: Report on efforts to integrate with the Fire Safe Council regarding priorities, programs, and funding opportunities.

Essential Objective V.B.: Enhance the partnership with Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's Weed Management Area to develop a county wide invasive weed management program.

Key Action V.A.2.: Work with the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's Weed Management Area.

Essential Objective V.C.: Enhance the Oak Woodlands Conservation program for Butte County. Additional funding will be required to expand this program.

## **VI. GROWTH, SUSTAINABILITY AND PROFESSIONAL STANDING OF THE BC-RCD**

Defining Statement: To accomplish increasingly complex projects and grant management, an organization must be staffed by professional management and technicians with a flexible structure that can respond to changes in funding and focus while maintaining the integrity of the organization.

Essential Objective VI.A.: All Board members, Associate Directors, Earth Team Volunteers, and staff should have sufficient training and equipment to professionally complete all tasks assigned.

Key Action VI.A.1.: A calendar of District training workshops and requests for future training should be created and maintained in an available location. When appropriate, training opportunities shall be posted on the website for public outreach.

Essential Objective VI.B.: Enhance the Watershed Equipment Lending Library (WELL) including an equipment list, storage system, lending system and maintenance logs.

Key Action VI.B.1.: Actively promote the use of WELL equipment to interested parties and schools.

Key Action VI.B.2.: Develop additional funding for growth of the WELL.

Essential Objective VI.C.: Continue to develop the District grant management and fiscal reporting and audit systems, in order to meet the increasing complexity of expanding programs, and insure public accountability.

Key Action VI.C.1.: Hire a professional bookkeeper for the District. Sufficient overhead must be earmarked for regular financial review and formal financial audits.

Essential Objective VI.D.: The Finance Committee of assigned Board Members, Associate Directors, staff and funding agents will meet on a regular basis to discuss upcoming programs, staff development, staff requests and funding opportunities.

Essential Objective VI.E.: The District shall maintain active participation with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Key Action VI.E.1.: Encourage and fund participation in CARCD's Northern California programs as well as State

program and committees, including the annual CARCD State Conference.

Key Action VI.E.2.:

The BC-RCD shall review and rewrite the District's vision statement.

Essential Objective VI.F.: Maintain and review District insurance and risk management considerations for specific project implementation. Risk management considerations for project implementation must be given to determine Board, staff and partnership coverage. The District's current County-supported insurance coverage ends October 6, 2006 with possible renewal.

Essential Objective VI. G.: The District shall annex Butte County lands formerly served by the Vina RCD.

Key Action VI.G.1.:

The District annexation process shall be coordinated with Butte County LAFCO.