

## Colusa Basin Drainage District

### General Information

Primary Key 4993

Time Frame 01/10/1998 - 01/10/2003

Lead Agency USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Purpose** 1) Reduce flooding/excessive stream flows with application of conservation practice/management alternatives. Implement watershed based land treatment project to reduce surface runoff, increase infiltration, improve water management, provide additional surface water storage. 2) Address subsidence problems and lowering water tables as a result of soil compaction, lack of vegetative cover, excessive surface runoff and pumping of ground water. Reestablish riparian corridors, improve soil tilth and infiltration, improve irrigation water management. 3) Reduce/eliminate sediment problems of the upper watershed to reduce deposition in downstream channels/drainages. Reduce erosion problems contributing to impaired water bodies by improving vegetative cover in watershed, reduce furrow irrigation erosion and stabilize creek channels and riparian corridors. 4) Work with orchards and cropland producers to reduce movement of organophosphate pesticides into waterways and adjacent environment. Promote alternative, less toxic, dormant season sprays. Maintain pesticides/fertilizers on farms through cover crops, filter strips, grassed waterways and riparian plantings. 5) Control disturbances and manage riparian areas to stabilize stream channels and promote growth of woody plants so they can be better used as contiguous zones for movement of neotropical migrants, filtration systems for improvement of water quality and cease to contribute to sediment problems.

**Abstract** Winter runoff causes flooding of agricultural land, urban areas, public structures, damages wildlife habitat and affects 100,000 acres. Water quality test data suggests the Drain is the largest source of agricultural water discharge into the Sacramento River system and contains a significant suspended solids load. Objectives are to show that technical and financial assistance can solve existing problems. Sedimentation results from sheet and rill, strambank, gully and road erosion. Flooding damage occurs as a result of accelerated surface runoff inadequate drainage. The Drain is an impaired water body and transport of sediment and pesticides is detrimental to fisheries and other wildlife. Implementation will allow managing riparian vegetation, modifying slough channels for flood control and wildlife habitat, improving rangeland, alternative cultivation practices, institutional changes, and creating information programs.

**Restoration Actions** Implementing the following NRCS conservation practices: 1) Irrigation Water Management (AC 499) 2) Prescribed Grazing (AC 528A) 3) Pest Management (AC 595) 4) Streambank and Shoreline Protection (FT 580) 5) Cover Green Manure (AC 340) Full descriptions of conservation practices are in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide available at all field offices.

Authorities [Agencies]

### Contact Information

Primary Contact	Dennis Nay	Phone	(530) 934-4601
Job Title	District Conservationist	Fax	(530) 954-8667
Affiliation	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service	email	
Address	132 North Enright, Suite B Willows, CA 95988		

Data Contact	Gary Bullard	Phone	(530) 792-5651
Job Title	State Resource Conservationist	Fax	(530) 792-5794
Affiliation	United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource	email	
Department	Conservation Service		
Address	California State Office 430 G Street #4164 Davis, CA 95616-		

### Landowners and Cooperators

California Waterfowl Association	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Department of Fish and Game	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Ducks Unlimited	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Family Water Alliance	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Private Landowner(s)	Land Owner Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Resource Conservation District - Butte County	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
Resource Conservation District - Glenn County	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
USDA - Farm Services Agency	Cooperator	0.00	0.00
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Lead Agency Funder Cooperator	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00

---

## Colusa Basin Drainage District

---

### Location Information

Latitude/Longitude 39.28000 / -122.21000

Size 1,036,000 Acres (4,192,541,221 sq meters)

Counties Colusa, Glenn, Yolo

Additional Location Of the 1,036,000 total acreage, 22,160 is Federal and 1,013,842 is Non-federal.

### Issues, Species, and Habitats

Agency Program On-The-Ground Restoration

Resource Issues Agriculture, Erosion / Sedimentation, Flood Control, Grazing, Riparian Enhancement, Sedimentation, Water Quality, Water Quantity/Supply, Water-Surface Water, Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat

Water Quality Issues Pollutants-Pesticides, Sediment Load

Habitats Agriculture, Grazed Pasture, Riparian Forest and Woodlands

Species

### Progress and Monitoring

Goals Attained? Too Soon to Tell

Monitoring Done? Yes

Monitoring Schedule See District Conservationist for details.