

FILED

AUG - 6 2008

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

DAH

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2007-2008**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY RIVER CONSERVATION CAMP FACILITY

**This Report was Approved
On June 10, 2008**

**2007-2008 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, which includes the Trinity River Conservation Camp Facility.

BACKGROUND:

The Trinity River Camp is located 14 miles north of Lewiston on Pettijohn Mountain. Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 was opened in May 1988. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Corrections Standards Authority jointly operate the camp. The primary mission of the camp is to provide inmate fire crews for fire suppression, inmate hand crews to provide a work force for floods, conservation projects and community services for Local, State and Federal government agencies. The inmates at this facility are under the direction of the High Desert Correctional Facility, located in Susanville. The facility houses up to 136 male inmates. Currently there are 126 inmates. There are six 17-man hand crews and one mobile kitchen unit crew. The remaining inmates at the camp are assigned as clerks, cooks, maintenance workers, mill and cabinet workers. Visitations are by appointment. Spouses are allowed to stay on the weekends in a private cottage that is on the facility grounds. Proof of marriage must be provided.

Armed officers do not guard the facility and there are no walls or fences. Inmates housed at the conservation camp are generally serving the last 24 months of their service time. Average age is 30 to 35 years and time spent in Trinity County is one to five years. Inmates can't 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. For each day at the facility, inmates receive two days credit towards their sentence. The last escape was classified as a "walk-away" in 1998.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Eight members of the 2007-2008 Grand Jury toured the Trinity River Conservation Camp on May 6, 2008. Jury members were greeted and escorted throughout the facility by officers of the California Department of Forestry and the California Correction Standards Authority. Each officer gave a presentation and explained how the different crews work on general maintenance projects at the schools, the Golden Age Center and Parks. The tour started with a question and answer session, and then a walking tour of the grounds.

Jury members were provided with an overview of the camp, the chain of command and the duties of 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 per crew. A two-week training program is in place to teach fire fighting skills. Inmates must be able to get along with each other. It is considered a privilege to be here. There is a waiting list of twenty inmates, who have applied to enter this facility. The Trinity River Conservation Camp is a tobacco-free facility. There is a pre-release program available to make the transition back into the community easier. When released they receive \$200.00. The kitchen was clean and efficient. The inmates do the preparation of the meals. The inmates receive three meals a day, consisting of a cooked breakfast, sack lunch and a cooked dinner. If a cooked dinner is missed because of late arrivals back at the camp a sack lunch is provided. Mandatory shut down time is from 11pm to 6am.

FINDING #1:

During the 2007 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation Camp, through conservation and work projects, provided the local community with 3,528 work hours of which there was no charge. In addition, projects for conservation work and fire defense improvements for State and Federal agencies, the inmates provided 47,802 work hours plus 110,000 hours of fire fighting. Inmates do the maintenance on roads near and leading to the TRCC #3 and assist in plowing snow during the winter months. It is estimated the inmates provided a cost avoidance of \$3,000,000.00 to the taxpayers of California. 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 continues to utilize the crews to provide assistance in the Summer cleanup of the Trinity County Schools, maintenance of the Trinity County Parks, general maintenance at the Golden Age Center and wherever else needed. The work crews provide great savings to the County budget.

CONCLUSION:

The facilities are in excellent condition, with all of the 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's 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 to 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
Lt. D. Evans DOC Camp Lieutenant	1	1	60 days



TRINITY COUNTY
Office of the County Administrator
DERO B. FORSLUND
County Administrative Officer
P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1382 FAX (530) 623-8365

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2008

**TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT**

Date: October 3, 2008

To: Anthony Edwards
Presiding Judge of the Trinity County Superior Court

From Dero Forslund *O B F*
Trinity County Administrative Officer

Re: Response Trinity County Grand Jury, Judicial Committee Final Report
Trinity River Conservation Camp Facility

Finding #1: During the 2007 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation Camp, through conservation and work projects....

Response: The County will continue to utilize the services provided by the Trinity River Conservation Camp crews. The services provided by the Conservation Camp crews are of great help to the many organizations that are able to use them.



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DEC 29 2008

TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT

TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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

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

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2008
Grand Jury Judicial Committee
Trinity River Conservation Camp Facility
Final Report

DATE: November 5, 2008

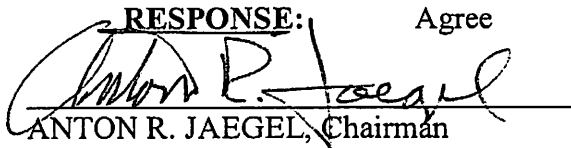
The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Trinity River Conservation Camp Facility. The response of the Board is as follows:

FINDING # 1: During the 2007 calendar year the Trinity River Conservation Camp, through conservation and work projects, provided the local community with 3,528 work hours of which there was no charge. In addition, projects for conservation work and fire defense improvements for State and Federal agencies, the inmates provided 47,802 work hours plus 110,000 hours of fire fighting. Inmates do the maintenance on roads near and leading to the TRCC #3 and assist in plowing snow during the winter months. It is estimated the inmates provided a cost avoidance of \$3,000,000.00 to the taxpayers of California. 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: Agree

RECOMMENDATION # 1: It is recommended that the County continues to utilize the crews to provide assistance in the Summer cleanup of the Trinity County Schools, maintenance of the Trinity County Parks, general maintenance at the Golden Age Center and wherever else needed. The work crews provide great savings to the County budget.

RESPONSE: Agree


ANTON R. JAEDEL, Chairman

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JEFF MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEDEL
DISTRICT 3

HOWARD FREEMAN
DISTRICT 4

WENDY REISS
DISTRICT 5