



CENTER for
LAND-BASED
LEARNING

FARMS Leadership Program 2004/05

November Field Day: Willow Creek Watershed

On Tuesday November 16, 2004, 18 students from Cloverdale, Rancho Cotate, and Summerfield Waldorf High Schools continued their participation in the FARMS Leadership Program through a visit through the Willow Creek Watershed. Geyserville High School was unable to attend. Many professional mentors joined us in the field.

The goal of the day was to introduce the concept of a watershed, identify land use practices through time, and discuss the **inter-relationship between agriculture, other land use, and the natural environment.**

To prepare for this day, each student completed a **puzzle-piece drawing**, indicating their land use plans for an imaginary plot of land in the watershed.



The students were introduced to the watershed boundary of Willow Creek, followed by a drive down the watershed to:

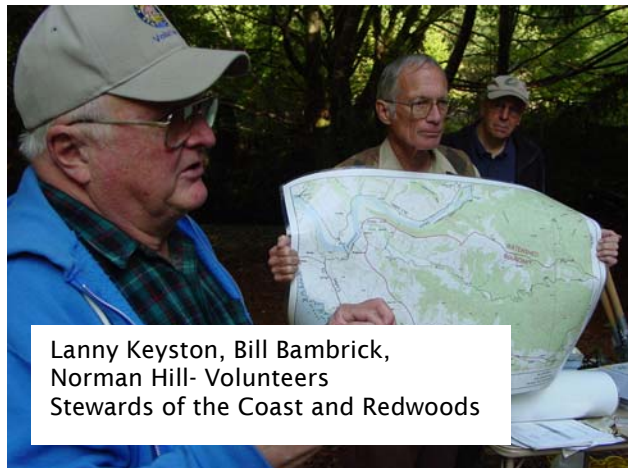
- Identify natural features & human presence.
- Relate features such as **roads** to natural runoff.
- Identify historic & current **timber practices**
- Briefly overview **cattle grazing** and its importance as an agricultural commodity in California.
- Discuss cause-effect of diverse factors such as **residential development, recreational usage, and conservation planning** among multiple landowners in the watershed.
- Highlight assessment of **endangered fisheries** habitat and environmental education efforts in the watershed.
- Discuss **historic Russian farming** in the area, **native group settlements**, and **prehistoric presence of mammalian species.**



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