

Getting Voluntary Conservation on the Ground

Permitting Challenges and
Opportunities

Permitting Conservation

- [Case Studies- Ag Innovations Website](#)
 - [Fish Passage projects- Central Coast](#)
 - [Santa Cruz Permit Coordination Program](#)
 - [Stockpond Restoration Alameda County](#)
- [Permitting Restoration- White Paper by California Roundtable on Ag & the Environment](#)

Approaches to success

- Work within the current processes
- Change the process

Current Process Considerations

- May need 8+ permits
- No template

“Agencies don’t think alike and within agencies people may have different approaches”

Working within the current system....why?

- Key to watershed plan implementation.
- Landowners risk fines.
- Creek work is avoided.
- Resource degradation escalates.
- Rangeland sustainability is compromised.
- Habitat is lost.



Keys to Success

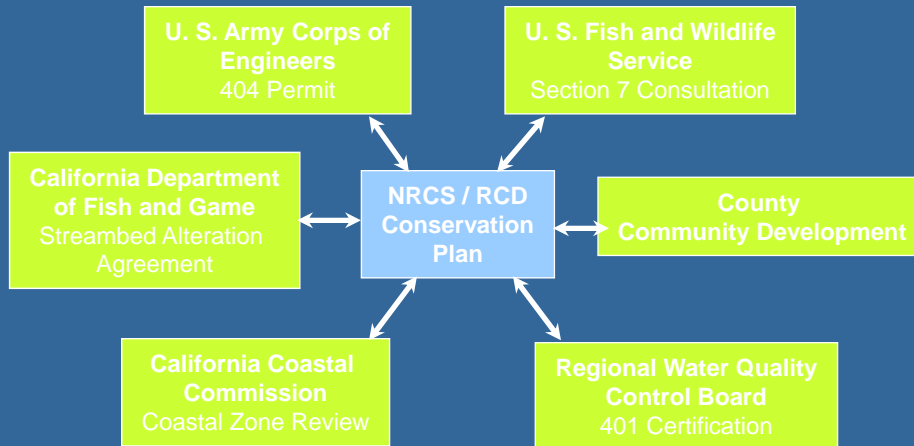
- Voluntary Conservation Champion
 - Resource Conservation District
 - USFWS Partners Program
- Dedicated to successful outcomes
- Long-term commitment
- Time and funding

- Are there other Champions?
- How do we reduce the time commitment?
- How do we reduce the cost?

Comprehensive Program

- Some Champions develop coordinated programs
- Some coordinate processes
- Cover all permits
- Engage regulators out in the field at project site, inclusive, address concerns

Program Structure



Grade Stabilization Structure



Before

After

Loose-rock headcut repair funded by State Coastal Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board, CA Department of Fish and Game and Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed in 2002

Stream Channel Stabilization



1

2



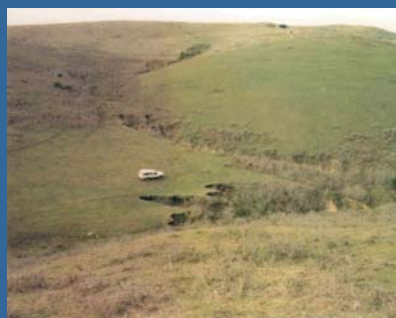
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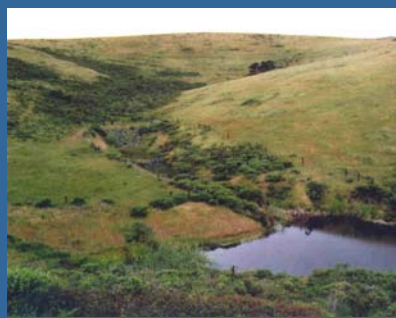


J-hook boulder vanes funded by State Coastal Conservancy, CA Department of Fish and Game and Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) in 2002.

Water & Sediment Control Basin



Before



After

Basin and grade control structures funded by State Coastal Conservancy in 1996.

- How do we get commitments from regulatory staff to participate?
- What sort of support do they need to participate?

Successful outcomes for Landowners

- Landowner's role is minimized.
- The permit process is invisible to the landowners. The landowners don't interface with regulators.
- Permit costs are reduced or waived.
- Projects are designed and implemented in a timely fashion-months instead of years.

Thank You

- Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District
- Marin Resource Conservation District