



*Photo Courtesy of Lauren Hammack (PCI)*

# Salmon Creek Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan

**June 30, 2010**

*Developed By:*



Gold Ridge  
Resource Conservation District



**PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.**

*Funding and Oversight Provided By:*



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PLAN

ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
BAEDN	Bay Area Early Detection Network
BLT	Bodega Land Trust
BMI	Benthic Macroinvertebrate
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAFO	Confined Animal Feeding Operation
CAP	NOAA's Conservation Action Planning
CCA	Bodega Marine Life Refuge Critical Coastal Area
CCC	Central California Coast
CCOF	California Certified Organic Farmers
CDFG	California Department of Fish & Game
CNGA	California Native Grass Association
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESU	Evolutionary Significant Unit
GRRCD	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
HU	Hydrologic Unit
KRIS	Klamath Resource Information System
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LID	Low impact development
LWD	large woody debris
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSWMA	Marin Sonoma Weed Management Area
MWAT	Maximum Weekly Average Temperatures
NCRWQCB	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
NMFS	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency's Restoration Center
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
OAEC	Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
PCI	Prunuske Chatham, Inc.
PRMD	Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department
PWA	Pacific Watershed Associates
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCC	State Coastal Conservancy
SCAPOS	Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
SCEIP	Sonoma County Energy Incentive Program
SCICWMP	Salmon Creek Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan
SCWA	Sonoma County Water Agency
SCWC	Salmon Creek Watershed Council
SCFCWG	Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group
SLT	Sonoma Land Trust
SMCGWG	Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group
SOD	Sudden Oak Death
STRAW	Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TBD	To Be Determined

TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TU	Trout Unlimited
UAW	Unaccounted For Water Losses
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
WMI	SWRCB's Watershed Management Initiative

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This *Salmon Creek Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan* (Plan or SCICWMP) was prepared jointly by staff at the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD) and ecological consulting firm Prunuske Chatham, Inc. (PCI) with assistance from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). GRRCD and PCI, along with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council (SCWC), initiated the Plan through an application and subsequent award of a Proposition 50 bond-funded grant from the State of California to GRRCD. The grant was awarded in late 2005 and has been administered through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), with local assistance and direction from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB).

GRRCD provided administration and facilitation of the planning process, while the team, which included staff PCI and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) provided the science and technical expertise needed to consider the hydrologic boundaries of the subwatersheds, characterize factors limiting the recovery of salmonids in the watershed, and work with the TAC to develop feasible strategies to address all issues. Through a geomorphic assessment, sediment source and water quality analyses, and water supply and demand study, a thorough base of resource knowledge was examined to better understand the current health of Salmon Creek Watershed. Based on these assessments, the Plan contains goals and actions to enhance and protect the natural resources of the watershed for current and future generations.

This Plan takes a watershed approach to address issues of water quality and quantity, rather than looking at stream restoration on a site-by site basis. Because 95% of the land is privately owned, economic viability for the landowners has been a central tenet in the team's planning process, a vital element in sustaining and enhancing the health of the watershed. Also, because the idea of watershed management can mean different things to different people depending on their perspective, the team has worked toward an approach to watershed management in Salmon Creek that will foster an understanding and appreciation of the landowners and their contribution toward land stewardship.



*Salmon Creek Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.  
Photo courtesy of Brock Dolman (OAEC)*

The Plan should be viewed as a “living document.” The goals and actions included in this plan are based on our current level of understanding of the ecological processes and health of the watershed. It is expected that management issues and priorities will change through time, and stakeholders will adapt this plan and subsequent recommendations as conditions change.

Figure 1. Salmon Creek Watershed location map.

