Environmental Efforts by Ranchers & the Marin RCD in Marin County
SITE CHARACTERISTICS: CHILENO VALLEY
PROJECT GOALS OF THE Marin Resource Conservation District

- Conservation of rangeland, cropland and forests
- Protection and improvement of water quality
- Control of soil erosion
- Riparian habitat restoration
- Active support of our district’s agricultural economy and heritage
RCD PROGRAMS
& FUNDERS

SEDIMENT
State Coastal Conservancy

WATER QUALITY
State Water Resources Control Board

FISHERIES
CA Dept Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE HABITAT
US Fish and Wildlife Service

PINE GULCH PONDS
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, SCC

METHANE
State Water Resources Control Board & USDA NRCS

WEST MARIN COMPOST
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, County of Marin

MARIN CARBON PROJECT
11th Hour, MCF, SCC, USDA, County of Marin, MALT, Rathman Family Foundation

MARIN COASTAL PERMIT
COORDINATION PROGRAM
Sustainable Conservation, SCC
Median earnings range from $21,272 in San Rafael (Canal Area) to almost four times that sum—$80,595—in Tiburon (Downtown).
RCD FUNDING

2011-2012 REVENUES BY SOURCE

- Local Grants, $453,851, 25%
- State Grants, $768,495, 41%
- Federal Grants, $530,605, 29%
- County, $100,000, 5%
- Charges for Services, $500, 0%
- Open Mtg-Cost Reimb, $0, 0%
- Other Income, $1,495, 0%

* Ranchers share 10-25% of cost
BEFORE THE PROJECT:
STEMPLE CREEK RANCH
AFTER THE PROJECT:
STEMPLE CREEK RANCH
BEFORE THE PROJECT:
CHILENO VALLEY RANCH
AFTER THE PROJECT:
CHILENO VALLEY RANCH
RCD RESULTS – 30 Years

- $16M applied to projects
- 300+ conservation practices
- 68 Ranchers and Farmers
- 80 on waiting list for future work
- 20 miles of stream restored
- 30 species of native plants used
- 35,000 native trees and shrubs
- 500+ STRAW volunteers
- Exponential increases in neomigratory bird counts
- Salmon sightings where previously unseen
PARTNERS

- Ranchers
- Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- UC Cooperative Extension Service
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- Marin Municipal Water District
PARTNER PERFECTION

- GOOD, LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS
- COOPERATION, NOT COMPETITION
- FREQUENT INTERACTIONS
- IDENTIFICATION AS A GROUP
- SERVICE PROVISION RATHER THAN EMPIRE BUILDING
RANCHER CHARACTERISTICS

- AGE (60-80 years of age)
- RANCH TYPE
- RANCH SIZE
- MULTI-GENERATIONAL
- COMMON CULTURE
- INTER-CONNECTEDNESS
- NEWBIES
CHALLENGES

- Overcoming Reluctance
- Matching Priorities
- Creating Buy-In
- Being Fair
- Maintaining the Relationship
RANCHER MOTIVATIONS

- Ranching improvements
- Cost share
- Love seeing wildlife
- Norming
- Doing it for ?
WHAT WORKS

- Meeting ranchers in their world
- Relationships/ in for the long haul
- Honesty and self disclosure/sharing your story
- Rancher to rancher communication
- Having a great board/ deep roots
Thank you