

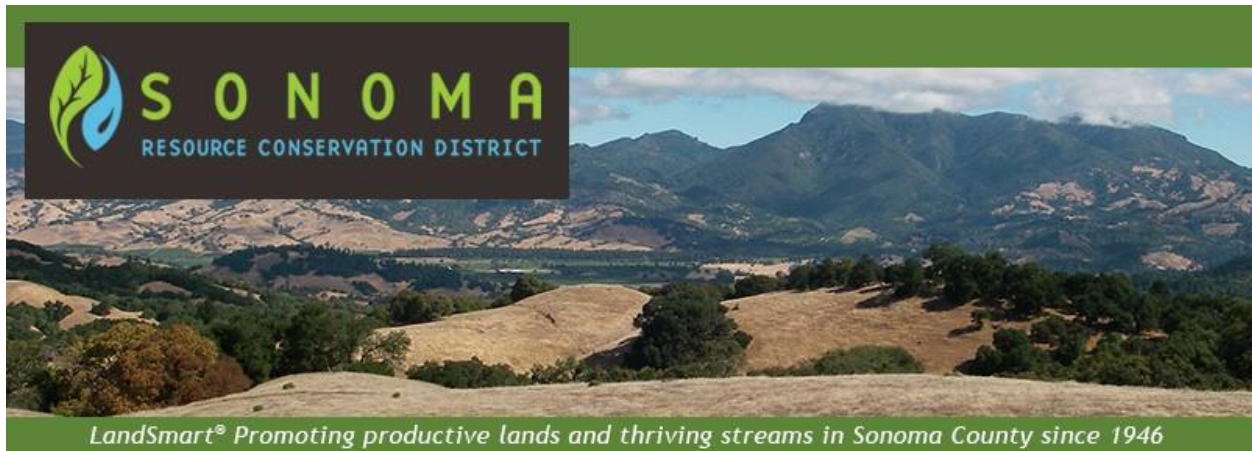
A Busy Year for LandSmart On-The-Ground®!

LandSmart On-the-Ground projects help people put their farm and ranch plans into action. LandSmart, a program of your local Resource Conservation District, provides the framework for land owners and managers to partner with their RCD on projects to conserve, protect, and restore natural resources.

Farm or ranch plans assist landowners and land managers in identifying and prioritizing management practices according to their individual needs, goals and timelines. The planning process balances the landowner's management goals with practices that preserve and enhance natural resources, delivering a plan that is both informative and actionable. Plans address water quality, carbon sequestration, soil health and numerous other natural resource areas; however, they also take into consideration operational efficiency needs, identifying future projects which can increase profitability, decrease waste, and maintain or increase the value of your land, and sustain the productivity of your property. On-the-Ground projects can result from LandSmart Plans, landowner ideas, or other natural resource priorities.

Technical staff can provide assistance with project development, construction oversight, permitting, and environmental compliance. On-the-Ground projects implemented through the LandSmart program achieve natural resource and land management goals, including:

- Erosion control on roads, gullies, and streambanks
- Enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat
- Water conservation and efficiency
- Alternative water supply development
- Manure and pasture management
- Soil health improvement for productivity and carbon sequestration



The Sonoma RCD has developed and implemented a number of projects with landowner and agency partners this past year, including:

- Rainwater catchment installation on actively managed forestland, Mark West Creek, Santa Rosa
- Riparian enhancement project on protected preserve, Bidwell Creek, Calistoga
- Dairy compost pad construction, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa
- Large woody debris instream habitat on actively managed forestland, Porter Creek, Healdsburg
- Pasture irrigation improvements on dairy operation, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa
- Groundwater infiltration project and best management practices (BMPs) implementation on vineyards, Sonoma Creek, Sonoma

If you are interested in seeing how the Sonoma RCD can support the natural resource conservation goals in your farm or ranch plan, if you have a resource concern on your land, or if you are interested in developing a plan with the help of your RCD, please contact us.

Learn more about LandSmart On-the-Ground Projects: <http://landsmart.org/landsmart-on-the-ground>

Learn more about LandSmart Plans: <http://landsmart.org/programs-services/landsmart-plans>



LandSmart® Promoting productive lands and thriving streams in Sonoma County since 1946



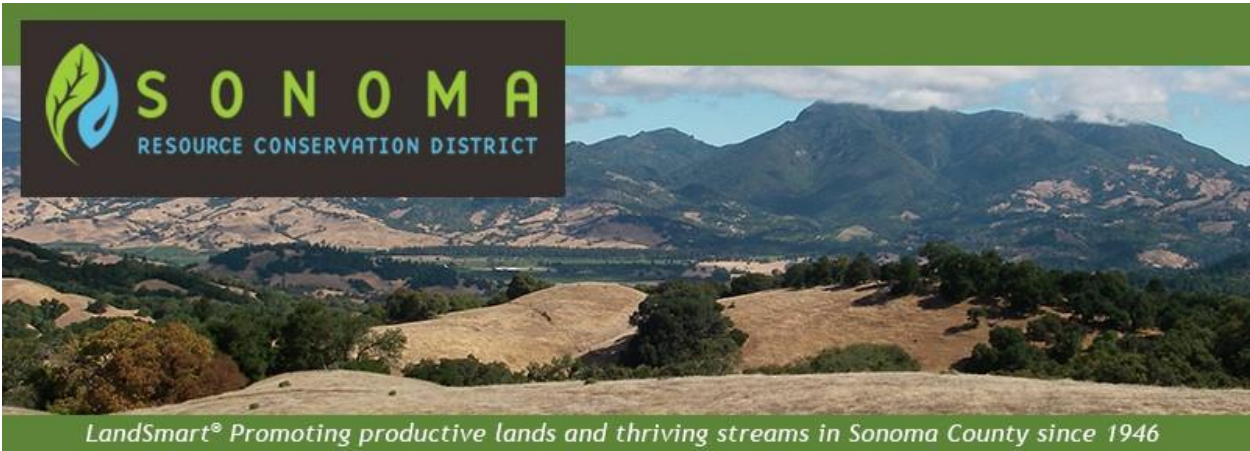
Caption: A vineyard who partnered with the Sonoma RCD to seed a cover crop between the rows to conserve top soil and soil moisture.



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Caption: Sonoma RCD staff points at two 5,000 gallon rainwater catchment tanks on gravel pads at a rural residential property in Mill Creek watershed.



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Caption: Sonoma RCD works with a local dairy to install water quality improvement practices.