



The Napa County RCD and USDA-NRCS

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If you would like your name removed from this mailing list or to receive our newsletter electronically, please contact Stephanie Turnipseed at (707) 252-4188 x111 or email [steph@naparcd.org](mailto:steph@naparcd.org)

General questions email [staff@naparcd.org](mailto:staff@naparcd.org)

Newsletter designer: Stephanie Turnipseed  
Newsletter Editors: Mary Alice Graff & Kathleen Edson

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## Upcoming Events



**Thursday, November 4, 2010**  
**8:00am - 3:30 pm**  
**Napa Valley Expo Fairgrounds**

The Viticultural Fair is the North Coast's premier viticultural trade exhibit; showcasing the applications, technology, and products that continue to advance the quality of the region's wine grapes and the sustainability of our industry.

This year's event offers an unprecedented variety of tools and valuable insights for all of our industry stakeholders - from vineyard owners and growers to the viticulturists, vineyard managers, and farm workers charged with the management and care of the North Coast's vineyard sites.

**Admission is \$10. Tickets are available at the door.**



**When:** Monday, November 15th at 9am  
**Where:** Offices of Walsh Vineyard Management  
Call Frances at 252-4188 x111 for more details.

**Application deadline for 2011 Farm Bill Conservation Programs is November 12, 2010.**

This includes all CA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) priorities, except the EQIP Organic Initiative.

Landowners are invited to apply before the deadline by visiting the NRCS office. For more information about the programs, call Phill or Kelly at 252-4188.

FALL

2010

# NAPA COUNTY CONSERVATION NEWS

A Quarterly Publication by the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

## Creek to Bay Cleanup Day a Great Success!

Stephanie Turnipseed, Education Coordinator

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the statewide effort coordinated by the California Coastal Commission to clean trash and debris from California's coast, bays, creeks, rivers, and lakes. Over 78,000 volunteers across the state of California combed 800 beach and inland locations and gathered over 848,637 pounds (424 tons) of trash statewide!



Cleanup volunteers discuss their strategy before they get started at Napa Creek.

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Here in Napa County, 515 volunteers removed 11,635 pounds (5.8 tons) of trash and 6,174 pounds (3.1 tons) of recyclables from the Napa River, Lake Berryessa, American Canyon, and Napa, Salvador, Redwood and Pickle Creek sites.

In addition to the hundreds of volunteers that participated in this year's cleanup, several organizations, businesses and government agencies donated time, money, and supplies to the cleanup. The event was made possible through funding from the Napa County Stormwater Management Program. NCSWMP is a program coordinated and administered by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and includes the following member agencies: City of American Canyon, City of Calistoga, City of Napa, City of St. Helena, Town of Yountville, and Napa County.

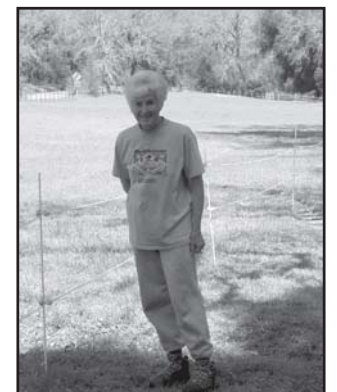
Napa Recycling and Waste Services, Upper Valley Disposal and Recycling, and the City of American Canyon Public Works Departments hauled away trash and recyclables collected at the sites. The majority of the cleanup supplies were donated by the California Coastal Commission, and the additional supplies we needed were bought with the generous support of the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

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## Edge of a Healthy Rangeland

Kelly Gin, NRCS Soil Conservationist

As a school teacher at Northwood Elementary School for 35 years, Claire Camp was familiar with teaching her students the 3 R's. Claire is very familiar with posing questions to her students, and now uses her information gathering skills to find out the best management practices for her ranch. She doesn't leave anything to chance in considering short-term, long-term and budgetary conservation goals. Claire takes notes, gathers plant specimens in a notebook and makes inquiries to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor. She is a benefactor of local professional expertise and is using the local resources to make positive strides on her property.



Claire Camp on her ranch.

Claire's daughters are third generation beneficiaries of a beautiful and nearly untouched landscape that begins at 60-feet of elevation and rises to a peak of 1200 feet. The pastures on her property produce a strong stand of grasses and forbs to fatten the cattle, deer, turkey and wild pig. Mature stands of oaks over 100-years old can be easily identified. The creek gets your attention when the water rises and churns rapidly during the rainy season. During April and May an array of wildflowers directs your gaze to

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## Cleanup Day a Great Success! (Continued from page 1)

Last but not least, several enthusiastic and dedicated individuals generously volunteered their time as site captains for each of the twelve local cleanup sites. Their names, along with the individual cleanup site results, are listed below.

The RCD applauds the way in which the community came together to make this event such a great success. We thank everyone who volunteered this year and hope that next year we reach a volunteer total of 600 volunteers! Mark your calendars now for Creek to Bay Cleanup Day 2011, which will be held on Saturday, September 17. If you would like to be involved with next year's event or have ideas to share about additional cleanup sites or ways to improve next year's event, please contact Stephanie Turnipseed, RCD Education Coordinator, at 707.252.4188 x111 or steph@naparc.org.

### Individual Cleanup Site Results

#### American Canyon

Site Captain: Lou Leet  
174 volunteers

#### Napa River Ecological Preserve, Yountville

Site Captain: Chip Bouril  
27 volunteers  
60 pounds of garbage, 60 pounds of recyclables

#### Riverside Drive, along the Napa River, Napa

Site Captains: David Margolis & Kent Rupert  
12 volunteers  
1150 pounds of trash, 150 pounds of recyclables

#### Salvador Creek, Napa

Site Captain: Steve Konakis & Heather Jackson  
64 volunteers  
300 pounds of trash, 150 pounds of recyclables

#### Southern Crossing/Butler Bridge

Site Captain: Penny Proteau  
4 volunteers  
200 pounds of trash, 70 pounds of recyclables

#### Redwood Creek/Pickle Creek

Site Captains: Gary Margadant  
10 volunteers  
2000 pounds of garbage, 2600 pounds of recyclables

#### South Wetland Opportunity Area

Site Captain: Napa River Steelhead  
42 volunteers  
1240 pounds of trash, 200 pounds of recyclables

#### Napa River Trail

Site Captain: 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church  
27 volunteers  
700 pounds of trash, 100 pounds of recyclables

#### Kennedy Park, Napa

Site Captain: Napa Valley Flyfishers  
29 volunteers  
675 pounds of trash, 600 pounds of recyclables

#### Lake Berryessa

Site Captain: Marianne Butler & Roger Haseltine  
103 volunteers  
850 pounds of trash, 1944 pounds of recyclables

#### Napa Creek

Site Captain: Anita Howe  
23 volunteers  
2100 pounds of garbage, 300 pounds of recyclables

## Keeping Dirt on the Roads and Out of Creeks

Frances Knapczyk, Education Coordinator



The RCD and Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) worked with four landowners in the Sulphur Creek watershed this summer to halt a major source of sediment input to Sulphur Creek: roads. Sediment is one of the leading pollutants of bay area creeks and rivers because it degrades habitat for organisms that use channel bottoms to complete their lifecycles. Steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, and a variety of macroinvertebrates are just some of Napa County's wildlife that depend on clean, sediment-free channel bottoms to complete their lifecycles. Efforts to reduce erosion should have a big impact on improving habitat for native aquatic species.

Four Sulphur Creek watershed landowners agreed to participate in this summer's road improvement work, which cost over \$250,000 to implement. Road improvements were designed by PWA to reduce the potential for mass erosion where roads cross streams, and chronic erosion that degrades road surfaces and adds sediment to the creek during every storm. Across the four properties, the construction team improved drainage along over nine miles of roads, which resulted in preventing approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sediment from entering Sulphur Creek.

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## Keeping Dirt on the Roads (Continued from page 2)

potential was reduced by regrading the road surface to disperse water more frequently (with rolling dips, outsloping, or crowning), replacing culverts that were too small or did not match the grade of the natural stream channel, or adding rock armor to the road surface where small, intermittent streams cross.

This summer's road improvements were recognized in a ceremony at Cain Vineyards on September 30 by Congressmen Mike Thompson, State Senator Pat Wiggins, and Assemblywoman Noreen Evans. The elected officials honored the fact that the project resulted from at least a



Heath Garman compacting soil over a newly placed culvert. The old culvert was replaced because it was too narrow and wasn't in line with the natural stream channel.

decade's worth of work by the Sulphur Creek Watershed Task Force. This group of landowners formed to identify and prioritize goals for improving the environmental health of their watershed. To improve everyone's understanding of the watershed as a whole, the group members allowed RCD and NRCS staff on their properties to assess habitat quality, stream morphology, and possible sources of erosion. The RCD obtained grant funding to develop a watershed management plan, conduct road assessments in the watershed, as well as carry out this summer's implementation.

The road improvements in the Sulphur Creek watershed are part of a larger sediment reduction project that includes road improvements and a dam removal in the Carneros Creek watershed that were completed last summer (this work was born from landowner interest as well), and road improvements that will be performed next summer in the Heath Creek watershed, which is a tributary watershed to the Sulphur Creek watershed.

The State Water Resources Control Board, Napa County Measure A, the California Department of Fish and Game, landowners, and mitigation funds have all contributed funding to implement road improvements in the Carneros and Sulphur Creek watersheds.

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**Napa County Resource Conservation District**  
*a local non-regulatory agency whose mission is to promote responsible watershed management through voluntary community stewardship and technical assistance.*

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
*a federal agency that provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. The NRCS assists the RCD in carrying out their conservation programs.*

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To reach any of the staff below call 252-4188 and dial their extension.

#### RCD Staff

Paul Blank, x 112 Hydrologist	Jonathan Koehler x 109 Senior Biologist
Kathleen Edson, x 108 District Administrator	Anna Mattinson, x 100 Bookkeeper
Steph Turnipseed, x 111 Education Coordinator	Leigh Sharp, x 110 District Manager
Frances Knapczyk, x 120 Education Coordinator	Dave Steiner, x 107 Senior Soil Conservationist

#### USDA-NRCS Staff

Phill Blake, x 101 District Conservationist	Kelly Gin, x 104 Soil Conservationist
Chip Bouril, x 102 Soil Conservationist	Carolyn Jones, x 114 Agricultural Engineer

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The Napa County RCD Board of Directors meets on the second Thursday of each month from 8:00 to 10:00 am at the RCD office