

Merced River Watershed - Upper

Evaluating and maintaining the health of the Upper Merced Watershed

Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 25



MARIPOSA COUNTY RCD



The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinators worked closely with the community to increase their interest, involvement, and understanding of the need for watershed protection.

The Coordinators developed a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program, which utilized over 50 volunteers to monitor 19 sites along the watershed. In addition to collecting and managing the data collection, the Coordinators used the information to identify potential biological, chemical, and physical threats to water quality. The Coordinators then worked closely with partners to prioritize work sites and develop action plans to address degraded areas along the watershed.

The Coordinators helped to facilitate a ground-breaking study, which became a component of the State Watershed Assessment Framework. This study included socioeconomic factors in evaluating the watershed approach to resource management. This pilot project was intended to help resource managers, planners, and watershed stakeholders understand the social and economic conditions and trends and the role they play affecting the local watershed and watersheds throughout the state.

For more information visit the Upper Merced River Watershed Council website at <https://umrwc.wildapricot.org> or the Mariposa County RCD website at <http://www.mcrd.net>

- Coordinated volunteers in the removal of over 6,000 pounds of trash, debris, and recyclables from the Merced River
- Implemented over 20 Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed
- Removed 80 acres of invasive, non-native yellow starthistle and Italian thistle from sensitive riparian habitat in the Merced River Canyon
- Managed the quarterly water quality monitoring of 19 sites on the main stem of the Merced River and its tributaries
- Maintained a water quality database
- Removed 7 stream miles of invasive weeds from the watershed
- Provided watershed education to over 125 local students

“The Upper Merced River Watershed is a highly diverse area that attracts 4 million visitors each year and is an important source of water for San Joaquin Valley agriculture. The Coordinator’s efforts will have a far reaching impact”

- Connie Nielson, Project Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: • Bureau of Land Management • Sierra Foothill Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Yosemite Audubon • Yosemite Bug Mountain Resort • Sugar Pine Café • Sierra Nevada Alliance • NatureBridge • Dr. Adam Burns • Sierra Stationers • Mountain Meadow Farm • Mariposa Gazette • Sierra Sun Times Gold Rush Cam • Department of Interior National Park Service - Yosemite National Park • Mariposa County Unified School District