

Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) Tackles Ford Meadow Erosion Gully

For more than two decades the DMFC has fought to mitigate a worsening erosion gully tearing through the southern edge of Ford Meadow in Pescadero Canyon. The DMFC's Pescadero Canyon tract is fee-owned property which was acquired to protect the natural and scenic values of the greenbelt between Carmel/Carmel Woods and the Del Monte Forest. The gully is the result of uncontrolled discharge of concentrated stormwater runoff from Camino Del Monte/Pescadero Roads in the Carmel Woods neighborhood. The continued downcutting has led to tree failures, habitat degradation, and sedimentation of adjacent areas downstream from the gully.

In 2015 the DMFC received a \$10,000 grant from the McCaw Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization based in Santa Barbara. Aided by a matching donor, volunteer assistance from the Pebble Beach Company and the Pebble Beach Community Services District, the DMFC decided use the funds to address the erosion damage at Ford Meadow. Perhaps you have observed the large equipment and workers along 17 Mile Drive as you go from Highway 1 Gate toward the Lodge. Engineered check-dams, or grade control structures, were installed at specific locations in the gully in an attempt to curb downcutting and lateral scour. Each of the structures used an entire truck load of specifically selected eucalyptus trees.

Only one-third of each structure is visible as most is buried deep in the ground. These grade control structures will make bioremediation efforts more successful in the years ahead.

- by Cassady Bill Vaughan, DMFC Forester



Before treatment.



After treatment.

- Photos courtesy C. Bill Vaughan



For more about this on-going project, please visit the DMFC website at www.delmonteforestconservancy.org