



Friends of the Mark West Watershed

FMWW's Mission:

We are a community dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Mark West Creek and its watershed as a natural and community resource.

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Upper Mark West Watershed Nominated as a Priority Conservation Area

In August the Upper Mark West Watershed was nominated by Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, in partnership with Friends of the Mark West Watershed, Dept. of Fish and Game, Sonoma County Water Agency and Monan's Rill Institute to be designated a priority conservation area by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Protection of the Mark West Watershed and its fishery is an objective of the full compliment of resource protection and regulatory agencies including, in addition to the Department of Fish and Game and NOAA, Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (TMDL's), NFWS (endangered species), Army Corp of Engineers (wetlands), writes Sotoyome RCD's Kara Heckert.

Our organized community efforts were recognized in support of the application: "The demonstrated high quality natural resources and extensive community engagement of the upper Mark West Creek watershed makes it an ideal area to bring together a wide array of agency, organization and jurisdictional interests" according to RCD analysis.

The application underscores that the Mark West Creek has been identified as a high priority stream for preservation and restoration by several state, federal and local agencies. The significant aquatic resources reflected by the high water quality, significant in-stream and riparian habitat, and

endangered species occurrence in the area make the upper Mark West Watershed extremely regionally significant for conservation and protection.

Designation of the 20,000 acres in the Upper MW watershed by the FOCUS program of the Association of Bay Area Governments as a priority conservation area is sure to attract further protection, conservation and investment in preservation of the Upper Mark West Watershed. [You can download and read the entire application here \(MS Word document\).](#)

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