

FILED

JUN 19 2006

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TRINITY
BY: DONNA REGNANI, DEPUTY CLERK**

DR

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2005-2006**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY RIVER CONSERVATION CAMP

**This Report was Approved
On June 6, 2006**

**2005-2006 TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY RIVER CONSERVATION CAMP

BACKGROUND:

Trinity River Conservation Camp was opened more than 15 years ago. The inmates handled at this facility are under the direction of High Desert Correctional Facility in Susanville. The camp is managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It is one of 22 Conservation Camps statewide and is home to up to 120 inmates at any time. They will not be sent to a county where their crime was committed. Also no inmate will be considered for transfer if their crime involves rape, molestation, or violence of any kind.

It is a 'self contained "prison without walls"'. The camps are situated in rural or wilderness areas for fire suppression. Inmates assigned to camps are dispatched to fight wild land fires and other emergencies when needed and a variety of community work projects. The inmates can earn two day's credit for each day served. Primary duties consist of firefighting, including initial attack but more importantly as mop-up and rehabilitation of burned areas. For firefighting duties the inmates receive one dollar per hour. The facility follows the state law and is completely tobacco-free. While thought that this might be a major problem, it is very manageable.

The inmates housed at the Conservation Camps are generally serving the last 24 months of their service time. Average age is 25 years and time spent in Trinity County is 9 months. The facilities are not guarded by armed officers and although there are no walls or fences around the facility, the last escape was in 1998, and it was classified as a "walk-away". Any serious infractions will cause the inmate to be returned to High Desert Correctional Facility for punishment which can add up to four years to their time.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Twelve members of the 2005-2006 Grand Jury toured the Trinity River Conservation Camp on November 9, 2005. Jury members were greeted and escorted by the Camp Division Chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Lieutenant of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at the camp. They provided an overview of the camp, chain of command and the duties of the staff.

They provided the Jury with a fire-fighters luncheon. It is a high-protein and high-carbohydrate meal served from a mobile kitchen during fire-fighting activities. While in the camp the inmates receive three meals a day consisting of a cooked breakfast, a sack lunch and a cooked dinner.

The camp tour visited all areas of the facility. The facility is maintained by the inmates, and they receive training during that maintenance. The emphasis is largely on skill improvement in areas of automotive repair, upholstery shop, metal/wood shops, saw

shop, and a saw mill. They also are trained in fire-suppression, fire-prevention, and community assistance.

FINDING #1:

This camp is a well maintained minimum security facility, providing basic skill training for inmates in the last 24 months of their sentence. The training these men receive includes keeping the camp and their living accommodations neat and clean. They learn how to raise vegetables and flowers, prepare and serve meals, and run the fire-fighter mobile kitchen. They work in the auto-repair areas, keeping the machinery in well-maintained and working conditions. This includes working in the upholstery shop, the metal/wood shops, and the saw shop. (They also run a small mill where they cut and prepare lumber for sale of barter with other camps, for their products, throughout the state.)

For community service the inmates use their spare time to design and build toys to be provided to Toys for Tots or local civic groups to be distributed to local children for Christmas. They also refurbish bicycles and tricycles for donation. They are available for work for any government agency, county, city, state or federal project. The crews work for a full day at a cost of \$200.00. The fee covers the 17 workers, one supervisor and the necessary equipment.

RECOMMENDATION #1

It is recommended that the County check into utilizing the crews to provide supplemental help in community projects, i.e., painting schools, fixing fences, etc., thereby saving the County funds that can then be applied to other much-needed projects. This is not only a cost savings to the county but also helps inmates learn job skills and work disciplines that may effectuate their eventual release as a productive citizen to their communities.

It is also recommended that the Board of Supervisors write a letter of commendation to Trinity River Camp for its support and commitment to the communities of Trinity County. It is also suggested that members of the Board make a visit to the camp at their earliest opportunity.

CONCLUSION:

This was the first Grand Jury visit in a long while and it is felt the management is to be commended for its efficiency and training in helping the inmates become productive citizens.

RESPONSES REQUIRED:

Entity	Finding	Recommendation	Respond in
Board of Supervisors	1	1	90 days
CAO	1	1	60 days



TRINITY COUNTY

Office of the County Administrator


LARRY A. LAYTON

County Administrative Officer

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613

PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable Anthony C. Edwards,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Larry A. Layton, County Administrative Officer 

CC: Kelly Frost, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2005-06
Grand Jury Judicial Committee
Report on Trinity River Conservation Camp

DATE: August 15, 2006

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity River Conservation Camp. In my capacity as County Administrative Officer, my response is as follows:

Finding #1: *This camp is a well maintained minimum security facility, providing basic skill training for inmates in the last 24 months of their sentence. The training these men receive includes keeping the camp and their living accommodations neat and clean. They learn how to raise vegetables and flowers, prepare and serve meals, and run the fire-righter mobile kitchen. They work in the auto-repair areas, keeping the machinery in well-maintained and working conditions. This includes working in the upholstery shop, the metal/wood shops, and the saw shop. (They also run a small mill where they cut a prepare lumber for sale of barter with other camps, for their products, throughout the state.)*

For community service the inmates use their spare time to design and build toys to be provided to Toys for Tots or local civic groups to be distributed to local children for Christmas. They also refurbish bicycles and tricycles for donation. They are available for work for any government agency, county, city, state or federal project. The crews work for a full day at a cost of \$200.00. The fee covers the 17 workers, one supervisor and the necessary equipment.

Response: Although I have not personally toured the camp. I am well aware of how it functions and can therefore agree with the committee's finding.

Recommendation #1: *It is recommended that the County check into utilizing the crews to provide supplemental help in community projects, i.e., painting schools, fixing fences, etc., thereby saving the County funds that can then be applied to other much-needed projects. This is not only a cost savings to the county but also helps inmates learn job skills and work disciplines that may effectuate their eventual release as a productive citizen to their communities.*

It is also recommended that the Board of Supervisors write a letter of commendation to Trinity River Camp for its support and commitment to the communities of Trinity County. It is also suggested that members of the Board make a visit to the camp at their earliest opportunity.

Response: Will be implemented. I will ask that the Director of Building and Development Services contact Trinity River Camp to inquire as to use of the inmates on County projects where appropriate. Should the Board of Supervisors desire to approve a letter of commendation and/or visit the camp, my office is more than happy to assist in those matters.

LAL:wt



TRINITY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093
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OCT 30 2006
TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

TO: The Honorable Anthony C. Edwards,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: The Trinity County Board of Supervisors

CC: Kelly Frost, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2005-06
Grand Jury Judicial Committee
Report on Trinity River Conservation Camp

DATE: October 17, 2006

William E. Chambers

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity River Conservation Camp. In our capacity as the Board of Supervisors, our response is as follows:

Finding #1: *This camp is a well maintained minimum security facility, providing basic skill training for inmates in the last 24 months of their sentence. The training these men receive includes keeping the camp and their living accommodations neat and clean. They learn how to raise vegetables and flowers, prepare and serve meals, and run the fire-righter mobile kitchen. They work in the auto-repair areas, keeping the machinery in well-maintained and working conditions. This includes working in the upholstery shop, the metal/wood shops, and the saw shop. (They also run a small mill where they cut a prepare lumber for sale of barter with other camps, for their products, throughout the state.)*

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Response: The Trinity County Board of Supervisors agrees.

Recommendation #1: *It is recommended that the County check into utilizing the crews to provide supplemental help in community projects, i.e., painting schools, fixing fences, etc., thereby saving the County funds that can then be applied to other much-needed projects. This is not only a cost savings to the county but also helps inmates learn job skills and work disciplines that may effectuate their eventual release as a productive citizen to their communities.*

It is also recommended that the Board of Supervisors write a letter of commendation to Trinity River Camp for its support and commitment to the communities of Trinity County. It is also suggested that members of the Board make a visit to the camp at their earliest opportunity.

Response: Will be implemented. The County Administrative Officer will ask that the Director of Building and Development Services contact Trinity River Camp to inquire as to use of the inmates on County projects where appropriate.

ARJ:kf