

William Hart (Project Manager) has been a part of the Gold Ridge RCD team for eight years. He joined in 2012 and has committed his project management and communication skills along with his environmental education, conservation planning and soil health experience to ensure the success of the District's activities. William believes that for the RCD to succeed in its mission, a wide range of perspectives must be considered and respected. William is a diligent professional and he is comfortable working with diverse constituencies including regulatory agencies, landowners, researchers, and community-based groups. William has a deep respect for the community he serves, and he has been able to develop trusting and productive relationships with the Board of Directors and the landowners we serve. At the same time, he maintains close working partnerships with regulatory agencies and environmental organizations to promote enhanced habitat, soil health, and water quality protection efforts on agricultural lands.



At the RCD, William assists landowners on agricultural properties in the development of Carbon Farm Plans and LandSmart Plans and seeks funding to implement the priority projects identified in those plans. In collaboration with other staff, William also has been involved in all aspects of conservation projects, including initiating contact with cooperators, identifying conservation needs, facilitating permits, supervising construction and installation, and post-construction monitoring. He collaborates with the RCD team to develop, promote, and implement conservation management measures and practices that integrate with conventional and organic farm operations, such as range and pasture management, nutrient management, soil health, and habitat restoration. His responsibilities include managing the RCD's GIS program, writing grant proposals and reports, participating on technical advisory committees, presenting at educational and training events and working collaboratively with landowners, partner organizations and agencies to provide input on technical documents and reports.

Prior to joining the RCD, William was a Stewardship Associate with the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) in Point Reyes Station, a Soil Conservation Technician with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Petaluma, and a Planting Manager with Friends of the Urban Forest in San Francisco.

William has a graduate degree from the Hutchins Institute for Public Policy Studies and Community Action at Sonoma State University - a program that emphasized the interrelationship among ecological, economic, and social justice issues and the dynamics of change. His coursework focused on GIS technology (including GPS and spatial analysis), hydrology, and restoration ecology. He has an undergraduate degree in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

William grew up in the Fox River watershed in northeast Wisconsin – the land of dairy farms, paper mills and Green Bay Packer football. He grew up in a large family with four siblings, surrounded by lots of nieces and nephews. William spent his summers camping at Peninsula State Park in Door County, working on the grounds maintenance crew at Reid Municipal Golf Course and fishing for small mouth bass down at the Fox River. William has been in California since 2000 after he completed his two service in agricultural production as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala. William has been in Sonoma County since 2003 and he has the good fortune of being married to Maggie Hart since 2005. William and Maggie, live at the Sequoia Village Cohousing in Sebastopol with their son, Jack.

On the weekends, you will find him reading out loud to his son from one of the many borrowed books they check out from the Sebastopol Public Library - hopefully, while they sit on a public bench, underneath a majestic coast live oak at Ragle Park. Or maybe he will be hosting a quarantine induced, vinyl only, one-man dance party to the funky sounds of Fed Wesley and the JB's on his turntables. Or if the stars and planets align, the universe will allow for him to indulge in a Saturday afternoon nap, because life is better with naps - it is truly the greatest restoration tool in the toolbox.