

- **When:** *How long have you been working for the RCD?*

I came to the Gold Ridge RCD in 2009, after working for Pacific Watershed Associates as head of their bay area office for the previous seven years.

- **Why:** *Why did you decide to get into this work.*

As a kid I was always messing around in the nearest creek, and I ended up studying geography and fluvial geomorphology in college and grad school. I did research on streams and salmon in the Oregon Coast Range for my master's degree. I've been an environmentalist all my life, and have been involved in a lot of work to protect threatened and endangered species and landscapes. I'm a big believer in the idea that we should leave the earth to the next generations in better condition than when we came to it, and right now we're failing that test. I think solutions to our pressing environmental and natural resource challenges will have to be collaborative, and that global issues generally have to be solved on the local level. RCDs are in an ideal position to develop the relationships and projects to address some of these problems.

- **What:** *What are your main job duties in your current position? (general)*

My work responsibilities are really broad, and one of the things I like about working for the RCD is the freedom I have to define my own job. I work to develop, design and implement resource conservation projects in a number of areas, with particular focus on projects relating to water conservation and storage, erosion and roads, and instream habitat. In addition I work with my colleagues on projects that are more scientific in nature, especially those related to geomorphology and water. All of these projects are carried out in partnership with landowners and our project partners and funders.

- *Are there any specific projects you worked on or are currently working on this year that you would care to share about?*

I'm currently working on a number of projects, but the most notable ones are the implementation of the Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation Project in the coming year, and the mitigation project for the Caltrans reroute of Highway 1 at Gleason Beach. The Alliance project involves improvements to their water systems and changes in water sources that will save up to three million gallons of water a year that are currently pumped from streams and shallow wells in the Dutch Bill Creek watershed. We're expecting to see improvements in flow in Dutch Bill, which is home to a population of endangered coho salmon.

The Caltrans project entails planning, designing and constructing projects that will mitigate for the impacts of the highway reroute. They include wetland and coastal terrace prairie habitat enhancement and expansion, as well as a major effort to restore Scotty Creek, which flows to the ocean at the project site. The RCD will be designing and constructing instream and riparian habitat restoration projects, and we have been asked to assume the role of long-term manager of a conservation easement that will be established to maintain these improvements. Scotty Creek has historically been a

steelhead and coho stream, so the project's potential to contribute to overall recovery of these species is pretty exciting.

I'm also working on trail design for both State Parks (in Willow and Freezeout Creeks) and Sonoma County Regional Parks (at North Sonoma Mountain). These are some of my favorite projects because there's a lot of fieldwork that involves hiking in beautiful places.

- **Where:**

School:

I have a Bachelor's in geography from the University of Colorado, and an MS in fluvial geomorphology from the University of Oregon.

Childhood:

I was born in New York City (my dad was from there and my mom is an immigrant from Ireland), but grew up all over the place, including the east coast and midwest. My family moved to northern California when I was 18.

- **Who:** *Who are you? What do you like to do in your free time?*

I'll do anything in the outdoors, but my favorites are sea kayaking, biking (mountain and road), hiking, backpacking and snowboarding. Channel Islands National Park is one of my favorite places to go, because there's so much to do there, including kayaking (sea caves!), snorkeling and hiking. I've also done a lot of backpacking in Death Valley and other places in the desert. And I lived in Oregon for nearly a decade, so the Coast Range and Cascades are still like going home.

Recently I haven't had as much time to spend in the outdoors because I've been putting a lot of effort into the property that my wife and I own. A lot of building repair and renovation, as well as expanding and improving our garden. We rebuilt part of our barn this past summer (it was on the way to falling down) and now we're building a new garden shed/greenhouse. We also built our own rainwater catchment system a few years ago (15,000 gallons, soon to be 20,000!), so now all the water for our garden and fruit trees comes from the sky. I guess this stuff would also count as a hobby.

- *Favorite books or films?*

I read a lot and in a lot of different areas, so favorite books would require some time to think about. In books and movies I generally like anything that will make me laugh, especially if it's on the darker side.

- *Family Life:*

My wife Chris and I live outside Sebastopol. She works for Marin County Public Works as the lead sea level rise planner for the county. We have no kids, but my niece lived with us for three years while she was in high school. She's now on her own and doing great, and we're

tremendously proud of her. My mom also lives in Sebastopol, and she's in her 80s but still very independent. We help her out when she needs it. And we have a black cat named Pedro.