



Mendocino County

Resource Conservation District

*Conserve, Protect, and Restore natural resources
on wild and working landscapes*

FY 2017 – '18 Accomplishments and FY 2018 – '19 Program Plans



Mendocino County

Resource Conservation District

MCRCD assists the County with regulatory compliance, economic development, and public safety, through stewardship of wild and working landscapes.

Approach: MCRCD is a non-regulatory, small special district made up of technical experts that assist the County and private landowners in four main Focus Areas:

- **Water Resources**
- **Soil Health Management**
- **Forest Health**
- **Fire Recovery and Resiliency**

Supporting County Objectives

Last year, County funds were leveraged \$1 to \$76

- MCRCDD leveraged Supervisor's investment to bring in over \$1.9 million in grant funds to the County, and another \$1.5 million will be awarded in summer 2018.
- Over 80% of all funds were spent within the county, supporting economic development, local businesses and suppliers, and supported over 20 FTEs.
- Programs and projects assist the County in meeting required obligations and fire related activities, and align with the Mendocino County General Plan.



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In 2017-18, MCRCRD was awarded over \$1.9M for:

- **Eleven projects to improve instream flow and habitat for listed aquatic species in the Navarro River Watershed**
- **Initiating a soil health demonstration network providing increased technical and funding assistance to county agricultural producers**
- **Improving forest health and safety, providing fuels reduction, rural road drainage improvements, assistance in fire recovery and fire resiliency**

FY 17/18 Examples of MCRCDD Projects in Supervisorial Districts

District 1: Redwood Valley Fire Recovery projects, fire and fuels workshops, Russian River clean-up, Mill Creek Fish Passage Project in Talmage

District 2: Ukiah streams clean-up, water conservation at local school sites and fairgrounds, stormwater pollution retrofit at Ukiah High School, roadside clearing

District 3: Outlet Creek storage & forbearance, Eel River TMDL sediment reduction, forest thinning

District 4: Mendocino Coast TMDL sediment reduction, Fort Bragg Storm Water Resource Plan, gorse abatement projects

District 5: Navarro Streamflow Enhancement Program, conservation storage & forbearance, carbon farm plans, Garcia & Gualala rivers TMDL road sediment reduction, hazardous fuel reduction, oak woodland restoration workshop

Countywide: Cannabis Growers BMP Guide, outreach for fire and emergency preparedness, oak woodland enhancement planning, hazardous fuels reduction and forest health technical assistance, outreach for water security and water conservation assistance to Native American Tribes.



FY 17/18 Water Resources Accomplishments

- Compliance assistance for water quality and water quantity
- Water conservation upgrades at 8 sites throughout the county
- Stormwater pollution mitigation:
 - > 2M gallons of water a year treated
- Fish passage barrier removal: > 7 miles of steelhead habitat accessible
- Road storm proofing: > 17 miles of rural roads treated
- Secured \$1.5 M in grant funds for FY '18-'19

FY 17/18 Navarro River Flow Enhancement Accomplishments



To optimize stream flow in the Navarro River, (an EPA designated impaired watershed), projects support Federally-listed coho salmon habitat:

- Developed plans for 6 water storage and forbearance projects for reduced water diversion in critical summer months
- Developed 3 large wood augmentation projects
- Partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited for prioritizing Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan
- Secured \$1.1M for FY18-20



FY17/18 Soil Health Program Accomplishments



Climate Beneficial Vineyard Management

- Secured **\$394K** for outreach & education, farm trials, and marketing for vineyards in Mendocino, Napa, & Sonoma counties
- Developed 3 vineyard carbon farm plans and conducted soil health assessments on 8 vineyards
- Established the **North Coast Soil Health Hub** with wine growers, agencies, educators:
www.soilhub.org
- Helped advocate for new Regional Soil Health Management position, hosted at MCRCD
- Completed Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation Plan in partnership with the County

Managing the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands



California Dept of Transportation Contract (fully funded)

- **Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits to Willits Community**
- Supporting agriculture by facilitating grazing leases to local producers
- Developing an educational program with local schools
- Organizing public tours & developing informational materials
- Protecting & enhancing native habitats
- Showcasing local fauna & flora via the weekly blog: mcrd.org

FY 17/18 Forest Health and Fire Recovery and Resiliency Program Accomplishments

Assisting small forest landowners with oak woodland enhancement, fuels reduction, and post-fire recovery

- Over 60 landowners served
- Developed 3 forest management plans for a total of 515 acres of forestland
- 50,000 conifer seedlings available for reforestation in the fire footprint
- Organized 4 workshops on natural resource management, emphasizing fire recovery
- Secured funds for 240 acres of reforestation within fire footprint
- Provided up-to date information on the Redwood Fire and available assistance resources
- Secured \$105,000 in federal funds for additional forest health and fuel reduction technical assistance and project planning



FY 17/18 Accomplishment: MCRCD adopts MCFSC

The MCRCD Board of Directors has approved the adoption of the Mendocino County **Fire Safe Council** (FSC).

The FSC mission is to help the citizens of Mendocino County survive and thrive in a fire-prone environment.

The FSC will leverage the technical expertise of MCRCD staff to provide information and/or resources for:

- Road clearing
- Defensible Space
- Home Hardening
- Evacuation Route Planning
- Emergency Communication Strategies
- Education and Outreach





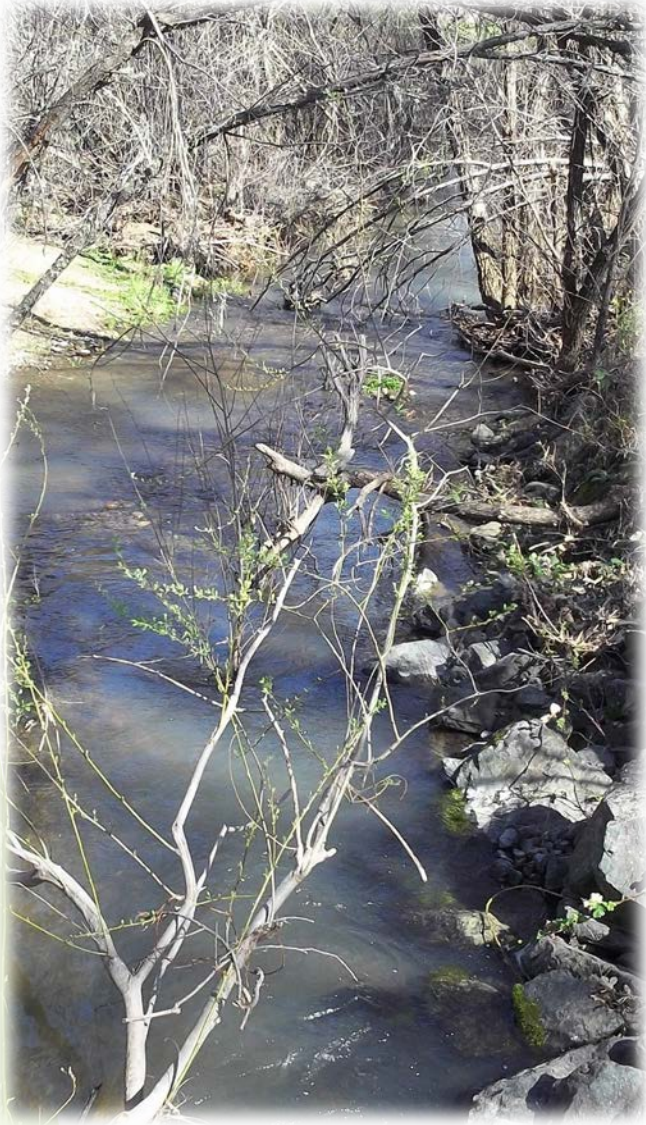
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FY 2018 – 2019 MCRCRD Program - County Investment

- **Water Resources Program**
- **Soil Health Management**
- **Forest Health Program**
- **Fire Recovery and Resiliency**

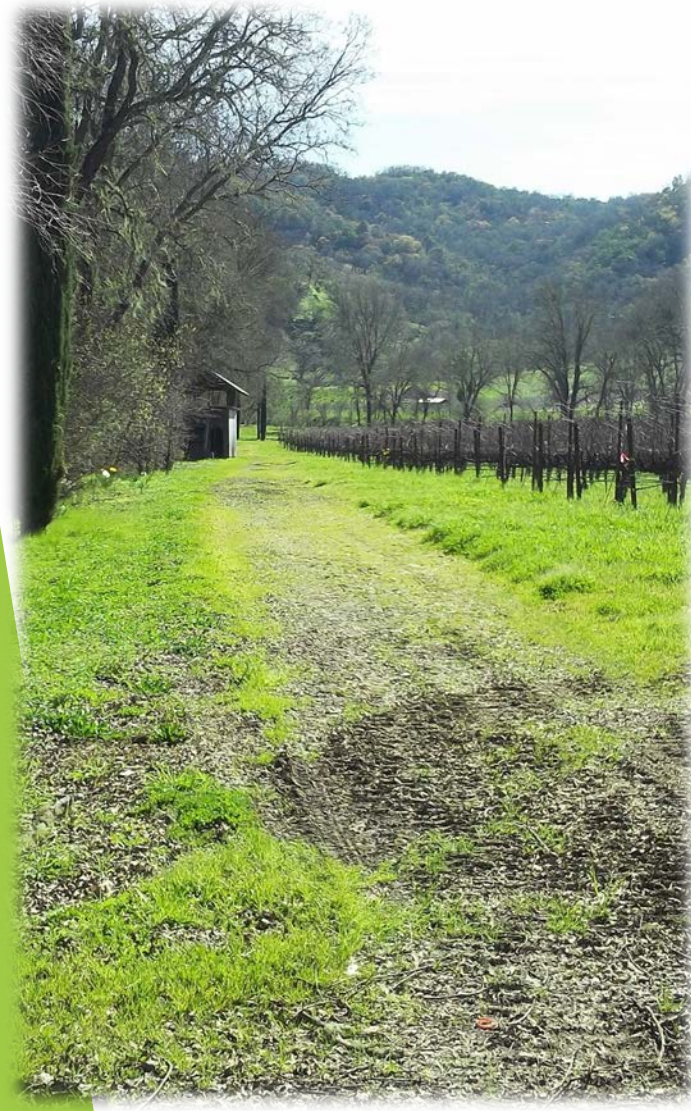
FY 18/19 Water Resources Program



Objective: Increase and improve the County's water resources by supporting landowners to achieve regulatory compliance.

- Address stormwater requirements through Low Impact Development projects and classroom education
- Improve watershed health by developing projects that enhance instream flows, riparian restoration, and water quality
- Conduct 4-8 road, riparian and/or streambank evaluations and connect landowners to existing and potential resources for improved stewardship
- Submit 2-4 grant applications for long-term water quality and water security

FY 18/19 Soil Health Management Program



Objective: Improve soil health and reduce erosion by informing landowners about environmentally beneficial practices for agricultural and range lands.

- Lead, inform, educate, and collaborate with agricultural landowners on soil health
- Submit 1-2 grant applications to leverage County funds to support soil health and climate resiliency projects within the county
- Develop 1-3 carbon farm plans in preparation for landowners to apply for Federal fund with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Attend, present, and/or co-host 3-5 workshops, tours, and trainings on soil health

FY 18/19 Forest Health Program



Objective: Improve forestland and oak woodland health by informing landowners about active management and conservation practices for fire, drought and climate resiliency.

- Connect and assist forest landowners with Federal funding opportunities
- Submit 2-4 grant applications to support forest health, and fire, drought, and climate resilient woodlands
- Collaborate with stakeholders and attend, present, and/or co-host 3-6 workshops on forest/oak woodland health and how they contribute to overall ecology and watershed function.

SUMMARY

MCRCDD assists the County with **regulatory compliance, economic development, and public safety.**

Water Resources, Soil Health Management, Forest Health, Fire Recovery and Resilience

MCRCDD has provided a **Return on Investment**:

- At least a 1:76 return on county government funds. Grant funds are brought into and spent in the county.
- Stewardship of natural resources upon which our public well-being and local economy depends
- Resource sustainability through water, forest and soil health programs