



Resource  
Conservation  
District  
*Mendocino County*

# **FY 2020-21 Accomplishments and FY 2021-22 Plans**

# **MCRCDD Mission Statement**

*to conserve, protect, and restore  
wild and working landscapes  
to enhance the health of  
water, soil, and forests  
of Mendocino County*

# MCRCDD Focus Areas

- **Water:** **Promote** clean water and healthy streams for aquatic ecosystems and human communities.
- **Soil:** **Manage a soil health network** that provides technical and funding assistance to county agricultural producers.
- **Forest:** **Improve forest health** by providing native tree planting and forest thinning for fire resiliency, and removal of dead/dying trees for forest recovery.

# MCRCDD Approach

**Non-regulatory, special district with technical experts who assist the public, County, and other local agencies in these focus areas:**

- **Water Quantity and Quality**
- **Soil Health and Agriculture**
- **Forest Health and Resilience**
- **Willits Mitigation Land Management**
- **Partnership with MC Fire Safe Council 501(c)(3)**

**Supporting the County through:**

- **stewardship of natural resources**
- **grant writing, facilitation, and regulatory compliance**
- **assistance to landowners**
- **education and outreach on environmental issues**

# County Return on MCRCDD Investment

**In FY 20-21:**

- ▶ **County funds were leveraged to secure over \$2.9M in grants for restoration and natural resource projects.**
- ▶ **MCRCDD has provided a consistent Return on Investment (ROI) every year, with a total of over \$13.6M during the last 10 years.**

# Examples of MCRCDD Projects in Supervisorial Districts

**District 1:** Redwood Valley Fire Recovery Projects (3), Russian River Clean-up, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, and Post-fire reforestation

**District 2:** Well monitoring, assistance to Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Upper Russian River Clean-up, Mill Creek Fish Passage, Tribal drought outreach and planning; Developed invasive mussel prevention plan.

**District 3:** Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands, Outlet Creek Streamflow Enhancement, Eel River Road Sediment Reduction, Forest Management Plans

**District 4:** Mendocino Coast TMDL sediment reduction, Eel River Road Sediment reduction, and 12 miles of road upgrade in State Parks Big River

**District 5:** Navarro Streamflow Enhancement Program, water conservation storage & forbearance, fish habitat improvement, carbon farm plans, biomass utilization demonstration

# FY 2020 Water Resources Program Accomplishments

- Developed plans for 3 water storage and forbearance projects
- Installed 94 pieces of large wood in 2.5 miles of stream in the Navarro watershed
- Assisted GSA in establishing permanent well monitoring sites in key under-represented locations.
- Storm-proofing: Over 17 miles of rural roads treated
- Free leak detection services and water audit training for Native American Tribes



# FY 2020 Soil Health Program Accomplishments



- Coordinated a Fibershed Cohort of Mendocino County ranchers and fiber producers
- North Coast Soil Hub  
[www.soilhub.org](http://www.soilhub.org)
- Assisted farmers and ranchers with CDFA Healthy Soils Program grant applications
- Sustainable Ag Lands Committee (SALC) facilitation
- Developed 6 Carbon Farm Plans, including vineyards, orchards and rangeland

# FY 2020 Forest Health Program Accomplishments

## Assisting forest landowners with oak woodland enhancement, forest thinning, and post-fire recovery

- Over 85 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance at no cost
- 22,000 conifer seedlings planted in the Redwood Complex Fire footprint
- 30,000 conifer seedlings provided to private landowner in the Ranch Fire footprint
- Over 700 hazardous trees abated on nearly 60 private properties recovering from the Redwood Complex Fire



# Forestry Project Highlight:

## CA Climate Investment Grant (\$2M)

### *Applied Innovative Forest Health*

- **Reforestation of 745 acres in Redwood Complex Fire**
- **Remove standing dead and dying trees**
- **Demonstration of innovative technology**
  - 5-8 Power Pallet bio-gasifiers ~25 kW (each)
  - Utilization of woody biomass from the Redwood Complex Fire footprint to:
    - generate local, renewable electricity,
    - produce biochar to be used as soil amendments, and
    - demonstrate gasification technology within Mendocino County.

# Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands

- Protecting threatened endemic native plants & enhancing and improving native habitats
- Supporting agriculture by facilitating grazing leases currently to local producers
- Organizing education programs & public tours. Working to create virtual content to support distance learning
- Presenting Weekly Blog and Wildlife Videos: [mcrd.org](http://mcrd.org) and [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) which showcases local fauna & flora
- Working closely with state regulatory agencies and project stakeholders to reach project success criteria



# FY 2021-2022 MCRCRD Plans

- **Program Development and Grant Applications for:**
  - **Water** Resources Program
  - **Soil** Health & Agriculture Program
  - **Forest** Health & Resiliency Program
- **Support County's Climate Action Plan**
- **Continue Willits Land Management**
- **Support MC Fire Safe Council**

# **FY 21-22 MCRCRD Request for \$45K to support applications to Grants from:**

- **CAL FIRE - CCI Fire Prevention**
- **CAL FIRE - CCI Forest Health**
- **CA State Coastal Conservancy**
- **US and CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**
- **CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture**
- **Dept. of Water Resources - Prop 1**
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**
- **State Water Board 319(h) Clean Water**
- **Strategic Growth Council**
- **U.S. Dept. of Commerce**
- **Wildlife Conservation Board**

# FY 21-22 Water Resources Program (\$10K)



Objective: Increase and improve water quality/quantity resources.

- Submit grant applications for water quality & water security projects
- Participate in regional water quality and stream flow planning
- Enhance instream flows
- Implement riparian restoration
- Water conservation assistance and drought preparedness.



## FY 21-22 Soil Health & Agriculture Program (\$10K)

**Objective:** Increase adoption of climate beneficial practices on agricultural lands.

- Write Carbon Farm Plans to support adoption of climate beneficial practices and to quantify GHG sequestration.
- Host soil health workshops, tours, and trainings throughout the county.
- Support County development of Climate Action Plan and resiliency efforts.
- Help farmers and ranchers fund soil health implementation projects.

# FY 21-22 Forest Health and Resiliency Program (\$10K)



Objective: Improve forest & oak woodland health

- Support forest health and climate resilient woodlands
- Assist landowners with Federal and State funding opportunities to increase pace and scale of vegetation management
- Support innovative solutions for woody biomass utilization
- Provide education opportunities on forest/oak woodland health, ecology and invest in landowner's understanding of forest stewardship.

# FY 21-22 Program Management and Operations (\$15K)



## Objective: Support County

- Collaborate with County partners in grant application development
- Education and outreach to landowners regarding County environmental issues
- Research as needed for BOS committees
- Oversee project managers performing County contracts

## **SUMMARY:**

- MCRCDD has a proven record of Return on Investment – significant grant funds are consistently brought in and spent within the county to benefit the county, local businesses, and the environment.
- MCRCDD helps to ensure increased resource sustainability through water, soil, and forest health programs.
- MCRCDD is the County's partner for connection to and collaboration with private landowners to ensure responsible stewardship of natural resources upon which our public health and local economy depend.