



COASTAL SAN LUIS  
RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

Your Local Partner  
in Conservation & Agriculture



Summer 2019

## Two Workshops Focus on Water and Soil Improvement



*Pat Molnar, Molnar Construction, demonstrates keyline plowing.*

**W**ith funding from the Resources Legacy Fund, this spring Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) staff hosted a workshop and demonstration highlighting Best Management Practices that focused on improving on-farm water quality and soil health. The April 30 workshop, hosted at the Cal Poly Beef Center, provided landowners with practical and relevant information and examples of practices, including soil health enhancements for cropland, rangeland management, roads and fencing maintenance, and riparian zone improvements. Local representatives from the NRCS and USFWS also participated, sharing funding programs and opportunities.

*This project is a collaborative effort between the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (Estuary Program) and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) and is funded by Resource Legacy Fund Grant. The grant is made through the Land-Sea Connection program of Resource Legacy Fund, made possible by the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment.*

**A**rangeland demonstration, held June 14 at Cerro Alto Ranch, exhibited the benefits of using a keyline plow, or Yeomans Plow. CSLRCD staff, joined by Cal Poly BRAE Professor GW Bates, Noah Small of Pacific Organics, Jeff and Joan Buckingham, and local ranchers and land managers discussed the soil health benefits, impacts and implications of keyline plowing. Pat Molnar of Molnar



### Upcoming Events

July 26, noon  
Board of Directors Meeting  
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

August 23, noon  
Board of Directors Meeting  
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

[2017-2018 Annual Report](#)

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Construction demonstrated how the plow works on local serpentine soils.

### **What is Keyline Plowing?**

Keyline Plowing increases soil water-holding capacity while minimizing disturbance to forage and root structure. The plow is fitted with specialized shanks that lift and loosen soil, rather than ripping, leaving soil structure intact. The lifted soils can hold moisture longer, and the aeration increases forage productions and root development, resulting in increased soil health.

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## **Dunes Protected Areas (DPA) Habitat Restoration Underway**

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) was awarded funding from the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Restoration Funds to perform habitat restoration in two Dunes Protected Areas (DPAs), the Big Coreopsis Hill DPA and the Nipomo Lupine DPA.

At the Coreopsis Hill DPA, the CSLRCD will control the perennial veldtgrass and ice plant (both invasive species) as well as addressing data gaps within the DPA.

At the Nipomo Lupine DPA, the CSLRCD will control perennial veldtgrass (an invasive species) as well as protect and enhance the naturally occurring populations of the federally endangered Nipomo Lupine.

To control the veldtgrass and ice plant invasive species, the CSLRCD hired English Air to apply an herbicide over the DPAs by helicopter, given that in certain areas the invasive species are very dense. A month after the last aerial application, a ground crew came in with hand-held sprayers to do follow-up control.

This project is scheduled to take three years to complete, with State Parks providing in-kind support and post-treatment up to five years.

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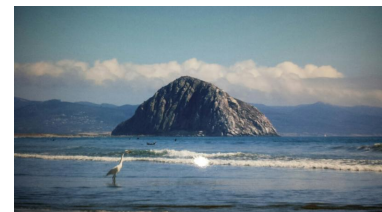
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### **Staff**

**Jackie Crabb**  
District Manager

**Hallie Richard**  
Conservation Programs Manager

**Lindsay Ringer**  
Conservation Projects Manager

**Jen Nix**  
Grants & Development Coordinator

**Joe Murphy**  
District Engineer

**Seamus Land**  
Restoration Coordinator



*English Air helicopter sprays invasive veldt grass (top) and refuels (above).*



*Project Manager Lindsay Ringer and Restoration Specialist Mark Skinner view the Nipomo Lupine Dune Protected Area after a veldtgrass eradication application.*

**Mark Skinner**  
Restoration Specialist II

**Grant Johnson**  
Restoration Specialist I

**Bridget Hobscheid**  
Summer Conservation Intern

**Shelly Rachels**  
Bookkeeper

**Della Barrett**  
Board Secretary

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## Meet Our New Staff Members...

**Lindsay Ringer**  
Conservation Project Manager

Ringer joined the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District in summer 2019, following a stint as a volunteer in fall 2011. She has done restoration, conservation and research in National Parks and public lands and has an M.S. in Ecology. She specializes in plant-soil interactions, invasive species and endangered species.

From spring 2009 to 2011 she worked in the agricultural regulatory program at the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board doing data management, mapping and administrative work. She has also volunteered for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to conduct stream water-quality monitoring.



**Bridget Hobscheid**  
Summer Conservation Intern

In spring 2019 Hobscheid graduated with honors from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a B.S. in Environmental Management and Protection and a concentration in Wildlife Biology. She is a passionate environmentalist with experience and accomplishments in environmental policy and its use in various research projects.



Her experiences include a Field Techniques class in South Africa (Spring 2018), as well as volunteering with projects such as Elephant Seal research in Piedras Blancas and with organizations such as the Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero. Her areas of expertise include identification of California flora and fauna (specifically mammal and avian species), use and documentation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as compiling research data and drawing meaningful conclusions from their results.

## RCD Services

Call us today at [\(805\) 772-4391](tel:8057724391) for help with all of the following:

- Irrigation Evaluations
- Engineer Design
- Alternative Agricultural Grading Review (ARP)
- Erosion & Stormwater Control
- Conservation Easements
- Conservation Planning
- Permit Coordination
- Watershed & Habitat Restoration

**Conservation Clip List** is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts). This link discusses CDFA's Healthy Soils Program in all 10 California RCD regions:

<http://www.nacdnet.org/2017/06/15/california-rlds-cdfas-healthy-soils-program-leading-way-climate-smart-ag/>



*Restoration Coordinator Seamus Land surveys the Oso Flaco Creek channel cross section for the RCD stream gauging project.*



*Restoration Specialist Grant Johnson and District Engineer Joe Murphy survey the Oso Flaco Creek monitoring site to update the channel cross section for the RCD stream gauging project.*