



YAGER/VAN DUZEN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDS  
Y.E.S.



*A Success  
story of  
People,  
Purpose and  
Principles*





EPA  
Van Duzen  
River

SEDIMENT  
IMPAIRED



★ Protection.....Threat....Opportunity? ★

TRIGGERING EVENT + LEADERSHIP = COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE





**PEOPLE**

**Leadership**

**Engage  
Empower  
Leverage  
Respect**



**Values Community**



**Characteristics:  
Good Communicator  
Share and Build a Vision**



**Promote change**



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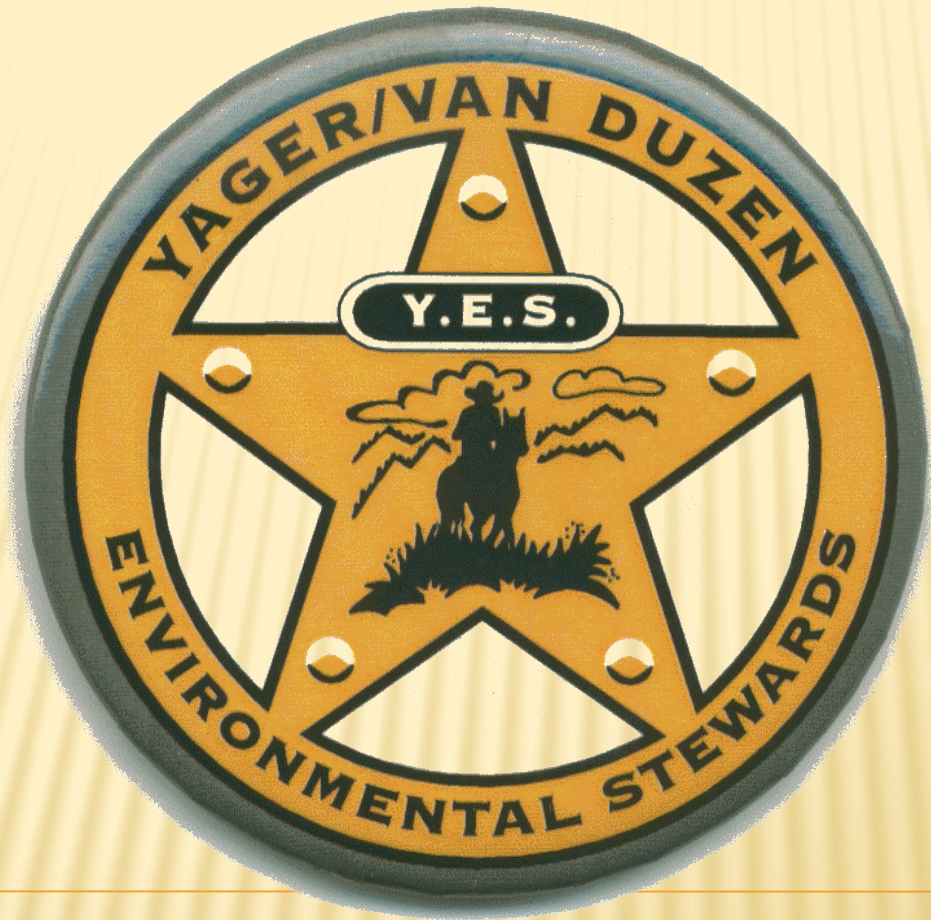
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Ranching Landowner Community  
 80,000 Acres  
 Mid Domain of the Van Duzen River Watershed





**UC EXTENSTION**

**Technical  
Advisors**

**Facilitators**



**Educated landowners AND agencies about rangeland, sediment  
delivery from ranch roads and water quality**



**Manage Group Dynamics and Personal Interests**





EPA

Invited  
Stakeholder  
Participation

Transparent  
&  
Inclusive



*“EPA encourages collaboration between agencies and landowners to conduct watershed assessments and pool resources for implementing conservation measures.”*



U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region IX

Van Duzen River and Yager  
Creek  
Total Maximum Daily Load  
for Sediment  
1999

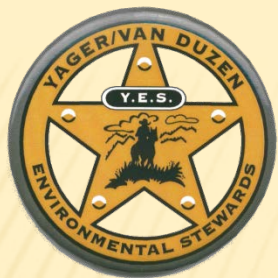
### Community Involvement

*“The success of any watershed planning effort relies heavily on the participation, ideas and energy of the landowners and interested public who live, work and recreate in the watershed.*

*IV*

*The Van Duzen TMDL effort attempted to address local landowners interests and issues by conducting the following activities: 1) landowner interviews regarding historical perspectives (Moore 1999); 2) request for input regarding local perspectives toward watershed conditions; 3) public outreach meetings, including field trips; and 4) distribution of a newsletter. EPA was assisted in these outreach efforts by key individuals from the Humboldt Resource Conservation District, Yager Environmental Stewards, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Eel River Watershed Improvement Group.”*





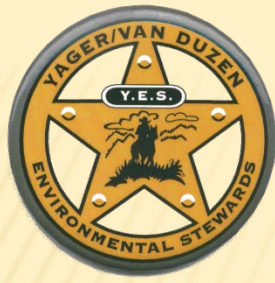
**EPA Conducted  
Sediment  
Source Survey  
on Private  
Lands**



**Landowners  
Voluntarily  
Participated**





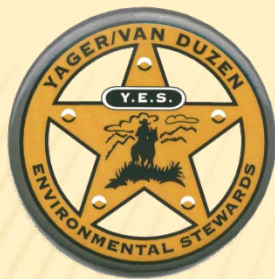


**CREATED  
SYNERGY**

**Create a Group Vision  
Develop Goals  
Objectives  
Action Plans**





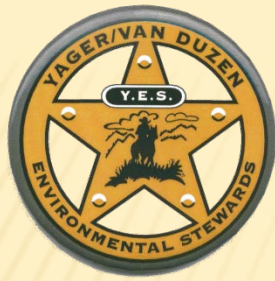


## MISSION OF Y.E.S.



To Ensure the Environmental Integrity of our Watershed, while  
Maintaining our Heritage and the Economic Sustainability of our  
Endeavors





## LANDOWNER INITIATED ASSESSMENT

420 miles of ranch  
roads

Identified over  
1,000 sites of  
road-related  
sediment sources



### Summary Report

**2001 S.B. 271 Watershed Assessment and  
Erosion Prevention Planning Project for the  
Middle Van Duzen River,  
Humboldt County, California**

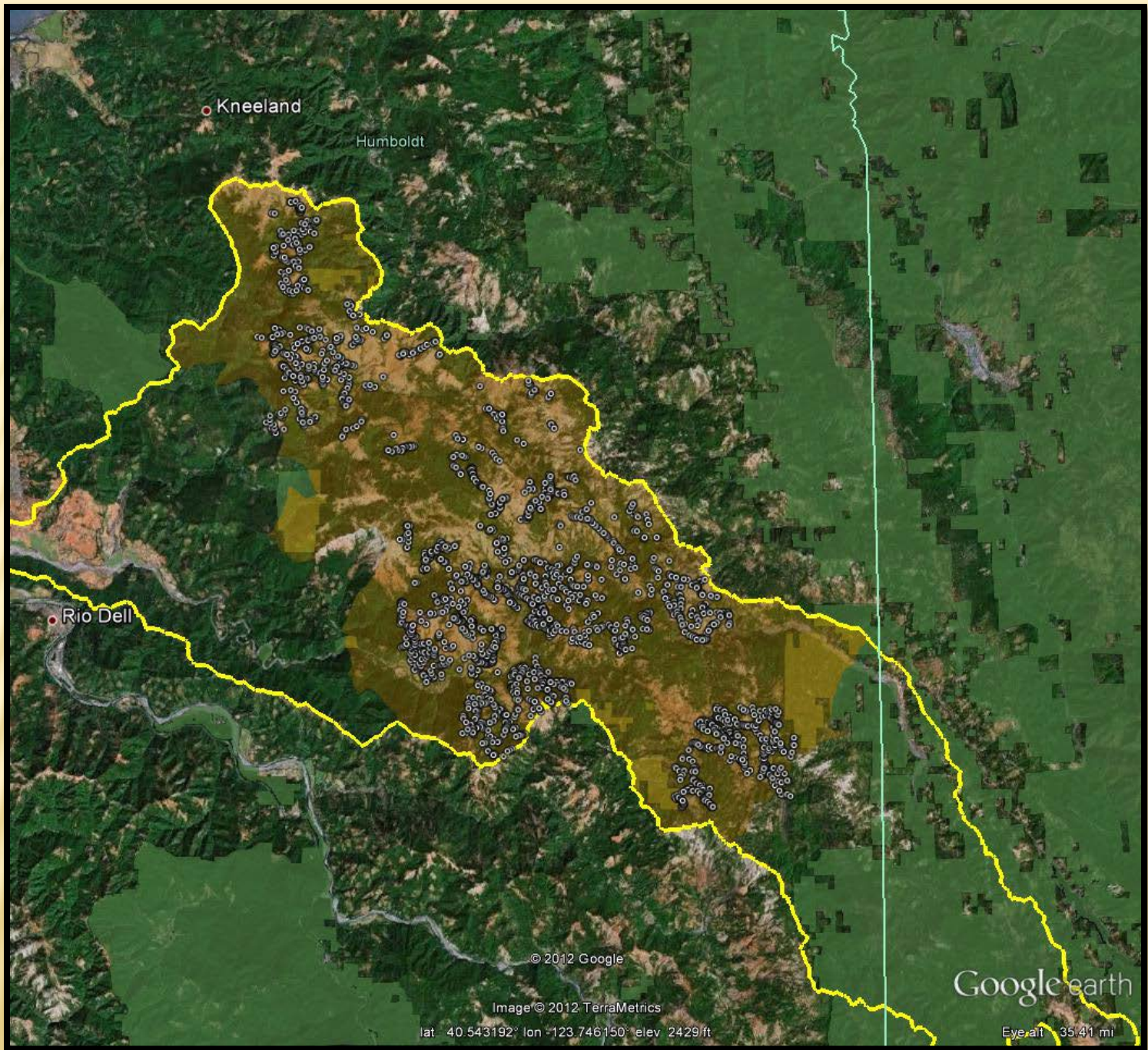
*prepared for*

**Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards  
and  
California Department of Fish and Game**

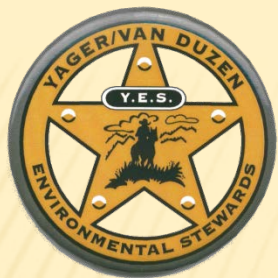
*by*

**Pacific Watershed Associates  
Arcata, California  
(707) 839-5130  
April, 2003**









**BUILT  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**COLLABORATIVE  
RESTORATION**

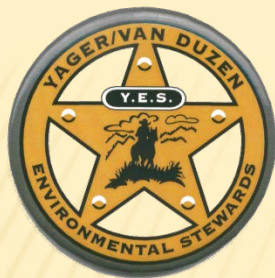


**Provided Coordination**

**Funding & Oversight**

**Mutually beneficial goals**





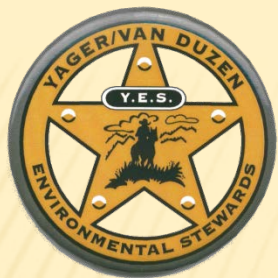
## VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE BASED COLLABORATIONS



Led to Proactive  
Actions

Instead of Reactive  
Responses





**EXPANDED  
NETWORKS**

**=**

**BUILDING  
BRIDGES**



**Balancing Competing Needs**

**Many models, groups and approaches**

**Uncover Shared Values**

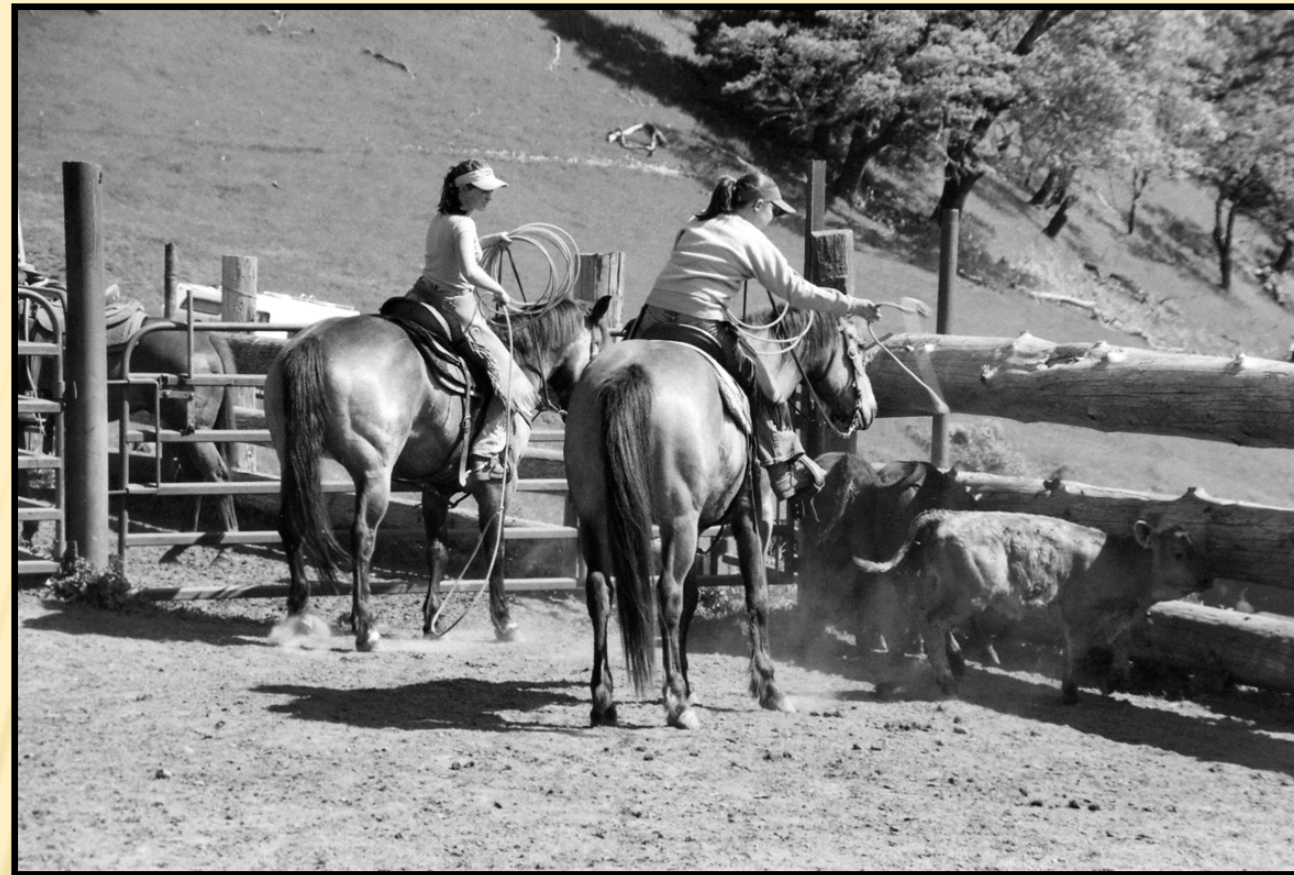




**KEY PRINCIPLE**  
**TRUST**

Building  
Relationships

**TAKES TIME!!!!**



**Transform Adversaries to Partners**

**Platform for Sustainable Collaborative Actions**

**Buy in by Agencies/Decision Makers, Landowners, Stakeholders**





**HARD  
WORK**

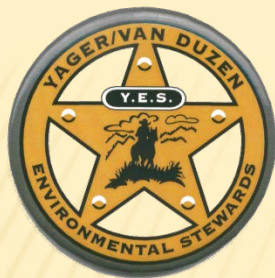
**Number  
of  
Obstacles**



**Natural ebb and flow of group dynamics  
Being Inclusive is messy**

**TIME ★ TRUST ★ TIME ★ TRUST**





## CHALLENGES INCLUDE

No clearly defined vision

Personalities, Emotions &  
Egos

Capacity Funding

Narrowly held Perspectives

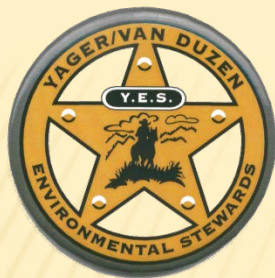
Changing People

Time Commitment

Little Action = Loss of Synergy







## KEY PRINCIPLE RELATIONSHIPS based on TRUST



**Be Inclusive Encourage Diversity**

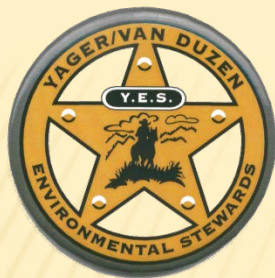
**Be responsible for Breaking down barriers**

**Push Envelope of barriers about working with others**

**Apply the 80/20 Rule**

**Avoid either end of the spectrum**





## LESSONS LEARNED



**Contribute – Share your own Goals and Objectives**  
**Power of the group is stronger than that of an individual**

**Build on small success**



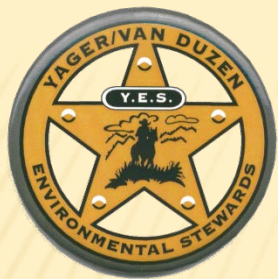
**Recharge at the end of a project**

**Take calculated risks**



**Builds Constituency Base for Making Change**





**Environmental and Social issues can  
Polarize making it impossible to achieve a  
Sustainable Vision**





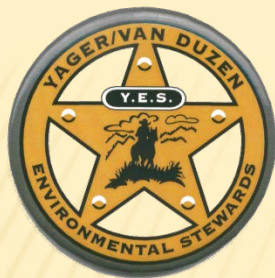
**Must Be Widespread  
recognition**

**that People and  
Nature can Coexist**

**in a Watershed**

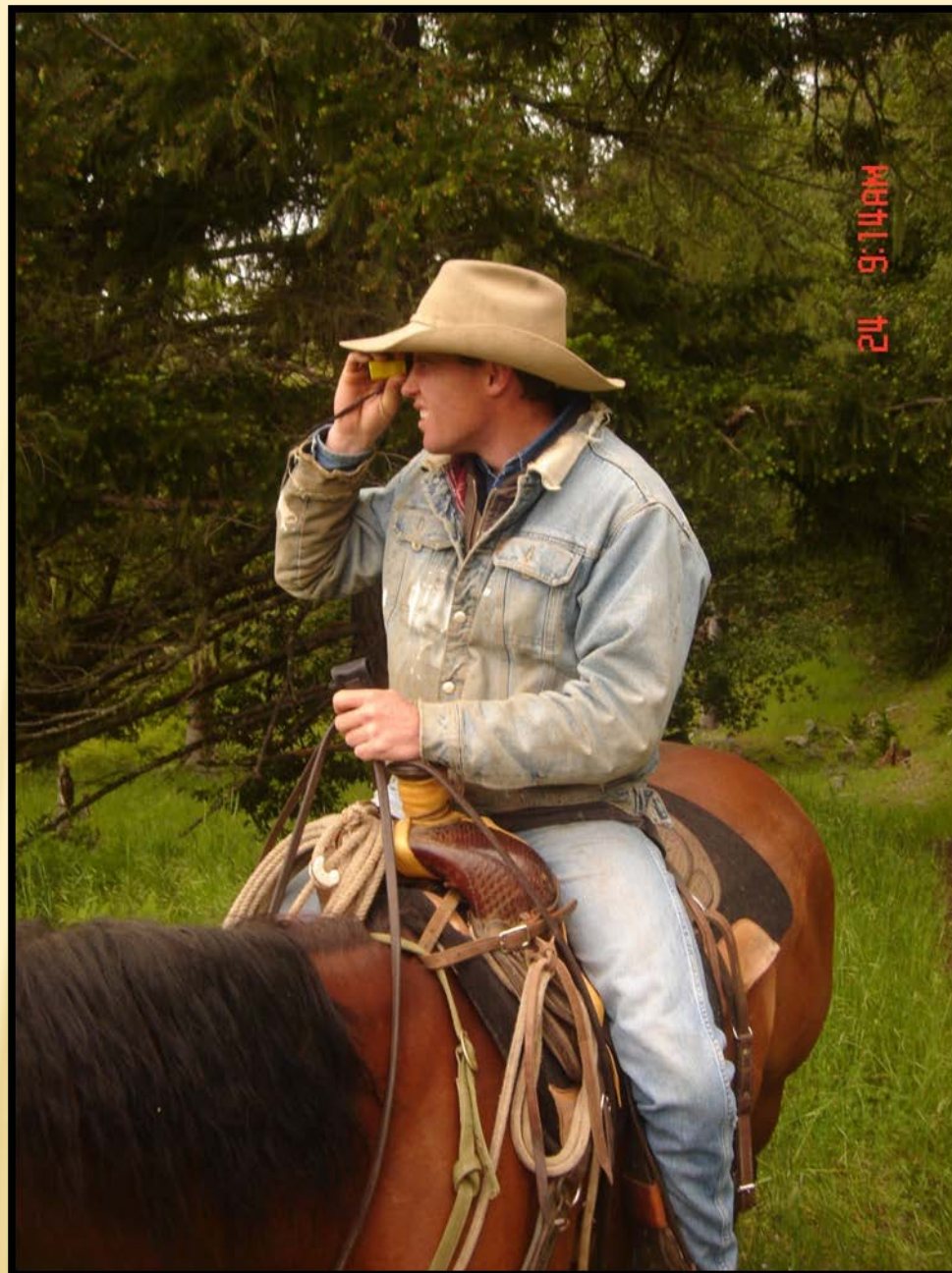




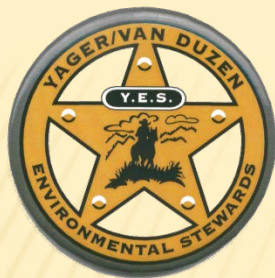


**AS WE  
LOOK  
FORWARD**

**Expanded networks  
Will help us to sustain  
Our rural communities  
Lifestyle and Challenges  
Our Resources and  
Watersheds**







## Wrapping Up



**Reach out and cross boundaries**

**Seek opportunities to learn from and share with others**

**Getting on the ground together**

**Participatory process that is transparent and robust**