



**CalRecycle**

FY 2016/17

Cycle 60

FR 60-16-0012

# Gold Ridge RCD

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement

## Background

The Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD) applied for the Farm and Ranch Grant to clean up an illegal marijuana grow site created by trespassers in the wooded area of Angleman Ranch (site). This property is a privately owned 198-acre livestock ranch in Bodega, Sonoma County, with active winegrape production and cattle, sheep, and goat grazing. The rancher's son discovered the site while hiking on the property. The cannabis plants were removed by law enforcement but all other debris remained. The area is concealed by trees and other vegetation, and is located in a seasonal tributary riparian zone part of Salmon Creek's mainstream. The RCD was awarded \$11,511 for cleanup.



## Grant Project Goals

- Cleanup various type of debris on over 12,000 square feet of land.
- Prevent future dumping by posting “no trespassing” signs and cameras.
- Remediate the site to its original state

## Outcome and Accomplishments

Cleanup was successful:

- Removal of debris such as grow pots, fabric containers, plastic tarp, metal and plastic fencing, plastic bags and tubes, irrigation line, and spilled fertilizer and mulch.
- An estimated 250 lbs. total material was removed from the site. A portion was diverted to a recycling facility instead of landfilled.
- Land was restored through replanting and compost/mulch.

Prevention plan implemented:

- Installation of wildlife trail camera that captures high quality video and photos.
- Camera positioned for ultimate surveillance.
- Landowners can access any illegal dumping footage easily through the memory card.
- “No Trespassing” signs were installed.



# Gold Ridge RCD

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement



CalRecycle

FY 2016/17  
Cycle 60  
FR 60-16-0012



## Challenges

- Obtaining access to cleanup the site was more difficult than anticipated. The original plan was to enter the site through a neighbor's parcel, however the neighbor did not want to participate and grant property access. Luckily, the RCD was able to adapt the plan and achieve tasks as scheduled.
- Topography and project scope were a nonstarter for some cleanup crews. The first cleanup crew deemed the area too unfavorable after the initial site visit (i.e. poison oak, uneven terrain, difficult access). The second cleanup crew decided the project wasn't worth their efforts as their average projects spanned at least a week. Ultimately, a local contractor assisted the RCD with cleanup efforts.

## Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Some areas are very difficult to access, requiring authorization from multiple landowners to conduct cleanup. Communicate ahead of time with all parties, and never assume a plan is finalized until receiving all needed approvals.
- County facility staff worked with the contractor to process recyclable material, dispose of toxics appropriately, and stage what remained for general landfill. Reach out to available resources and understand how they process material; divert as much as possible from landfills.

## Snapshot

**Grant Program:** Farm and Ranch Cleanup and Abatement

**Grant Program Website:** <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LEA/GrantsLoans/FarmRanch/>

**Grant Number:** FR 60-16-0012

**Grant Type:** Illegal dumping

**Year Awarded:** 2016

**Funding:** Awarded \$11,511, spent \$11,511

**Grant Manager Contact:** [Cathy.Aggergaard@CalRecycle.ca.gov](mailto:Cathy.Aggergaard@CalRecycle.ca.gov)