Conservation Tech Monthly Report – April 2025

 I was very proud of the Temecula Earth Day on the 27th. I don’t need to embellish the importance of earth day for an organization like TEAM, but the day ended up being a really great chance for me to network with a lot of organizations I still hadn’t talked to. Groups with native gardens and some native plant farms who offered to help us hold workshops or meetings in a natural space, groups with project ideas who want to see more work done in the area, and groups who just want to participate with the work we do. I also was able to engage with a lot of the community; I had a little bee craft that went over really well with the kids there and was able to get a good standard of tabling set.

 I was also able to help facilitate the Wildfire Taskforce meeting that we had on the 29th, which went over very well. We were able to establish a good working relationship with the French Valley Library which is another option now for large scale meetings like that. The meeting itself was very fruitful in creating cohesive conversations related to wildfire, it’ll be a really good chance to make sure our region has a unified plan for reducing wildfire. The meeting also facilitated connections between groups.

 Within the past month we have also done a visit to all of TEAM RCD’s conservation easements, including the Clinton Kieth property, to see what might be available for remediation or further funding from other interested groups. The Greer ranch easements might show the most opportunity for restoration, but the boundaries of the easements are currently under scrutiny. I have begun doing some in depth analysis of the original easement agreements to make sure we are doing what we are supposed to.

 The Cannabis restoration grant may be one that can really benefit our district, so I have done some preliminary work on what an application timeline might look like. We are currently identifying producers who’s individual properties would fall under the grant scope, while also producing a methodology that we can use to involve more producers in the scope of the grant after we have applied or been awarded the funds. There are also a number of RCA lands within the district with illegal cannabis grows that would fit under the grant and give us a larger scope of work.

 Finally, I have continued attending the monthly Winegrowers meetings and CARCD district managers meetings. Both of which have given good insight into what we can do with the district. Many local producers are small winegrowers and hearing their concerns and desires is incredibly important as we go forward. The District managers meetings are important as we work to increase our capacity, they have a lot of insight on whatever we might want to do or projects we struggle with. I’ve already heard significant talk on the Prop 4 funding and how it could be used for groups like the California Conservation Corps to help us do conservation in the area.