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Laguna de Santa Rosa; Past, Present and Future

The Laguna is a 254 square mile watershed with over 50 named creeks draining the Santa Rosa plain from Windsor to Forestville. The Laguna is a mosaic of habitats with a high species biodiversity, with endemic and rare species. Management is complicated by a history of altering ecosystem function and diverse land use today, including the majority of Sonoma County's population. This talk will focus on why the health of the Laguna is important and projects that are helping to improve it.

Denise Cadman is the Natural Resource Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa. This position involves managing 1500 acres of irrigated and natural area land in the Laguna de Santa Rosa; planting creek corridors, removing invasive species, conducting studies and performing long-term surveys on plants, birds and mammals. An education program compliments these efforts. Denise grew up in the wilds of Rincon Valley and received her BA, secondary teaching credential and MA from the biology department of Sonoma State University. She teaches at Santa Rosa Junior College as an adjunct faculty member in the Life Science Department in addition to working for the City of Santa Rosa and she and her husband operate a draft horse powered family farm in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Denise attributes her career in natural resource management to a love of bird watching.