Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives around the State Agenda

• Overview of RCDs
  – History of RCDs

• Virtual Tour - Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State
  – State Parks
  – CDFA/ WMAs
  – USACOE/ Cal’Trans
  – USFWS
  – DFG
Overview of RCDs

• 99 Resource Conservation Districts in the State
• Volunteer boards of local land owners
• Locally led conservation
  – Projects vary widely based on local priorities
  – Partner with our communities
• Passion of the staff and board members
• Private lands/Ag- but not always
History of the RCDs

• Founding
  – 1937 President Roosevelt wrote the national law forming the SCS and encouraging the formation of Soil Conservation Districts.
  – Created as a sister agency to implement NRCS (SCS) programs on private lands
  – 1st RCD was San Mateo RCD formed in 1939
  – Non-Regulatory
History of RCDs

• California Statute
  – Division 9 of the Public Resources Code
    • A State agency for the purposes of contracting
    • Allows RCDs to accept any donations from any source
    • Transparent and accountable as local agencies under public code
RCDs Working by Partnership

• We Work Collaboratively
• Can Contract Directly with State Agencies
• Close partnership to NRCS and DOC but Work with Everyone
• Examples: State Parks, CalTrans, CalIPC, CalFire, Audubon Ca, CDFA, USFWS
Solutions

RCDs find local solutions to pressing conservation problems
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State- State Parks

Tahoe RCD Boat Inspection Program/ Aquatic Weed Removal Program
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State- Tahoe

- Weed Barriers
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State- Tahoe
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State - State Parks
Monterey County Operation Ivy Strikeforce Team
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State- CDFA and WMA

Yuba-Sutter WMA (headed by the Sutter RCD) removing Hydrilla from 3000 ft of water ditch
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State - CDFA and WMA
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State- CDFA, WMA, and CCC

Sutter County Arundo Removal
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State-ACOE, USFWS, CalTrans Mitigation Site, WMA
San Luis Rey and Santa Margarita Arundo Removal Project- Mission RCD
Estero Americano Gorse Removal
a project of the Gold Ridge RCD, USFWS and Local Ranching Family

Background:
• Ranch contains 50+ acres of gorse cover extensive areas of prime grazing land
• Using varied techniques to determine most cost effective treatment for initial biomass removal and continued sprout and seedling control for working ranches
  • Using a “masticator” to remove Biomass
• Partnering with Fire Department to burn large stands to remove biomass
  • Milestone VM+ to control re-growth
• Grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to remove Gorse to restore coastal grasslands/ prairie
Canary Island St. John’s wort (*Hypericum canariense*)
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State - USFWS
Napa Rotary Screw Trap
Working Collaboratively to Combat Invasives Around the State - DFG/Caltrans

Inland Empire RCD Conservation Easements
RCDs

Growing restoration on private lands
Please call if I can be of assistance

Karen Buhr
Executive Director
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

916-524-2100
Karen-buhr@carcd.org