



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

Creating a Conservation Plan will help in obtaining permits and funding for conservation projects.

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## Planning, Permitting, and Financial Assistance

The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) assists in the planning, permitting and implementation of conservation projects on private lands in Glenn County. The following is a step by step guide to planning, permitting, and implementing conservation practices.

**Step 1.0 CREATING A CONSERVATION PLAN** - A conservation plan is a living document that helps a landowner through the decision making process. The plan identifies the most appropriate courses of action to address natural resource issues on private lands. A conservation plan also lays out the course of action so the project is implemented successfully, fully addresses intended issues, monitors benefits or impacts, and does not cause problems to other natural resources, or surrounding landowners' property. The plan may also be used to communicate the project to agencies issuing permits or potential funding sources; the document explains what the project will do, how it will be implemented, and how it will benefit or impact other natural resources.

**Step 1.1 Landowner initiates meeting (One week)** - If interested, the landowner shall contact the GCRCD to request assistance with their resource issues. The GCRCD Conservation Planner will meet with the landowner at their property to better understand the issue, the factors contributing to the problem, and the opportunities available to help solve the problem. The landowner will define the desired project and where it will occur. After the meeting and concurrence the landowner wants to create a conservation plan, the GCRCD will then create a cost estimate to perform the work. The GCRCD will determine if they have funding to create the conservation plan, and if so, how much. However, all funds distributed to assist the landowners will be divided fairly to protect the natural resources.

**Step 1.2 Technical Assistance Agreement (One week)** - If the landowner decides to create a conservation plan, and continue to work with the GCRCD, they must sign a Technical Assistance Agreement with the GCRCD. The agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the landowner, as well as the GCRCD's roles and responsibilities.

**Step 1.3 Site surveys and monitoring (Two weeks)** - Once the Technical Assistance Agreement is signed by both parties, the GCRCD will create site surveys and gather baseline monitoring data. The purpose is to gather information to create the conservation plan, as well as to use in monitoring the success of the project.

**Step 1.4 Conservation Plan (Three weeks)** - After the above steps, the GCRCD Conservation Planner will assess the issues and determine multiple courses of action the landowner may take to address the issues. The GCRCD Conservation Planner will also analyze each of the courses to determine the success of each practice and potential impacts. All options will be presented to the landowner. The landowner determines their course of action and makes the final decision on their project.

*The  
Glenn County  
RCD  
has been  
working to  
coordinate  
the  
permitting  
process to  
make it easier  
for  
landowners to  
apply for and  
obtain  
permits.*

**Step 2.0 PROJECT PERMITTING** - Regulatory permitting is the manner in which state and federal government agencies carry out the laws they are mandated to uphold by state legislature or congress. Regulatory permitting ensures that a project will not impact water quality, air quality, or fish and wildlife species of concern. *Projects that have a well developed conservation plan will avoid or mitigate any environmental impacts that may occur during the implementation of the project.*

**Step 2.1 Permitting Assistance Agreement (One week)** - If interested, the landowner may request assistance with the permitting process. However, the landowner and the GCRCD must enter into an agreement that clearly states the roles and responsibilities of each party.

**Step 2.2 Environmental Protection Measures** - Depending upon the work to be completed, there are certain environmental protection measures that will have to be taken into consideration during the implementation of the project. The GCRCD Conservation Planner will determine what measures are needed for each landowner project.

**Step 2.3 DFG Streambed Alteration 1601 Permit (30 days)** - The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is required by the state legislature to regulate actions that occur around or within lakes or streams within California. This permit applies when a project is located in an active stream channel or its floodplain. If the site floods during the wet season, due to a river or lake, the landowner is required to apply for a permit. DFG is required to protect species and their habitat. DFG has up to 30 days to respond after a complete application is submitted. Approximate cost is \$750.00.

**Step 2.4 USACE 404 and 401 Permits (45 days)** - Under an agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE is required to regulate actions that may impact water quality or waters of the United States. If the project dredges, fills, or discharges synthetic chemicals into water bodies, such as streams and rivers, it is subject to USACE review. USACE has up to 45 days to respond after a complete application is submitted. Approximate cost is FREE, or \$10.00 for state and local agencies to apply for the permit.

**Step 2.5 RWQCB 401 Certification (45 days)** - The State of California has a similar water quality control regulation, as to those of the USACE. Since Federal laws precede State laws, the Regional Water Quality Control Board RWQCB 401 Certification is linked to the USACE 401 process. If a USACE 401 permit is needed, then a RWQCB permit is needed. The RWQCB has up to 45 days to respond after a complete application is submitted. Approximate cost is \$500.00.

**Step 3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION** - After the conservation plan and project permitting is complete, the landowner may begin to implement the project. The landowner has two options at this point; 1) fund the project with their own resources, or 2) request funding opportunity assistance from the GCRCD. Although the GCRCD is not a funding agency, the GCRCD has the ability to apply for many different types of grants to perform this type of work (i.e. state and federal agencies, foundations, etc.).

**Step 3.1 Determine who will get the project done** - In most cases the landowner will perform the work themselves, or they may hire a contractor to complete their project. However, there may be times there are a few projects located next to each other that may be implemented at the same time. If this occurs, landowners may consider forming a group to hire one contractor. If this situation occurs and the group requests the GCRCD to manage the project, the GCRCD would take the project into consideration. An agreement would be created between all parties.

**Step 3.2 Timeframe** - The timeframe for implementing projects is determined by the location of the project. For sensitive areas, such as along streams, the work window is from April 15 to October 31 of each year. Please note the timeframe for project permitting should be considered when scheduling work.

**Step 3.3 Funding** - Funding to implement the landowners project should be considered as soon as the conservation plan is completed. Since the GCRCD does not receive tax assessments, the GCRCD looks for public and private funding to complete resource conservation projects. Therefore, there is an opportunity to assist landowners in implementing their project by applying for grants. Although grants are an excellent way to implement costly projects, there is usually an agreement which must be followed. There are also state and federal programs to help private landowners complete conservation work. The GCRCD recommends the landowner be familiar with the programs to determine which one would be beneficial to them, if any at all. If requested, the GCRCD will assist landowners in searching for and applying for a grant/program. The landowner should work with the GCRCD Conservation Planner as soon as possible to make sure funds are available when work is able to begin.

**Step 3.4 Implementation Assistance Agreement** - If the landowner, or multiple landowners, would like the assistance of the GCRCD, in finding funding and implementing their project, the landowner and the GCRCD must enter into an agreement that specifies the roles and responsibilities of each party.

**Step 3.5 Monitoring** - All permits and most funding sources require some level of monitoring. This ensures the project was implemented successfully, as well as ensures the benefits of the project are realized and that there are no off-site impacts. The GCRCD has an established Monitoring Program that will help in the permitting and funding processes, if desired by the landowner.

*For more information please contact the Glenn County Resource Conservation District at:*

**132 North Enright Avenue, Suite C  
(mailing address, suite B)  
Willows, California 95988  
Phone: (530) 934-4601 x4 - Fax: (530) 934-8667**

Please contact the Glenn County Resource Conservation District if you have natural resource concerns or issues you wish the RCD to address or natural resource projects that you want to implement on your property.

E-mail: [Ajay.Singh@ca.nacdn.net](mailto:Ajay.Singh@ca.nacdn.net)

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## Stony Creek Coordinated Permit

The Permit Coordination Program is finalized! That is right, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Glenn County Resource Conservation District signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in Spring, 2007. This will allow Stony Creek conservation projects to be expedited through the 1601 Permit process (See page 2 for the full process).

The MOA will ease the permitting process some; however, it is recommended that a conservation plan is created for your project. The conservation plan will explain to all permitting agencies what type of work will be done, what time of year work will be done, and what materials and equipment will be used to get the project done.

The conservation plan would address weed eradication, native plant revegetation, and bank erosion.

In addition to the MOA, Biological Assessments on how projects in Stony Creek could affect threatened and endangered species have been submitted and responded to. These documents will assist landowners along Stony Creek in obtaining USACE permits when needed.

## Funding for Conservation Projects

Funding is one of the major obstacles for landowners when planning and implementing conservation projects. Below are optional sources of funding providers to help your project move forward.

### **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service –**

Provides funding to farmers through their Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/WHIP/>

### **Wildlife Conservation Board –**

Provides funding for projects that increase wildlife habitat along streams and rivers.

<http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/>

[California\\_riparian\\_habitat\\_conservation\\_program.html](http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/California_riparian_habitat_conservation_program.html)

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service –**

Provides funding to private landowners through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to increase wildlife habitat.

<http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=home>

For more information on these and other funding sources please contact the GCRC.