

Del Norte Resource Conservation District

DEL NORTE



RESOURCE

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Municipal Service Review & Sphere of Influence Update

Approved April 26, 2021



Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission

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Acknowledgements

LAFCo staff would like to thank the contributors to this Municipal Service Review. Input instrumental in completing this report was provided by past Resource Conservation District manager, Linda Crockett, current District Manager Tera Dettmar and other District staff. This report would not have been possible without the District's assistance. In addition, Del Norte County provided valuable assistance and information.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) conducts municipal service reviews (“service reviews” or MSRs) to assess existing and future public service conditions for cities and special districts within Del Norte County. This service review allows LAFCo, local agencies, and the public to better understand how public services are provided by the Del Norte Resource Conservation District (DNRCD or District). This chapter provides a background of the service review requirements and an overview of the process and methodology of the review.

Resource Conservation Districts & Principal Act Overview

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are independent special districts under Public Resources Code §9151 et seq. An RCD manages a diversity of resource conservation projects, including soil and water conservation projects, wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration, control of exotic plant species, watershed restoration, conservation planning, education, and many others. RCDs are governed by a board of five, seven, or nine Directors, either elected by resident voters to 4-year terms or appointed by County Supervisors.

Municipal Service Review Determinations

Government Code § 56430 requires LAFCo to conduct a review of municipal services provided in the county by region, sub-region or other designated geographic area, as appropriate, for the service or services to be reviewed, and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to each of the following topics:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area;
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence;
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services, and infrastructure needs or deficiencies (including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence);
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services;
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities;
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies; and
7. Any other matter affecting or related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by Commission policy.

State Guidelines and Commission policies encourage stakeholder cooperation in the municipal service review process. It also provides a basis to evaluate, and make changes to Spheres of Influence, if appropriate.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is a LAFCo-approved plan that designates an agency's probable physical boundary and service area. Spheres are planning tools used to provide guidance for individual boundary change proposals and are intended to encourage efficient provision of organized community services, discourage urban sprawl and premature conversion of agricultural and open space lands, and prevent overlapping jurisdictions and duplication of services.

LAFCo is required to establish SOIs for all local agencies and enact policies to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the SOIs. Furthermore, LAFCo must update those SOIs every five years. For an SOI update, LAFCo is required to conduct a Municipal Services Review (MSR) and adopt related determinations. It must also make the following SOI determinations:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands;
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area;
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide;
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency; and
5. The present and probable need for public facilities and services related to sewers, municipal or industrial water, or structural fire protection of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence (effective July 1, 2012).

Review Methods

The following information was considered in the development of this service review:

- o Agency-specific data: responses to LAFCo Requests for Information.
- o Land Use and Del Norte County General Plan and Zoning data: Del Norte County Planning Division and GIS webpage.
- o Demographic data: U.S. Census Bureau; Department of Finance; CA Water Resources Board.
- o Finances: budgets, rates and fees.
- o Personal Communications with District staff.
- o Other Resources: California Association of Resource Conservation District website

Information gathered was analyzed and applied to make the required determinations. All information gathered for this report is filed by LAFCo for future reference.

California Environmental Quality Act

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is contained in Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq. Public agencies are required to evaluate the potential environmental effects of their actions. MSRs are statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to § 15262 (feasibility or planning studies) and categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15306 (information collection). CEQA requirements are applicable to SOI Updates. The CEQA lead agency for SOI Updates is most often LAFCo, unless an agency has initiated an SOI expansion or update.

2.0 AGENCY PROFILE

Table 1: Del Norte RCD Agency Profile

Formation	
Agency Name	Del Norte Resource Conservation District
Formation Date	August 9, 2005
Principal Act	Federal Standard State Conservation District Law of 1937 and Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code
Contact	
Contact (s)	Brian Ferguson, Board Chair, Rich Wetherell, Board Vice-Chair, Tara Dettmar, Executive Director; Linda Crockett, Former District Manager
E-mail	delnorteRCD@yahoo.com
Website	https://carcd.org/rcds/north-coast/
District Office	241 1st Street, Unit B Smith River, CA 95567
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 75, Smith River, CA 95567
Phone	(707) 487-7630
Governance	
Governing Body	Seven-member Board of Directors
Board Meetings	Third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM
Staffing	District Manager, Tera Dettmar & contract staff as needed
Services	
Services Provided	Assistance for projects to benefit the land, water, and life of Del Norte County
Areas Served	Lower Smith River and Lake Earl

District Overview and Formation

The Del Norte Resource Conservation District (DNRCD) was formed as an independent special district and board members were appointed by the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors on August 9, 2005. The purpose of the district is to provide local leadership to help people within the district conserve, improve, and sustain their natural resources and environment and improve the area's economic viability. The District provides procurement and coordination of grant funds for resource conservation uses.

"The mission of the DNRCD is to protect, enhance, nurture and conserve the natural resources of land owners (public and private) by providing technical & planning advice, education, financial aid, and assistance for projects to benefit and meet the needs of the land, water and life in Del Norte County."

RCDs have their origins in the Federal "Standard State Conservation District Law"; commonly known as the "Standard Act" of 1937 and a modified version adopted by the State of California in 1938.

RCDs are legal, non-regulatory, political subdivisions of state government. Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code authorizes the formation of RCDs, defines the State of California's framework for conducting the business of resource conservation within the State, and details the general powers and operations of RCDs.

RCDs were first founded after the Dust Bowl in the 1930s to bring federal and state funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers so that they could voluntarily conserve water, soil, and wildlife habitat on their land with the help of a local and neutral partner.¹ Today each RCD's projects and programs are different, and their services often include habitat restoration, forest health, healthy soils, public education, landscape-scale conservation planning, climate resilience, and assisting municipalities and the state in managing water use and preparing for drought and fire.

RCDs across the nation focus attention on local land, water and related resource issues, then work to develop programs to address those issues. RCDs enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the District's goals. RCDs also work to further conservation education in the local community.

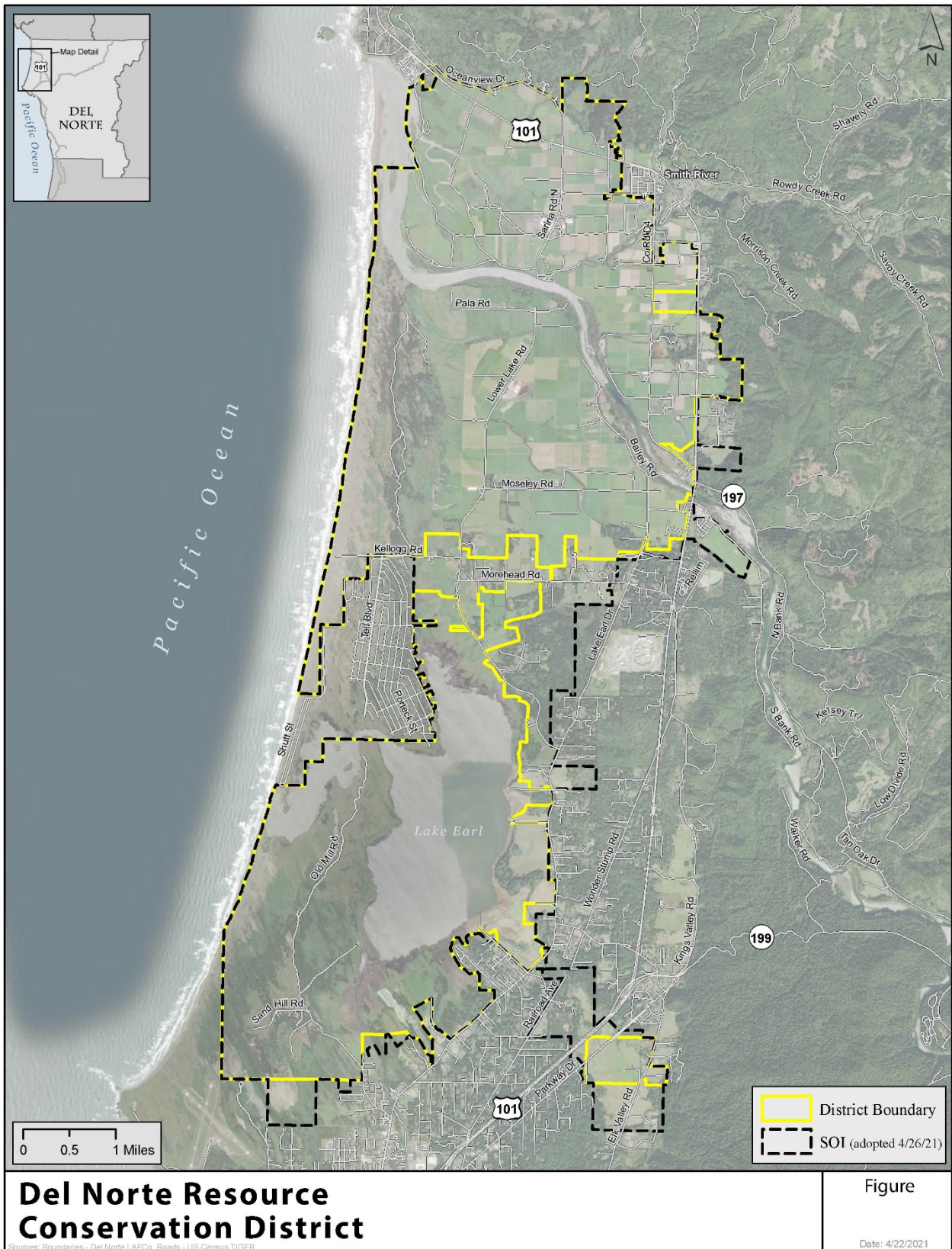
Boundary and Sphere of Influence

The DNRCD is located between the communities of Crescent City and Smith River, west of Highway 101 in Del Norte County in the northwest corner of the State of California. The District covers approximately two percent of Del Norte County's land area and lies in the alluvial plains of Smith River and Elk Creek. The district's boundary includes two main areas; Area One surrounds the lower Smith River and Area Two surrounds Lake Earl. The district covers approximately 18,093 acres (28 square miles).

The existing sphere of influence (SOI) is coterminous with the District boundary. As part of this MSR & SOI update, adjacent resource and agricultural lands that may benefit from District conservation and restoration programs were analyzed for potential SOI expansion. Figure 1 shows the DNRCD boundary and proposed expanded SOI.

¹ <https://carcd.org/rcds/what-are-rcds/>

Figure 1. DNRCD Boundary & SOI



Accountability and Governance

The DNRCD is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors to serve four-year terms. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM and are noticed by posting notice and e-mail.

The District office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and staffed through a partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services. The District is available by e-mail and phone.

Table 2: Del Norte RCD Board of Directors

Board Member	Title	Term Expiration
Rob Miller	Chair	6/23/2023
Rich Wetherell	Vice-Chair	12/12/2021
Blake Alexandre	Treasurer/Secretary	12/12/2021
Joyce Crockett	Director	6/23/2023
Robert Tedsen	Director	6/23/2023
Matthew Westbrook	Director	12/12/2021
Steven Westbrook	Director	6/23/2023

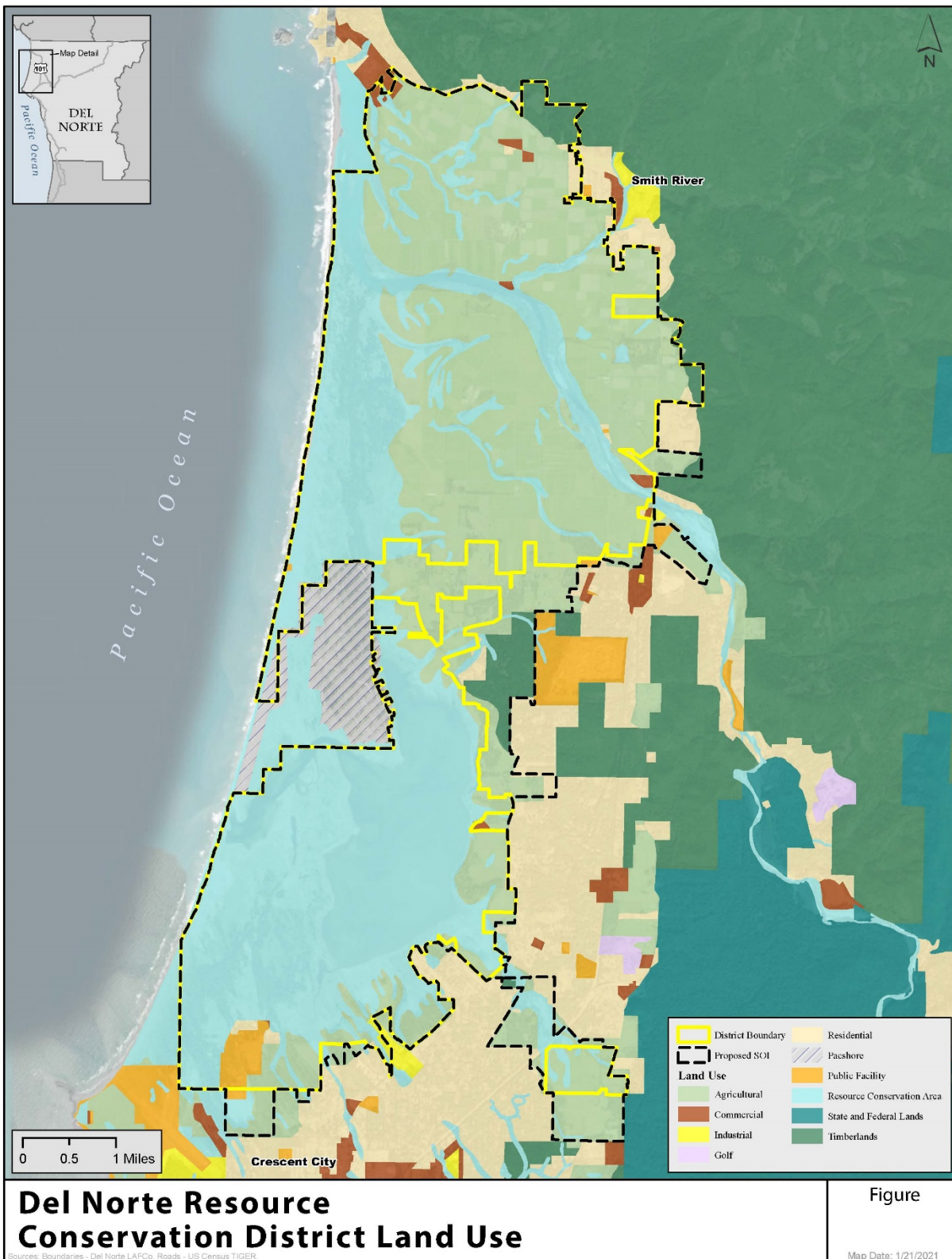
DNRCD demonstrated full accountability and transparency in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Del Norte LAFCo during the MSR process. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.

Public Outreach

The District currently does not currently have a website. However, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts maintains website at www.carcd.org that provides information regarding the District and links to other RCDs in the North Coast region, including Humboldt and Trinity RCDs. The Del Norte RCD is listed, and a phone number is provided but it is the only listed North Coast region RCD without a website link. Del Norte RCD staff has stated that a domain name is being purchased and a website is being designed.

SB 929 (McGuire) was signed into law on September 14, 2018 requiring all independent special districts to have and maintain a website by January 1, 2020. Only hardship-based findings, identified in a board resolution approved at a regular meeting, would allow a district to be exempt from establishing or maintaining a website. The findings may include inadequate internet access; significantly limited financial resources; or insufficient staff resources.

Figure 2: DNRCD Land Use



Population and Land Use

Land Use

The DNRCD serves the unincorporated area of Del Norte County west of Highway 101 between Crescent City and Smith River, which is primarily designated Resource Conservation Area, Prime Agriculture, General Agriculture and Timberland (Figure 2). The Del Norte County General Plan (2003) and Zoning Code guides land use decisions within the DNRCD.

Population and Growth

According to the U.S. Census, the total Del Norte County population was 28,610 in 2010 and estimated at 27,828 in the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimate, which is an approximately 2.7% population decrease². California Department of Finance projections also show similar population decreases throughout the MSR planning period. However, it should be noted that the County population has historically fluctuated and future population increases are also likely.

To approximate the population within the DNRCD boundary, a centroid method was applied to U.S. Census Bureau 2010 blocks within the district boundary. Since the District boundary is not coincident to the census blocks, a single census block may overlap multiple district boundaries. To prevent double-counting of census information within multiple districts, the census block polygons were converted to centroid points, and then assigned to the district in which the centroid resided. The population was then summarized for the district based on which centroids for each census block resided within the boundary. According to the above centroid method, the DNRCD had an approximate 2010 population of 900.

The DNRCD growth is concentrated primarily in lower Smith River. The district largely contains resource conservation area and prime agricultural lands, and will likely continue to develop at or less than the current county-wide rates of 0.4 percent per year, the DNRCD population at approximately 972 people in 2025.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate water service, sewer service, and structural fire protection within disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community (DUC) is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the annual median household income

² U.S. Census QuickFacts. Del Norte County, CA.
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/delnortecountycalifornia/PST045218#PST045218>

is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (pursuant to Government Code Section 56033.5 and Water Code Section 79505.5).

According to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the California median household income (MHI) was \$71,228. The Del Norte countywide MHI is \$45,258, which places it at 64% of the California MHI. With only one incorporated city, Crescent City, most of the County's population exists in unincorporated communities that qualify as "disadvantaged".

The California Department of Water Resources has mapped communities that are at or below 80 percent of the annual median household income by using census data for each county. According to this data, the communities of Smith River, Hiouchi, Gasquet, Klamath, and parts of the incorporated City of Crescent City are classified as disadvantaged within Del Norte County.

The DNRCD does not provide any of the three basic services- water, sewer, or structural fire protection. Fire protection services are provided by the Smith River Fire Protection District (FPD), Fort Dick FPD and Crescent FPD. Water services are provided by Crescent City and Smith River CSD; many areas within the district boundaries are removed from water systems and rely on private water supply. There is no wastewater services in DNRCD boundary.

3.0 DISTRICT SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

DNRCD provides resource management services to in-district public and private landowners including:

- o Promoting voluntary action to resolve natural resource issues;
- o Focusing attention on local resource problems and opportunities;
- o Developing and implementing educational programs for landowner benefit;
- o Providing input for the development and implementation of government programs; and
- o Coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies as needed for technical assistance.

The DNRCD has identified five priority natural resource issues to focus their resource management services:

Aleutian Geese Depredation: Working with state and federal agencies, the district is developing an overall plan for goose management through a comprehensive, region-wide hazing program with neighboring counties. This program will alleviate the Aleutian Geese' impact on private lands by opening up 500 acres of short grass habitat for the geese to move to.

Water Quality (Erosion and Runoff): This district aims to achieve erosion control on 50% of lily bulb fields in the district. The program includes development and implementation of nutrient management plans for dairies including soil sampling and manure sampling as part of a non-point source pollution prevention program.

Noxious Weeds: The district is developing a County-wide Weed Management Program that includes a redemption program for tansy ragwort, reed canary grass, and scotch broom.

Stream Enhancement: The district will continue working on stream bank and riparian enhancements. This includes fencing of livestock, implementing demonstration projects, resolving gravel issues, improving channels, and monitoring fish populations on the lower Smith River and its tributaries.

Gravel Extraction: The district provides technical and environmental assistance to rural gravel operators, including geomorphic and watershed studies.

The DNRCD is currently involved in six projects furthering their resource management goals:

Name: Lower Tryon Creek Passage and Off Channel Habitat Design Project

Dates: 6/1/2020 to 3/31/22

Project Contract Total: \$7, 111.00.

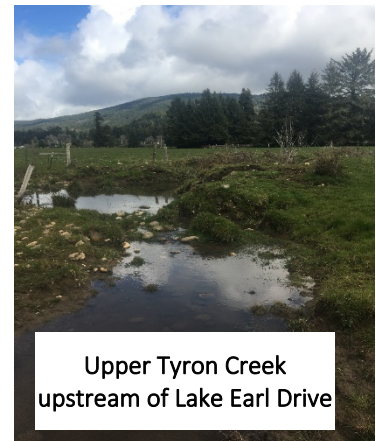
Activities: Site visits only

Name: Upper Tryon Creek Stream Enhancement Design Project

Dates: 4/17/2019 to 8/15/2020 (Completed)

Project Contract Total: \$8,888.

Activities: Site visits only



Name: Delilah Creek Habitat and Water Quality Enhancement Design Project

Dates: 5/12/20 to 9/22/20

Project Contract Total \$16,650.00

Activities: Surveys and permits started.

Name: Enhancing Wildlife Habitat and Carbon Sequestration on California Working Lands- Carbon Farming

Dates: 9/17/19 to 11/15/22

Project Contract Total: \$58,694.70

Activities: Soil sampling, Landowner meetings.

Name: Middle Fork Smith River Invasive Plant Project

Dates: 5/31/19 to 3/31/23

Project Contract Total \$15,187.28 for 2020. 2020 final billing due.



Northwest Youth Corps at the Middle Fork Smith pose for a photo after treating the invasive French and Scotch Broom at the confluence of the Middle Fork and Main Stem Smith River.

The DNRCD has not changed its services since its last MSR (2015) and does not foresee expanding its current services or functions in the near future. The District has not considered any annexations or consolidations in the past five years.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District does not own or maintain equipment, vehicles, or buildings at this time.

Shared Services

The DNRCD works in partnership with various government agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The District is a member of the North Coast Resource Partnership and participates in regional planning activities. The District maintains Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Del Norte Weed Management Area (WMA) and North Coast Integrated Water Management Plan (NCIWMP).

Del Norte RCD is a member of the Northwest California RC&D Area, which is sponsored by County Boards of Supervisors and RCDs representing Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Northwest California RC&D Area was established in 1994, covering only Trinity County. In 2006, the RCD Area was expanded from one to three counties and officially changed its name to “Northwest California RC&D”. The Northwest California RC&D Council is made up of 15 Board members, five from each of the three counties. In addition to the two sponsoring members from each county that represent the RCDs and Board of Supervisors, nine “at-large” Council positions are available: three from each county. This local input and county representation make the RC&D program unique in its ability to solve problems at a regional level.

In 1997, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou & Trinity Counties agreed to collaborate on a proactive, positive response to the federal listing of Coho salmon as a Threatened species by forming the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C). Upon the acquisition of 5C in 2009, the Council executed MOUs with neighboring RCD Councils - North Coast and OreCal - to facilitate 5C work outside Northwest RCD Council boundaries (Mendocino and Siskiyou Counties)³. The primary 5C goal is to strive to protect the economic and social resources of Northwestern California by providing for the conservation and restoration of salmonid populations to healthy and sustainable levels and to base decisions on watersheds rather than county boundaries.⁴

According to the District, there are no current projects with Humboldt RCD. However, there are potential opportunities for shared services in the future as Humboldt RCD manages California Department of Fish and Wildlife contracts that could service the DNRCD.

³ <http://www.5counties.org/>

⁴ <http://northwestcarcdc.org/projects.html>

4.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget

The DNRCD's primary revenue sources are state and federal grants with reimbursable administrative and indirect costs. The District has been particularly successful at procuring grant funding for its programs. In 2020, the District reported over \$140,000 in income working in watershed restoration, invasive species removal and soil health management and promotion. The District currently receives no property taxes, special assessments, or other local funding. Grants with reimbursable administrative and indirect costs are required. The district lacks a source for base line funding.

It would be beneficial to the District to have a local funding source to maintain operations when grant funding is not available. Grant funding can be cyclical in nature, meaning that the availability of funding is greatly dependent on economic conditions at the time. As a result, many RCDs in the State have faced challenges in ensuring sufficient funding to maintain staff and minimum service levels. The District does not have any outstanding debt. Budget decisions are made at annual operational meetings.

Table 3. Del Norte RCD Revenues & Expenses

Revenues	Budget 2018	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
CASH	\$10,152	\$31,209	\$27,422
CDFG Leases	\$0	\$0-	\$0
CA Capacity Building	\$1,637	\$618	\$0
Resource Advisory Committee Project	\$5,821	\$0	\$0
ES RCD-CA Department of Farm & Agriculture (CDFA) Soils Health-Workshops/AMMP	\$8,413	\$3,479	\$0
Middle Fork Smith River (Invasive Plant Monitoring)	\$8,338	\$10,557	\$10,000
CA RCD Financial Assistance Program (FAP)	\$12,507	\$2,283	\$0
Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Tryon Creek Planning	\$0	\$0	\$15,998
North Coast Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Projects	\$27,450	\$0	\$23,564
CA RCD Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Carbon Farming	\$0	\$0	\$47,095
Delilah Creek Plan Development	\$2,700	\$5,400	\$16,650
Watershed projects-State Responsibility Area (SRA) Prop 1 & Phase 3	\$2,960	\$160	\$0
Total Revenues	\$79,978	\$22,497	\$140,297

Expenses	Budget 2018	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
<i>Project/Program Expenses</i>			
SRA PM Carbon Farming	\$0	\$0	\$28,847
SRA JB PM Carbon Farming	\$0	\$0	\$12,772
CDFG Leases 65% to CDFG	\$0	\$0	\$0
WMA implementation	\$0	\$0	\$0
RAC Partners	\$4,719	\$0	\$0
Smith River Middle Fork Partners	\$6,022	\$8,237	\$8,300
ES RCD-CDFA Soils Health-Workshops	\$127	\$0	\$0
Audit-HC RCD	\$1,735	\$0	\$0
NCIRWMP Projects	\$18,209	\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$30,812	\$8,237	\$49,919
<i>RCD Expenses</i>			
Rent \$350 per month at 12 months	\$3,850	\$4,200	\$4,200
District Manager/Bookkeeping/other	\$10,750	\$10,472	\$10,000
Printing Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies/postage	\$237	\$215	\$215
Equipment Purchase	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dues CARCD/NCRCD	\$400	\$250	\$250
Professional Fees Accounting/Audit	\$500	\$750	\$750
Insurance – Liability	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Travel - Directors/Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0
Internet	\$1,020	\$960	\$870
Education/Public Outreach	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$17,957	\$18,047	\$17,485
Total Expenses	\$48,769	\$26,284	\$67,404
Balance Forward	\$31,209	\$27,422	\$73,325

Audits

DNRCD requested that the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approve a change from the annual audit required by Government Code 26909 for Special Districts to an audit covering a 5-year period. This request was pursued by the District as a substantial revenue saving procedure and was approved unanimously by the BOS on December 11, 2018. The District still undergoes annual financial review without receiving a formal audit and this represents a large cost saving for the District on the order of thousands of dollars annually.

5.0 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

This chapter addresses the requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code Section 56430). As part of the municipal service review process, LAFCo is required to make written statements of determinations in each of the categories listed below.

1) Growth and population projections

The DNRCD has an approximate population of 900, based on 2010 Census Block data.

The district largely contains resource conservation area and prime agricultural lands and will likely continue to develop at or less than the current county-wide rates of 0.4 percent per year, putting the DNRCD population at approximately 972 people in 2025.

2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The community of Smith River is adjacent to District boundaries and has been identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

Because the DNRCD does not provide water, sewer or structural fire protection services, the District is not responsible for assuring that these services are adequately provided to communities that meet the DUC thresholds.

3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

The District provides valuable resource conservation services to landowners and collaborates with several other agencies. Countywide growth may increase pressure to convert resource lands; therefore, demand for services may increase due to this and other regulatory requirements.

The District currently does not own or maintain any facilities and consequently does not have any infrastructure needs or deficiencies associated with district-owned infrastructure.

4) Financial ability of agencies to provide services

The District relies on grant funding for its programs and does not receive a constant, reliable funding source. DNRCD has been successful at procuring grant funding as shown by the increase in revenue from 2018 to 2020. The District is saving money currently by only undergoing a full audit every five years upon approval by the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors December 11, 2018.

5) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

According to the District, there are no current projects with Humboldt RCD. However, there are potential opportunities for shared services in the future as Humboldt RCD manages California Department of Fish and Wildlife contracts that could service the DNRCD.

6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

The DNRCD is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The district holds public meetings in accordance with the Brown Act. District staff is currently working remotely because of Covid-19 restrictions and is best reached by email.

7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy

Other RCDs in California cover larger portions of the Counties that they serve; for instance, the Humboldt County RCD boundary includes the entire County. As part of the MSR/SOI Update expanding the SOI to include more of Del Norte County's northern agricultural lands has been considered.

6.0 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE DETERMINATIONS

The Del Norte Resource Conservation District proposed expanded sphere of influence included within the Municipal Service Review includes adjacent resource and agricultural lands that may benefit from District conservation and restoration programs.

1) Present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.

The district largely contains resource conservation areas and prime agricultural lands. Little change in actual or designated land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years.

2) Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

While not easily quantifiable, the District appears to have experienced an increase in demand for its services over the last few years, as indicated by the increase in grant funding for specific projects. Countywide growth may increase pressure to convert resource lands; therefore, demand for services may increase due to this and other regulatory requirements.

3) Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.

The District provides valuable resource conservation services to landowners and collaborates with several other agencies. RCD's generally are constrained by available funding sources; DNRCD has been successful in receiving grant funds to continue providing services.

4) Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

The District includes resource and agricultural lands. The communities of Smith River and Fort Dick are adjacent to District boundaries.

5) For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere.

The District provides resource conservation and management services. The community of Smith River is adjacent to District boundaries and has been identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. Smith River is provided water, sewer and fire services by other service providers.

7.0 REFERENCES

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. <https://carcd.org/>

Del Norte Resource Conservation District Municipal Service Review, January 2015. Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission.

Del Norte Resource Conservation District Municipal Service Review Questionnaire. Completed by Andrea Souther in January 2015.

Del Norte Resource Conservation District Municipal Service Review Questionnaire. Completed by Linda Crockett, October 2020.

Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program. <http://www.5counties.org/>

Northwest California RC&D Area <http://northwestcarcdc.org/projects.html>

Personal communication with former District Manager Linda Crockett, October 2020.

Personal communication with District Manager, Tara Dettmar, December 2020.