

WHAT IS A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The Plan includes a *Watershed Assessment*:

The purpose of the assessment is to give us a “big picture” understanding of the environmental and land use trends in the watershed. A watershed assessment is a way of describing the resources we depend on, as well as their overall condition, so that we can enhance their productivity and health, whether through restoration or management practices. The Plan includes an assessment of:

- Stream and Estuary Conditions*
- Soils and Topography*
- Vegetation*
- Land Use*
- Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat*

The Plan includes *Goals & Strategies* for natural resources enhancement based on the watershed assessment, landowner input, and regulatory requirements:

- ✓ *Reducing sediment and nutrient loading to the Estero and its tributaries.*
- ✓ *Enhancing or restoring habitat for Steelhead Trout.*

WHY WE ARE INVOLVED IN THIS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS (The RCD & Landowners)

- To maintain or increase grant funding for projects and programs in the watershed. Funding agencies are starting to require watershed-level planning documents as a basis for prioritizing funding.
- To work with landowners to identify common problems as well as economic solutions. For example, learning about the types of regulatory constraints or requirements facing dairy or livestock operators, and identifying ways that the RCD or NRCS can help address those issues through technical or financial assistance.
- To demonstrate to regulatory agencies that we are working proactively to address natural resource concerns such as water quality impairments and habitat loss.