

## How to Participate

Contact the RCD or NRCS staff at the office in Capitola to find out if your project might qualify for the program. The regulatory agencies' permits have already been issued, so meeting your restoration and erosion control goals can be accomplished faster and more cost-effectively than getting the permits on your own. In addition to simplifying the permit process, the RCD and NRCS can provide technical assistance with planning and project design and provide information about cost-sharing programs.



*“Our road association was struggling to maintain more than 12 miles of rural roads. With the expert assistance of the RCD we navigated the permit process and made road improvements that benefited both the residents and the steelhead.”*

**-Tom Bird, Boulder Creek**

# Permit Coordination Program



**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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## Need Help?

Are you interested in improving drainage on your rural road, removing invasive plants, stabilizing an eroding streambank, or restoring habitat for fish and wildlife on your property? The Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may be able to help.



## Branciforte Creek Streambank and Road Protection Project

The streambank failure pictured above is adjacent to a private rural road which was in danger of collapse. A failure would have cut off access for the residents and deposited a large volume of sediment into Branciforte creek, degrading spawning habitat for endangered steelhead.

The landowners contacted the RCD for assistance—a bio-technical structure using redwood root wads, large boulders, and geo-grids planted with willows was designed, permitted and installed as part of the program. Results? The landowners were able to restore the streambank, protect their road, and create habitat for local fish populations—all at a lower cost than other proposed solutions.

## Permit Coordination

Since 2005 both the RCD and NRCS have assisted landowners in successfully completing projects that require permits from multiple agencies. The Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program arose out of a need to help landowners navigate the complex permitting arena to implement mutually beneficial projects. Working in and around streams, riparian areas, and sensitive habitat can be a frustrating and difficult process. Permitting is often time consuming and may take several years depending on the scope of a project. This program has secured pre-approved permits for 15 types of projects that meet specific criteria. Our team has extensive experience in helping landowners design, fund, and construct projects that benefit both the environment and their property—from protecting streambanks, to improving rural roads, to invasive plant removal. Find out more about this program by contacting the RCD at **(831) 464-2950**.



*“You made that miserably damaged gully look like it’s well on its way to recovery. Thank you for all your work and support.”*

*-Nancy Goudarzi, Watsonville*



## Types of Projects Permitted

### Streambank Protection

Planting vegetation or biotechnical structures to stabilize and protect streambanks.

### Planting

Planting vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses) to protect eroding or exposed areas.

### Sediment Basins

Installing basins for capture of debris, sediment or high flows.

### Obstruction Removal

Removing unwanted concrete, appliances or other materials from a waterway.

### Access Roads

Using grading practices such as outsloping and rolling dips to improve road drainage and reduce erosion.

### Restoration & Management of Rare/Declining Habitats

Restoring stream or upland habitats for local sensitive species.

### Wetland Enhancement

Restoring and enhancing wetlands for species recovery, flood attenuation and groundwater recharge.

### Structure for Water Control

Installing or upgrading water control structures or systems, usually a culvert or pipe, to improve drainage.