

FILED

JUN 28 2007

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

DR

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2006-2007**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY RIVER CONSERVATION CAMP FACILITY

**This Report was Approved
On June 5, 2007**

**2006-2007 Trinity County Grand Jury
Judicial Committee
Final Report
Trinity River Conservation Camp Facility**

Purpose:

California Penal Code Section 919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury will annually inquire into the conditions and management of all public prisons within the county. In Trinity County that includes three facilities: Trinity River Conservation Camp, Trinity County Juvenile Detention Center and Trinity County Detention Facility.

Background:

The Trinity River Camp is located 14 miles north of Lewiston on Pettijohn Mountain, southwesterly of Trinity Lake Dam. Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 (CC#3) was opened in May 1988. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) jointly operate the camp. The primary mission of the camp is to provide inmate fire crews for fire suppression, principally in the Trinity, Shasta and Siskiyou County areas. In addition to fire suppression, inmate hand crews provide a work force for floods, conservation projects, and community services for Local, State and Federal government agencies. The inmates handled at this facility are under the direction of the High Desert Correctional Facility located in Susanville. It is one of 22 conservation camps statewide and is home to up to 136 male inmates. There are six 17-man hand crews and one mobile kitchen unit crew. The remaining inmates at the camp are assigned as porters, clerks, cooks, maintenance workers, mill and cabinet workers.

It is a 'self-contained "prison without walls" '. Armed officers do not guard the facility and there are no walls or fences. 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. Inmates cannot be interned in the county in which their crime was committed. No inmate will be considered for transfer to a conservation camp if their crime involved rape, molestation, or violence of any kind. Any serious infraction will cause the inmate to be returned to the High Desert Correctional Facility for punishment of up to four additional years to be served. The last escape was classified as a "walk-away" in 1998.

The camps are situated in rural or outlying areas for the purpose of fire suppression. Inmates can earn two days credit for each day served so long as they stay out of trouble. While on fires, inmates earn one dollar an hour.

Method of Investigation:

Seven members of the 2006-2007 Grand Jury toured the Trinity River Conservation Camp on April 10, 2007. Jury members were greeted and escorted by Randy Sherer, COD and Kelly Dreesmann, CDF, both gave the general presentation. Jeff Letson, Crew Scheduler, explained how the different crews work on general maintenance projects at the schools, the Golden Age Center, etc., and how it is all done mostly at no charge. The tour started with a question and answer session, and then a walking tour of the grounds. Jury members were provided an overview of the camp, the chain of command and the duties of the staff. There are two mandatory head counts at meal times; in addition, there are random head counts throughout the day. Hand crews go out daily. They have one crew captain and 17 inmates. A two week training program is in place to teach firefighting skills. Inmates must be able to get along with each other. They can have no history of violence, and if they misbehave they are sent back to High Desert Correctional Facility. It is considered a privilege to be here. The Trinity River Conservation Camp is a tobacco-free facility. The average stay is 9 months. There is a pre-release program available to make the transition back into the community easier. Inmates run the Kitchen staff. Inmates receive three meals a day, consisting of a cooked breakfast, sack lunch and cooked dinner. Mandatory shut down time is from 11 pm to 6 am.

Finding #1:

During the 2006 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation Camp, through conservation and work projects, provided the local community with 67,984 work hours to Local, State and Federal government agencies. In addition to project and conservation work, the inmate fire crews provided 83,800 hours in fire fighting and other emergency work. It is estimated the CDCR inmates at Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 provided a cost avoidance to the taxpayers of California of \$1,347,880.00. The inmate crews are available to any government agency, county, city, state or federal project. The cost per day for this crew is \$200.00 which includes 17 men, supervision and some light equipment.

Recommendation #1:

It is recommended that the County utilize the crews to provide supplemental help (where appropriate) in community projects, i.e., fuels reduction around public structures, rehabilitation of wildfire areas, airport grounds maintenance etc., thereby saving the County funds that may be applied to other much-needed projects.

Conclusion:

The facilities are in excellent condition with all work being supplied by the inmates. There are extensive criteria to be met before an inmate is approved for a conservation camp. The Trinity River Conservation Camp management is to be commended for its efficiency and training in the use of inmates for worthwhile projects, which greatly help our local communities, as well as in helping the inmates be more productive citizens.

Responses Required:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Finding</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Respond in</u>
Board of Supervisors	1	1	90 days
CAO	1	1	60 days
Director, General Services	1	1	60 days



TRINITY COUNTY
BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
P.O. BOX 476, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1354 FAX (530) 623-1353


Wyatt Paxton, Director

TO: The Honorable James P. Woodard
Presiding Judge of the Trinity Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County's Director Building & Development Services (appointed
duties of former General Services Director)

DATE: June 28, 2007

SUBJECT: 2006-2007 Trinity County Grand Jury Report
Judicial Committee Final Report –
Building and Development Services Department
Appointed the duties of General Services Director



The Trinity County Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final Report of Trinity County River Conservation Camp Facility. The response of the Director of Building and Development Services Department is as follows:

Finding #1: The Director of Building and Development Services Department agrees with Finding #1.

Recommendation #1: The recommendation has been implemented. The many divisions that I manage have found their services invaluable. A few examples are as follows: Fuels reductions, safety obstructions removal for safety compliance with state and federal FAA standards at airports, painting of wind markers at Trinity Center Airport, fuels reductions of several acres at Junction City Park for special events, CDF Fire Camp Crew usage for fire suppression, Trinity Cemeteries Division has cleared several sites for fire hazards, repaired fences, signage and gates, obstruction removal at Emergency Services Radio Tower 5 locations around the county, and several other planned future projects. Building and Development Services has tried to use this service for nuisance abatement, but the regulations by state do not allow this service to be used on private properties. Building and Development Services, which include Airports, buildings Permits, Cemeteries, Motor Pool, Title III Communications, Parks and Grounds, Building Facilities (the old General Services) will continue to utilize this service.



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

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2007

**TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT**

TO: The Honorable James P. Woodward,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Larry A. Layton, County Administrative Officer 

CC: Kelly Frost, Deputy Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2006-07
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report
Trinity River Conservation Camp

DATE: August 24, 2007

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: *During the 2006 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation Camp, through conservation and work projects, provided the local community with 67,984 work hours to Local, State and Federal government agencies. In addition to project and conservation work, the inmate fire crews provided 83,800 hours in firefighting and other emergency work. It is estimated the CDCR inmates at Trinity River Conversation Camp #3 provided a cost avoidance to the taxpayers of California of \$1,347,880.00. The inmate crews are available to any government agency, county, city, state or federal project. The cost per day for this crew is \$200.00 which includes 17 men, supervision and some light equipment.*

Response: I agree with this finding.

Recommendation #1: *It is recommended that the County utilize the crews to provide supplemental help (where appropriate) in community projects, i.e., fuels reduction around public structures, rehabilitation of wildfire areas, airport grounds maintenance etc., thereby saving the County funds that may be applied to other much-needed projects.*

Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The appropriate county departments are aware of and utilize the services provided by the crews at Trinity River Conservation Camp, and will continue to do so.

LAL:wt



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable James P. Woodward,
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2006-2007,
Grand Jury Judicial Committee
Trinity River Conservation Camp – Final Report

DATE: October 2, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey", is written over the signature line of the letterhead.

The Grand Jury has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity River Conservation Camp. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors response is as follows:

Finding #1: *During the 2006 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation camp, through conservation and work projects, provided the local community with 67,984 work hours to the Local, State and Federal government agencies. In addition to project and conservation work, the inmate crews provided 83,800 hours in firefighting and other emergency work. It is estimated that the CDCR inmates at Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 provided a cost avoidance to the taxpayers of California of \$1,347,880.00. The inmate crews are available to any governmental agency, county, city, state or federal project. The cost per day for this crew is \$200.00, which includes 17 men, supervision and some light equipment.*

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: *It is recommended that the County utilize the crews to provide supplemental help (where appropriate) in community projects, i.e., fuels reduction around public structures, rehabilitation of wildfire areas, airport grounds maintenance, etc., thereby saving the County funds that may be applied to other much-needed projects.*

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The appropriate County departments are aware of and utilize the services provided by the crews at the Trinity River Conservation Camp.