

Benefitting People and Land in the State of **CALIFORNIA**

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RC&D Facts

- The RC&D program was initiated by USDA in 1962 to help people care for and protect their natural resources and improve their area's economy, environment, and living standards.
- RC&D does not compete with other groups and agencies and does not duplicate their functions.
- RC&D works by finding niches and needs and by building partnerships with other groups and communities.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial and staffing support to RC&D councils, but most RC&D funding comes from grants received from local, state, and other federal agencies.
- There are 368 funded RC&D areas in the United States and 20 applications for RC&D areas awaiting funding.



Courtesy of Ore-Cal RC&D, Caia Cupito - Photographer

*"I consider the evening twilight on Mount Shasta one of the grandest sights I have ever witnessed."
- Theodore Roosevelt, 1908*

Scenic Byways: A Designation Worth the Drive

Resource Conservation and Development Councils are combining Rural Transportation and Agra-tourism as part of their programs. Recently the Ore-Cal RC&D became involved in a project called the "California Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway and the All-American Road Designation." The dream of a two state scenic byway, promoting recreation and tourism, began with a grass roots citizen interest supported by the resources of multiple agencies throughout northern California and southern Oregon.

In 1996, the concept of creating a scenic byway that would boost tourism, increase community pride and bring economic diversity to the area, was proposed to Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Council. Ore-Cal RC&D, a nonprofit organization, has since worked closely with various National Forest Service districts, local chambers of commerce, visitors' bureaus, county agencies, and many other organizations to research the scenic byway designation process and its potential outcomes, and to develop a Corridor Management Plan and the All-American Road nomination package.

The Volcanic Legacy Byway encompasses approximately 360 miles in California and 140 miles in Oregon. In California, the route extends from the Oregon/California border past Mt. Shasta to Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Research shows the California Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway and the All-American Road Designation is expected to greatly increase the funding opportunities for such projects as, interpretive facilities, trails, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It will give an economic boost to the area as well as celebrate a premier volcanic landscape of unique beauty.

Ore-Cal RC&D Council Activities

- Scenic Byways/Rural Restoration
- Emergency Services Cooperatives
- Watershed Coordination Projects
- Noxious Weed Control

Trinity RC&D Council Activities

- Fire Safe Council
- Forest Health and Management
- Agricultural Promotion
- Food Security & Nutrition
- Bio-Mass to Energy

High Sierra RC&D Council Activities

- Regional Livestock Processing & Marketing
- Watershed Coordination
- Noxious Weed Control
- Forest and Agricultural Waste-to-Fuels Program
- Community Development Action Plans

Central Coast RC&D Council Activities

- Agritourism
- Steelhead Habitat Enhancement
- Water Quality Education
- CRMP Coordination
- Permit Streamlining

South Coast RC&D Council Activities

- U.S./Mexico Border Coalition
- Conservation Education
- Urban Erosion Control Workshops
- Community Park Development
- Air Quality Workshops

North Cal Neva RC&D Council

- Pit River Watershed Alliance
- Fire Safe Councils
- American Indian Education Program
- Agricultural Cooperation
- Noxious Weed Control

Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council Activities

- Agra-Nature Tourism
- Biomass Utilization
- Watershed Coordination

Central Sierra RC&D Council Activities

- Watershed Restoration
- Wildfire Fuels Restoration
- Utilization of Agricultural & Forest Resources
- Natural Resource Based Tourism
- Maintenance of Ecological Balance

Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D Council Activities

- Watershed Health
- Wildfire Hazard Reduction
- Small Diameter Timber & Biomass Utilization
- Noxious Weed Control
- Ag & Natural Resources Tourism



Southern Low Desert Council Activities

- Rural Economical Development
- US/Mexico Border Coalition
- Desert Resource Protection

Mojave Desert-Mountain RC&D Council Activities

- Grant Workshops
- Noxious Weed Control
- American Indian Outreach
- U.S./Mexico Border Coalition
- Watershed Coordination
- Ag Waste Management

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