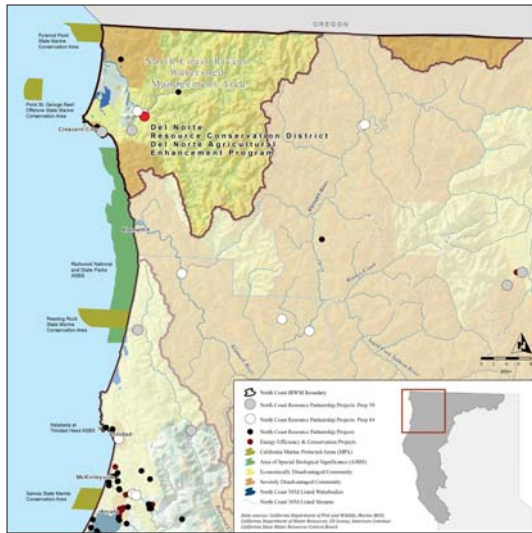


Del Norte Agricultural Enhancement Program

DEL NORTE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Agricultural waste is recognized as a contributor to reduced water quality. Although the water of the Smith River Watershed is not impaired, agricultural activities impact coastal water resources as well as estuarine and wetland habitat.

PROJECT GOALS

Improve resource management by assisting local farmers improve nutrient management and waste distribution systems to meet standards for waste discharge requirements and avoid enforcement fines.

THE SOLUTION

This project will implement key components and practices of dairy waste management systems. Practices will include development of waste distribution/nutrient management systems, as well as heavy use area protection, roof runoff management, and construction of waste storage structures. These practices can significantly reduce nutrients and pathogens running off or leaching from dairy crop fields.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Project implementation consists of the following tasks.

1. Environmental documentation and permitting
2. Site specific design plans and specifications
3. Project component construction according to NRCS standards
4. Final construction evaluation and project closeout
5. Development of a plan to measure, evaluate and report the effectiveness of practices installed through the program, including a methodology for verifying pollutant load reduction estimates

COMPLETION DATE

Start Date November 1st 2013

PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM funds: \$ 255,000
Leveraged funds: \$ 145,000
TOTAL \$ 400,000

BENEFITS

Economic

- Estimated benefit of \$81,130 for avoided costs of noncompliance penalties for violating waste-management regulations

Water Quality

- Reduction in pathogens, excessive nutrients, and other harmful pollutants that enter waterways from dairy runoff

Watershed Rehabilitation

- Improved fish and wildlife habitat
 - » Improvements in water quality provided by this project will improve function of spawning and rearing habitat, potentially leading to increases in juvenile salmonid survival and increased salmonid populations
- Reduction in pollutants will improve the quality of recreation for people who fish, swim, boat and otherwise enjoy the river

Cultural and Social

- Improvements to salmonid habitat and increased salmonid populations provide traditional cultural benefits for Native Americans and others who recognize the importance of salmon outside the cultural framework and economic terms often imposed by western society
- By assisting dairy operators to comply with environmental regulations, this project is helping to preserve the watershed's agricultural heritage

Jobs and Local Economy

- Over \$340,000 will be spent locally/regionally using local labor and supplies when possible, thus contributing to State goals for environmental justice and social equity
- 4 jobs created/maintained
- Other local economic benefits

NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Del Norte RCD will continue to assist agricultural operations in the Smith River watershed attain and maintain compliance with environmental regulations in order to sustain the community's agricultural heritage and protect its natural resources.

CONTACT

Andrea Souther
Del Norte Resource Conservation District
241B West First Street
Smith River, CA 95567
707.487.7630

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Del Norte Resource Conservation District

