



Draft Mill Creek Watershed Management and Action Plan

History: The draft Mill Creek Watershed has been under development since Fall 2009 with funding from the California Department of Fish and Game. The goals of the Plan are to:

- Collect existing information and field data and synthesize into an existing conditions report for the watershed.
- Identify and prioritize sediment reduction and other fish habitat enhancement projects for immediate implementation.
- Continue to gather support in the watershed for fisheries restoration
- Provide recommendations for Best Management Practice (BMP)s to support agricultural and natural resource sustainability.

Next Steps:

1. Sotoyome RCD staff will utilize erosion assessment methodologies developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension Service to conduct erosion assessments on participating properties while taking steps to ensure landowner privacy. Sotoyome RCD staff will also work with willing private landowners on identification of fish habitat improvement projects.
2. Sotoyome RCD staff will synthesize data and develop a preliminary watershed management plan that will include BMP recommendations and the identification and prioritization of sediment reduction and fish habitat improvement projects.
3. Sotoyome RCD staff will solicit inputs and conduct meetings with interested stakeholders on the draft watershed management plan.

Relation to Other Watershed Planning Efforts: The Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan is a preliminary watershed enhancement effort that will eventually dovetail with the Russian River Coho Water Resources Partnership, a multi-stakeholder effort to ensure sufficient water supply in the Russian River watershed to support coho salmon and steelhead trout. The Mill Creek Plan furthers the objectives of several larger planning processes. It contributes towards attainment of goals in the Russian River Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan and North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Implementation of the Mill Creek Plan will help to meet load allocation established by the Russian River watershed Total Maximum Daily Load, scheduled to begin in 2010.

Opportunities: Landowners in the Mill Creek watershed who are not currently participating in erosion assessments or fish habitat enhancement projects will have the opportunity to participate in planning efforts to develop these projects on their properties. Sediment reduction and fish habitat enhancement projects will be implemented as funding becomes available. For more information contact Kara Heckert at 707. 569.1448

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ROAD RESTORATION PROJECT WORKSHOP