



Amador Resource Conservation District 2025 Year End Report

The Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD) was established by the Amador County Board of Supervisors on October 16, 1950, in accordance with Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. The ARCD is a Special District of the government but relies on grant funding to offer conservation technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest property owners, as well as to execute community-wide conservation initiatives. The ARCD collaborates with local, state, and federal governments, local organizations, businesses, and, most importantly, the local community to develop and implement natural resource management programs.



(209) 214-9727



info@amadorrcd.org



amadorrcd.org



facebook.com/AmadorRCD



@amador_rcd

Defensible Space



During 2025, our Forestry Project Manager Todd Bertwell worked to develop the Defensible Space Assistance Program. Defensible Space is the creation and regularly maintained space around your home that will help to significantly reduce damage to your home and property in the event of a wildfire. This program was designed to assist our most underserved community members create a 100 ft protective space around their home to protect against embers catching. We are excited to report the program will roll out May 2026.

Projects & Programs



Wildlife Structures

89 structures awarded



Healthy Soils Program

13 agriculture operations funded



Chipping Program

1,547 residents assisted

ARCD Staff

Amanda Watson - Executive Director

Dana Simpson - Finance Manager

Cailin McLaughlin - Outreach & Admin Coordinator

Gordon Long - Forestry Project Manager

Todd Bertwell - Forestry Project Manager

Tamryn Zahradka - Forestry Resource Tech.

Anna Mariscal- AACT Hub & NWL Coordinator

Billy Synk - Natural & Working Lands Project Mgr.



AACT/NWL Strategy

Amador RCD believes that a healthy agricultural community is essential to sustaining the stewardship of our natural resources. The ARCD has been collaborating at a regional level to support coordinated, effective action in wildlife habitat enhancement, soil health, and long-term water quality and water quantity protections. As part of this work, we helped develop the framework for the Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Natural and Working Lands Strategy.

Looking ahead, we have created a plan to conduct a regional needs assessment and to update the ARCD Strategic Plan in 2026. Community input will be a core part of this process, so we encourage everyone to sign up for our mailing list to stay informed and engaged.

Our goal is to ensure that this strategy elevates local needs, is grounded in place-based knowledge, and reflects the deep connection our community has with the land. With a solid, well-documented plan, we aim to bring our region’s priorities forward at both the state and federal levels, to have meaning local impacts.



The Amador Resource Conservation District is working with our regional partners to improve services supporting the agricultural and working lands community across the Central Sierra. We're gathering input from local farmers, ranchers, and working land managers to shape workshops, field days, and technical assistance in our 4-county region. The survey takes just 5–10 minutes. This project is funding by the Department of Conservation.

Statewide Planning



The Amador RCD understands that being proactive in state and federal programs is essential to shaping policies that reflect the needs and realities of our rural county. Our Executive Director participated in the NACD Fly-In in Washington, D.C., where she met with members of Congress to elevate local concerns and highlight the challenges and opportunities facing Amador County and the Central Sierra region. She also served on the CARCD Legislative Committee, reviewing legislation, providing feedback, and helping educate policymakers on how proposed policies affect our region, and the benefits they could bring to our working landscapes.

Mitchell Mine Treatment

The project was for the maintenance of the existing Mitchell Mine Fuel Break, which was accomplished by Amador Fire Safe Council. The project included various maintenance treatment methods to extend the life of this important fuel break, including mastication, herbicide application, flaming, and prescriptive grazing.

Key Accomplishments:

- Grant Amount: \$327,000
- Mastication Maintenance: 75.50 acres
- Herbicide Maintenance: 102.77 acres
- Hosted 9 events for the public with 210 attendees
- “Techniques for Controlling Brush After Mastication” Report developed by Scott Oneto, Farm Advisor UCCE Central Sierra





Wildlife Structures



The team has completed Phase 2 of our Bird & Bat Wildlife Structures for Private Lands project. To date we have awarded 89 habitat structures across Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne counties. Over the last year we have hosted numerous technical assistance events, educated the public on the types of structures available (e.g. bat, kestrel, western bluebird and barn owl) and working to identify which species will be best suited for the wildlife and habitat of the private landowners.



Save the Date

Gold Country Wildlife & Habitat Fair

Join us as we co-host our first Gold Country Wildlife and Habitat Fair with Calaveras & Tuolumne Counties RCDs where we can all *"Buzz, Bloom and Be Wild!"*.

Time & Date

September 12, 2026

2:00 - 7:00 PM

Location

Kennedy Mines

12594 Kennedy Mine Rd,
Jackson, CA 95642



Jackson Creek Project

The Jackson Creek Forest and Watershed Health Project, funded by CAL FIRE and managed by the Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD), aimed to enhance forest and watershed health on 1,000 acres in Amador County. The project focused on reducing fire risk, conserving water, minimizing erosion, protecting water quality, and increasing forest resilience to drought and disease.

With a grant of \$3,603,152, the ARCD implemented a combination of treatment methods, including prescribed grazing, mastication, handwork, and prescribed fire. These treatments collectively worked to reduce fuel loading and protect local communities from severe wildfires.

Given that the project was conducted on private land, community engagement was a key component of its success. The project aimed to create a sustainable and resilient forest ecosystem while providing educational opportunities and promoting long-term community involvement in forest management. Educational workshops and community events were organized to engage residents, equipping them with knowledge about fire prevention and sustainable land practices.

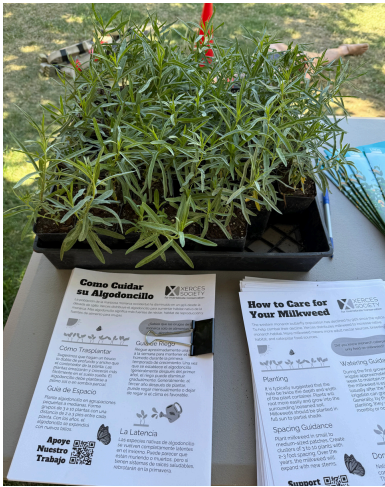
The expertise, support, and collaboration of our partners were instrumental in the success of this project:

- University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC)

The Jackson Creek Forest and Watershed Health Project was officially closed out as of April 2025.



Pollinator Grant Project



ARCD continues to be committed to preserving and enhancing Central Sierra's natural habitat for wildlife and pollinators. In 2025, ARCD handed out milkweed at the Amador County Fair along with fact sheets for residents to take home, to support monarch butterflies.

Contractor List

If you are a contractor and would like to be notified of opportunities to bid on upcoming projects, visit our website to request to be added to our Contractors List! If you are a community member you can check out the list of contractors on our website!

Forestry Health Site Visit

Interested in having a forest health site visit, fillout our [interest form](#).

Join Our Mailing List

If you are a member of the public and would like to be notified of upcoming projects and updates, visit our website and click on the "Join Our Mailing List" tab at the bottom of our webpage!

Board Meetings

ARCD Board Meetings are open to the public and take place monthly on the second Tuesday at 4:15pm in the General Services Administration building at 12200 Airport Rd. Ste. B, Jackson.

Chipping Program

Since receiving funding in 2021 from Cal Fire as part of the California Climate Investment program. The ARCD and its beneficiaries and project partners were very successful with this project. We assisted 1,547 residents, exceeding our original objective of 1,050 residents by 47%. We assisted residents to clear an estimated 1,311.11 acres through chipping, green waste bins and recycling events, exceeding our original objective of 1,025 acres by 27.9%. We exceeded our objectives of holding Community Chipping days (21/10) and green waste bins (181/100). Project beneficiaries generated \$296,512.50 in match through labor and payment to third party contractors, exceeding the \$287,000 goal by three percent. Due to the success and popularity of the project within the county, the ARCD intends to continue its Chipping program with new funds awarded to begin again in Fall 2026.



The mission of the ARCD is to promote natural resource conservation in our district through community education and to provide natural resource technical assistance to our constituents. The ARCD is led by a dedicated 5- member volunteer Board. Our Board Directors include Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Dr. Kelsi Williams, Amber Gardner, and Associate Director Kent Reeves.