

GLENN COUNTY



**Long Range Plan
2006-2011**

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GLENN COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Long Range Plan 2006-2011

Adopted July 17, 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The District Board, comprised of local landowner volunteers, dedicates their personal time to represent Glenn County's local voice on natural resource concerns. *It is estimated that the volunteers work over 1,000 hours per year on meeting the goals and objectives of the District.* We thank them and their hard work in making Glenn County a better place to live!

RCD STAFF

Kandi Manhart, District Manager

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INTRODUCTION

Established in 1989, the Glenn County Resource Conservation District (“District”) was organized to provide leadership to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources, our environment, and our county’s economic viability.

Our mission is...

“To promote a sustainable, economically healthy county, through the management of natural resources, maintain a desirable environment, and address local resource issues in a timely manner.”

Our function is...

“To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.”

This document sets forth an adaptable 5-year Long Range Plan that will assist in guiding District operations. It defines our District’s priority natural resource issues, goals and actions to address those issues, and how the District can best achieve its mission.

The Board of Directors, with many partners, began the development of this Long Range Plan on February 23, 2006, with the facilitation of Mr. Ray Ledgerwood. Mr. Ledgerwood was brought to the District by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We thank NRCS for their contribution and support of this document!

As a “Special District”, organized under the California Public Resources Code, Division 9, we have many powers to carry out our goals and objectives. Priority issues include outreach and education on water resources, maintaining our agricultural land base, range management, control and/or eradication of invasive species, as well as evaluating the potential impacts of loss of wildlife habitat, maintaining air quality, and researching and promoting alternative methods for energy. One of the primary areas the District has actively been working on is the Stony Creek Watershed.

The following Long Range Plan is designed to assist local landowners and stakeholders of Glenn County to help conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources, our environment, and our county’s economic viability. It is imperative to acknowledge the support and participation we have is maintained as voluntary and to protect landowners’ interests and rights.

OBSERVATIONS

The Board of Directors would like to envision the District being “World Class” at...

- ❑ Providing leadership.
- ❑ Being the first point of contact for natural resources.
- ❑ Creating and maintaining a working relationship with landowners, communities, and partners.
- ❑ Promoting natural resource benefits that improve the economic viability of Glenn County.

Noticeable trends and culture changes in Glenn County and the State...

- ❑ Changes in local, personal “values”
- ❑ Changing demographics (population age increasing)
- ❑ Increase in conservation easements
- ❑ Increase in conversion of agriculture land use
- ❑ Increase in demand for organic products
- ❑ Increase in demand for rural type recreation opportunities
- ❑ Increase in focus on integrated water resource management and demand
- ❑ Increase in new citizens coming to Glenn County and having an impact
- ❑ Increase in orchards (decrease in row and field crops)
- ❑ Increase in regulation (including permitting and environmental regulatory compliance)
- ❑ Increase in urban development pressure
- ❑ Influx of dairy operations proposed
- ❑ Land values increasing that are not tied to economic viability and are caused by outside pressures

Addressing these trends and culture changes...

- ❑ Map based (create data base for planning).
- ❑ Provide outreach and education on the importance of natural resources in relationship to Glenn County agriculture and culture.
- ❑ Form a “welcome wagon” (track new property transactions with District being the first point of contact for information).
- ❑ Appraised / economic value for the working lands (added value for the full watershed and added value to the property).
- ❑ Provide areas that people can see, feel, and experience (concept farms and conservation demonstrations).
- ❑ Fee for service to fund conservation plan development for new landowners.

PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

- ❑ Stony Creek Watershed
- ❑ Interstate 5
- ❑ Colusa Basin Watershed

BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Water Resources (water quality, quantity, surface, sub-surface)

GOAL 1 Obtain an adequate supply of good quality water to meet local needs out to 2031.

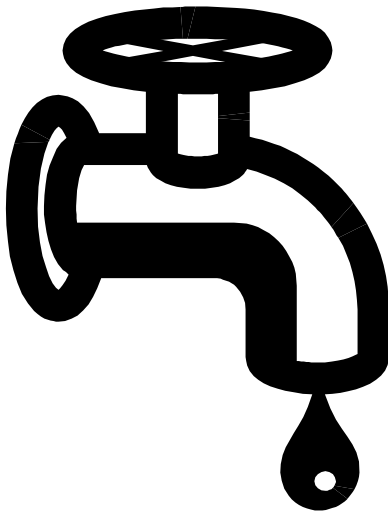
GOAL 2 Prove that our ground water supply is sustainable.

GOAL 3 Zero pollutants found in surface water when it leaves the county, no 303d listed streams.

GOAL 4 Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on a local level.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Keep an active list of potential projects and identify the RCDs expertise to seek funding as opportunities materialize.
- ❑ Take an active role in addressing water quality issues (i.e. irrigated lands, erosion, and rangeland water quality).
- ❑ Promote regional water quality planning.



BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Loss of Ag Land & Urban Encroachment (buffer zones, general plan)

GOAL 1 Glenn County General Plan will be completed, and it will address the areas of growth and include a natural resources component, promoting the use of urban limit line (green line) concept for development.

GOAL 2 Protect prime agricultural lands and habitats.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Insure the Glenn County General Plan contains a natural resources element.
- ❑ Draft a two to three page land use policy to submit to Glenn County Planning and Public Works Department (work with landowners, Farm Bureau).
- ❑ Develop a system to continuously respond and provide input to specific planning actions being taken by Glenn County and Cities.



Sustain our
Agriculture
land.

BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Range Management

GOAL 1 Increase native beneficial perennials.

GOAL 2 Achieve a 25% increase of rangeland acres with management plans in place with monitoring.

GOAL 3 Adopt a set of well-used Best Management Practices.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Establish baseline data.
- ❑ Determine the economic benefit of range management.
- ❑ Work on rangeland management monitoring techniques and development of monitoring plans.
- ❑ Set-up site tours, workshops, and demonstrations with “out-of-the-box” concepts for landowners and stakeholders.



BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Weed Control (invasive species)

GOAL 1 Achieve 100% of Arundo control in Lower Stony Creek Watershed.

GOAL 2 Obtain yellow star thistle eradication tools and have them available for use.

GOAL 3 Assist in establishing a functional, funded, weed management group.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Fund the existing weed management group to develop a weed management plan.
- ❑ Identify and prioritize the target areas for weed control.
- ❑ Begin implementation of activities based on weed management plan.



***Arundo donax* &
Tamarisk dominates
Stony Creek**



Yellow Star Thistle

BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Loss of Habitat

GOAL 1 Reestablish riparian corridors on Stony Creek.

GOAL 2 Increase bird counts.

GOAL 3 Endangered Species Act has mutual benefit from the continuity of management between habitat and production agriculture lands.

GOAL 4 Protocols / guidance are available to landowners on how to improve habitat and establish the type of habitats beneficial to this area.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Recognize the existing important habitats and advocate the protection of those habitats.
- ❑ Educate landowners and public of the value of conserving those habitats. Educate landowners on the various agencies and programs that provide incentives for promoting habitat.
- ❑ Work toward removing disincentives for landowner participation (i.e. permit coordination).
- ❑ Help develop programmatic agreements between agencies and landowners to streamline permitting and create safe harbor protections.



BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Air Quality

GOAL 1 Obtain visibility of the mountains on both sides of the Valley every day.

GOAL 2 Increase use of no-till and cover crops.

GOAL 3 Advocate meeting air quality standards.

GOAL 4 Sponsor and support a bio-fuels program.

GOAL 5 Support alternatives to open burning.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Identify where and how much of an air quality issue we have.
- ❑ Promote organic agriculture.
- ❑ Encourage equipment use within a given area.

Advocate for CLEAN AIR!

BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Alternative Energy

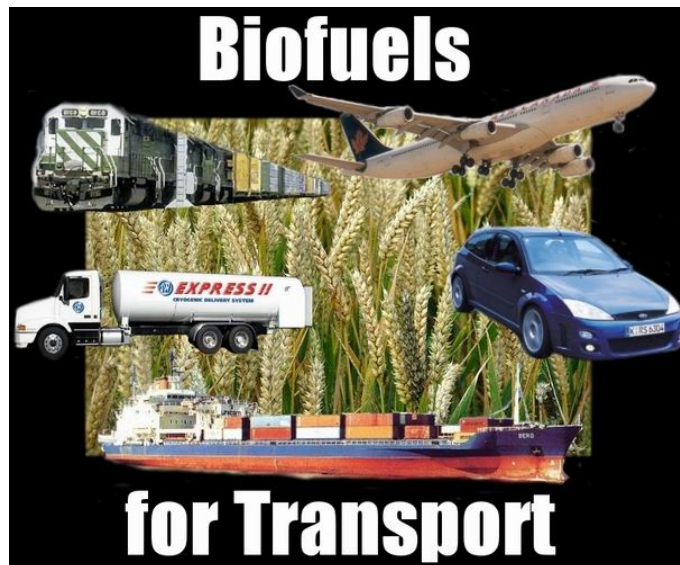
GOAL 1 Sponsor and support bio-fuels, and increased utilization of methane digester.

GOAL 2 Encourage the reduction of disincentives to bio-fuel plants and reduce the problems of becoming incorporated into the grid.

GOAL 3 Support energy efficient housing.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Help investigate the feasibility of a local bio-diesel plant.
- ❑ Setup school programs for education on alternative energy methods.
- ❑ Work through RC&D council for activities.



BY 2011

PRIORITY ISSUE: Education (as part of all the above priority issues)

- GOAL 1** Contact every school in the District twice a year with a conservation program.
- GOAL 2** 95% of all new landowners will have been contacted by the “welcome wagon”.
- GOAL 3** Have a “world class” agro-ecology program in all high schools with an on-school farm.
- GOAL 4** 95% of the citizens attending the Glenn County Fair recognize what the RCD is.
- GOAL 5** Prior to high school graduation, students have had a field trip to a National Wildlife Refuge.
- GOAL 6** School district’s support K-12 education program that includes a natural resources service-learning component (tie to graduation portfolio).
- GOAL 7** Utilize the NRCS “Earth Team” Program.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Identify core teachers at each school (priority is high school).
- ❑ Contact teachers either by phone or meetings.
- ❑ Contact FFA and 4-H clubs.
- ❑ Create “Welcome Wagon” packets for distribution.



Education is the KEY!



BY 2011

District Operations

- GOAL 1** District will be fiscally sound and have a discretionary fund.
- GOAL 2** District will be working from sound policies and procedures.
- GOAL 3** District will be locally supported and funded institutionally, not relying on grants exclusively but using grants for project specific activities.
- GOAL 4** District will have a full and successful functioning board, with 10 Associate Directors.
- GOAL 5** District will have appropriate office space.
- GOAL 6** District will have identified a core staffing level and project specialist.
- GOAL 7** District will have a program for fundraising from alternative sources.
- GOAL 8** District is visible in the community.

ACTIONS:

- ❑ Determine operating budget to run programs.
- ❑ Identify revenue generating methods including fees and services outside of grant sources.
- ❑ Investigate assessment districts and 2-mil taxing authority.
- ❑ Create "Friends of Glenn County RCD".

Miscellaneous

- ❑ Host a "Day in the District" event for elected officials.
- ❑ Host an Annual Spring Appreciation Luncheon.
- ❑ Host an Annual Fall B-B-Q.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The District is funded entirely by grants, donations, and contracts.

Thank you to our partners, sponsors, and donors for your contributions to conserve our natural resources.

We look forward to accomplishing our goals and objectives with your input.

CONTACT INFORMATION

GLENN COUNTY



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