

Annual Presentation to the Lake County Board of Supervisors



Lake County Resource Conservation District

JULIA SULLIVAN SHEBAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | **MARCH 17, 2026**

Organizational Activities

Finances

Program Highlights

Looking Ahead



ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC PLANNING

20 internal interviews will
all staff and Directors

10 external interviews
with partner
organizations

2 all-day, in-person
professionally facilitated
workshops

Ongoing implementation
planning efforts

Lake County Resource Conservation District Strategic Direction: 2026-2030

The Need

Lake County is a place of bounty. Our waters include the unique and extraordinary Clear Lake, along with the headwaters of the Eel River, Cache Creek, and Putah Creek, and dozens of tributaries. Our forests and rangelands span distinct and important ecosystems from chaparral shrubland and oak woodlands to vast stretches of conifers. Our soils support productive vineyards, orchards, croplands, and ranches. Wildlife of many kinds—from black bears and tule elk to the Clear Lake hitch and important birds and insects—all make their home here. Rare plants can be found in our hillsides and forests. With 15 incorporated cities and towns, dozens of distinct neighborhoods, and seven federally recognized Tribes, our communities, too, have many complex and distinctive layers of cultures and histories.

Lake County also faces big environmental challenges. Nearly three quarters of our county has burned in the past decade, and wildlife remains a constant threat to our communities and ecosystems. Clear Lake itself is recovering from decades of degradation that has affected both ecological health and community well-being. Erosion and other issues affect our waterways and impact the drinking water of some of our communities. Some of our important native species—including the endemic hitch, the foothill yellow-legged frog, and countless unique plant communities—are threatened or endangered. Meanwhile, Lake County's environmental challenges are also intertwined with the social and economic realities of our remote rural area, from issues of connectivity and access to resources; to the ups and downs of agricultural markets; to households dealing with poverty, unemployment, and related concerns.

Our Response

Lake County Resource Conservation District

Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD) draws on the strengths of our people and our landscapes to address natural resource concerns and support our local economy.

OUR PURPOSE

LCRCD is dedicated to the locally led, community-driven conservation and restoration of Lake County's natural and working lands.

OUR VISION

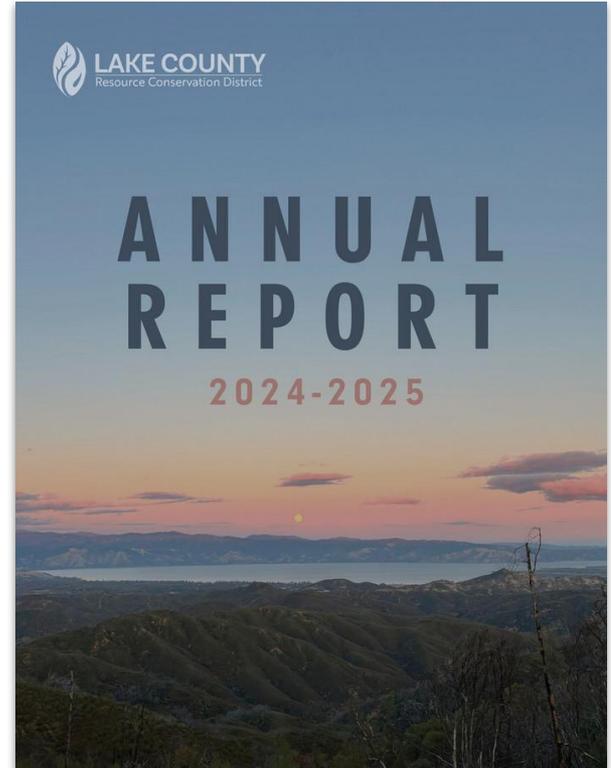
We are working with our partners to create a future where the communities and ecosystems of Lake County thrive together. Our vision for the future includes:

- Healthy, ecologically resilient forests and communities that are safe from wildfire.
- Farms and ranches where healthy soils, efficient water use, and fish and wildlife-friendly practices bolster long-term environmental and economic sustainability.
- Streams and landscapes that support clean water, abundant wildlife, and community needs.
- Elevation of Tribal knowledge and practices and integration into conservation projects and approaches.
- A strong connection between our environment and the economic and social well-being of our communities.

This vision is possible if we all work together.

If people from all generations and corners of Lake County are informed, motivated, and engaged in stewarding Lake County's natural resources; and if diverse partners—including public agencies, Tribes,

ANNUAL REPORT



Dedicated to the locally led, community-driven conservation and restoration of Lake County's natural and working lands.

GOALS

- Goal 1:** Strong cooperation and partnership with Tribes, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities
- Goal 2:** Healthy, resilient forests throughout Lake County
- Goal 3:** Ecological resilience and financial viability for Lake County's farms and ranches
- Goal 4:** Healthy watersheds that support wildlife and communities
- Goal 5:** Deeper community connection to the unique ecology of Lake County and increased visibility and understanding of LCRCD and our work
- Goal 6:** Sustainable funding for LCRCD programs and operations
- Goal 7:** A dynamic and high-functioning staff and Board of Directors

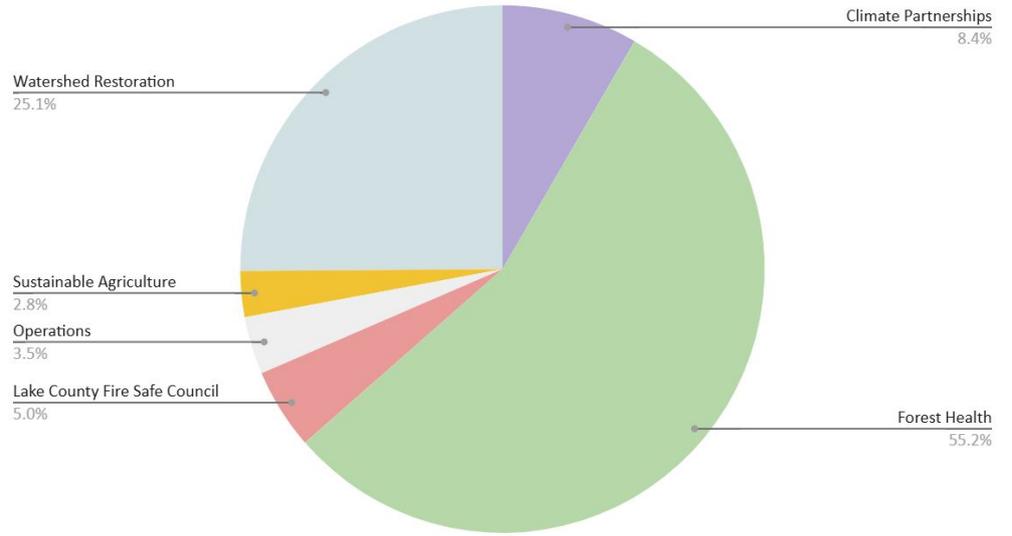
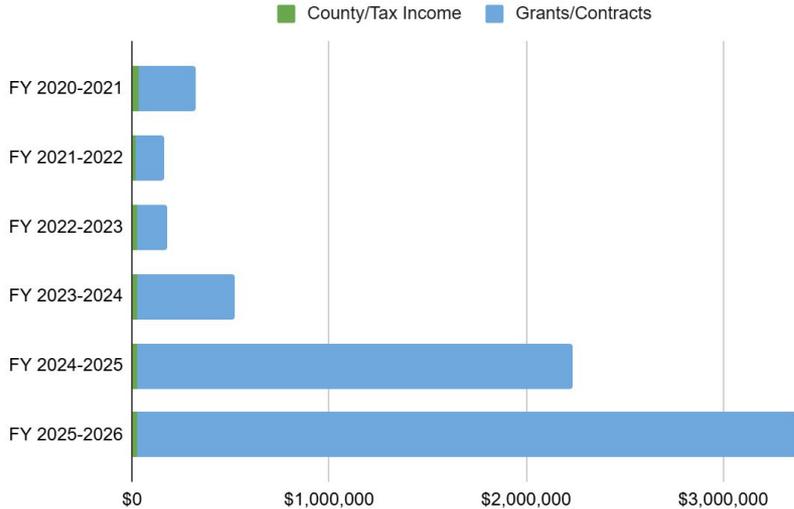


FINANCES

FINANCES

ANNUAL BUDGET GROWTH

Our annual budget growth continues with a \$3.3M budget in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as compared to \$2.2M in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.



FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Program Area

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Forest Health: | 55.2% |
| Sustainable Agriculture: | 2.8% |
| Watershed Restoration: | 25.1% |
| Lake County Fire Safe Council: | 5.0% |
| Climate Partnerships: | 8.4% |
| Operations: | 3.5% |

Funding Source

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| State: | 71.1% |
| Federal: | 19.8% |
| Local & Private: | 4.2% |



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FOREST HEALTH

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WATERSHED RESTORATION

LAKE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Fire in Hand, Healing Lands



**Tribal
EcoRestoration
Alliance**

\$7.3M, 2025-2029

Hazard tree removal along critical evacuation routes and private properties within and adjacent to the County right-of-way

Reducing wildfire risk and completing fuels reduction activities with an ecocultural focus on **1,100 priority acres** through **prescribed and cultural fire**

FOREST HEALTH

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WATERSHED RESTORATION

LAKE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Revitalizing Lake County Agriculture, Phase 1



\$500,000, 2026-2028

- **Community engagement**
- **Mapping and economic analysis**
- **Evaluation of incentivizing tools**
- **Integration with County planning**

The project team includes: Community Development Department, Department of Agriculture, Lake County Farm Bureau, Lake County Land Trust, Lake County Winegrape Commission, Middletown Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, and North Coast Opportunities.

FOREST HEALTH

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WATERSHED RESTORATION

LAKE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Clearlake Oaks Revitalization Initiative, Phase 1a



\$2.3M, 2026-2028

Phase 1a: 65% planning & design, 2026-2028

Phase 1b: 100% planning & design, 2028-2030

Phase 2: Schindler Creek habitat restoration, 2030-2033

Phase 3: Clear Lake Keys rehabilitation, 2033-2036

The project team includes: Elem Indian Colony, HANA Resources, Lake County Land Trust, McMillen, Native Sage Consulting, Pinecrest, Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians, U.S. Geological Survey, and Wolf Creek Archaeology.

FOREST HEALTH

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WATERSHED RESTORATION

LAKE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Lake County Fire Safe Council



**LAKE COUNTY
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**
FIRESAFELAKE.ORG

Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter

Last revised July 10, 2025

Introduction

Given the partnership-driven nature of the Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) and its commitment to playing a "convening role" on behalf of Lake County organizations engaged in wildfire resilience work, the "Lake County Fire Safe Council Charter" was developed in an effort to establish effective working agreements and clarify roles and responsibilities among partners. **This charter is meant to reflect a commitment to and celebration of partnership.**

This document outlines the following:

1. Lake County's Community Vision and LCFSC's organizational purpose;
2. Principles of practice and member commitments;
3. LCFSC's membership model;
4. LCFSC operations and LORCD staff's responsibilities;
5. LCFSC governance; and
6. LCFSC's feedback and decision-making processes.

Key Definitions

- **Lake County Fire Safe Council:** LCFSC refers to the broad network of members and partners engaged in wildfire resilience work across Lake County.
- **Lake County Resource Conservation District:** LORCD is a special district of the State of California and the administering entity of the LCFSC.
- **Member:** Members are groups, entities, and organizations that work with LCFSC in a collaborative capacity and have demonstrated their commitment by signing this charter.
- **Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee will consist of a minimum of five and maximum of seven nominated representatives of LCFSC partners and play an advisory role on behalf of LCFSC.

Community Vision¹

Lake County is a wildfire-adapted landscape. The Lake County wildfire mitigation network is composed of committed agencies, organizations, Tribal governments, and residents and is characterized by robust engagement, clear roles, collective responsibility, and equitably prioritized wildfire resilience projects. Together, these groups ensure the safety of Lake County's communities and the health of its landscapes while fostering an awareness of the beneficial and cultural uses of fire among residents and landowners. The greater community welcomes and values Tribal leadership and Traditional/ancestral knowledge as Tribal governments and culture bearers are willing and interested in providing it. Resources and opportunities related to wildfire resilience are proactively made available to all community members.

¹ The Lake County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) completed the "Lake County Fire Safe Council Strategic Plan: 2025-2035" in February 2025 with input gathered through the 2024-2025 Preparedness, Engagement, Action, and Resiliency (PEAR) workshops held on October 29, 2024 and January 10, 2025.

² The Community Vision emerged through the 2024-2025 PEAR workshops; the final language incorporates two rounds of participant feedback.

Lake County Fire Safe Council convenes partners to coordinate wildfire resilience work and standardize messaging across Lake County and empowers all residents with the educational, physical, and financial resources to proactively protect their family, property, and community from wildfire.



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FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**
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Collaboration with the County of Lake

County Contracts

Adaptation Planning Grant Program

Base Funding

Defensible Space: Round 2

Goat's Rue

Lake County Biomass Aggregation Pilot Project

Revitalizing Lake County Agriculture, Phase 1

Secure Rural Schools

Looking Ahead



New office space

New website (coming soon!)

Growing staff capacity

Watershed Restoration Program Manager
Communications & Outreach Specialist

New and expanded partnerships

CAL FIRE
Clear Lake Keys POA
Lake County Farm Bureau
Lake County Land Trust
Mendocino National Forest
Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance

Dedicated to the locally led, community-driven conservation and restoration of Lake County's natural and working lands.

Contact Us

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LAKE COUNTY
Resource Conservation District

Thank you!