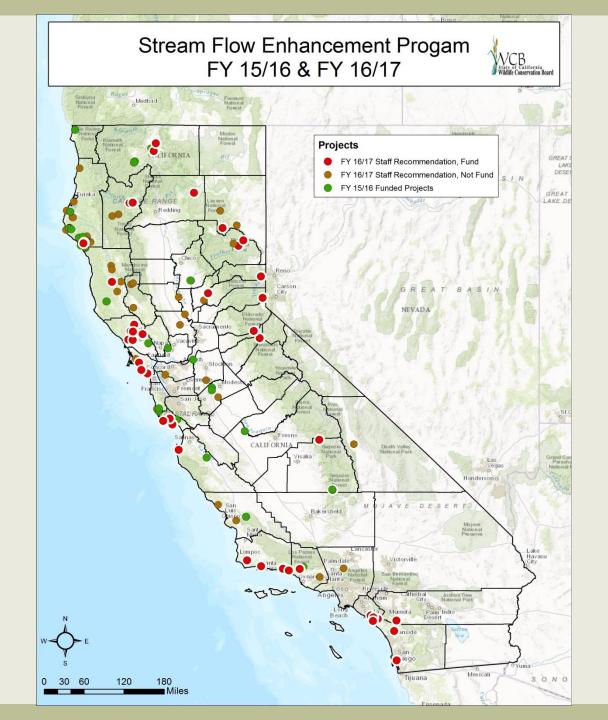
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD STREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FY 2016/17

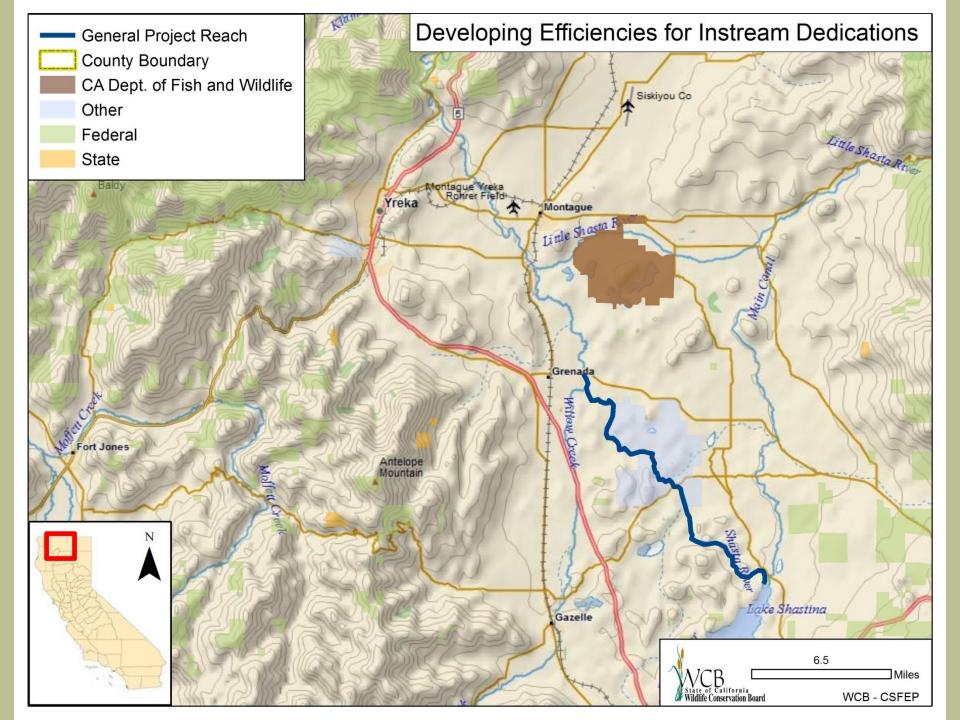


FUND ALLOCATION SUMMARY FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, CALIFORNIA STREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FY 2016/17

	WCB Prop 1 Funds Available for FY 2016/17	Number of Projects Received	Requested Funds	Number of Projects Recommended for Funding	Funds to be Allocated for Recommended Projects
Planning	\$5,000,000.00	38	\$13,117,251.37	13	\$5,000,000.00
Implementation	\$33,400,000.00	24	\$32,983,187.38	10	\$10,371,736.00
Acquisition		4	\$12,015,466.00	1	\$4,520,000.00
FY 15/16 Remaining Funds	18,243,722.00				
Totals	\$56,643,722.00	66	\$58,115,904.75	24	\$19,891,736.00









DEVELOPING EFFICIENCIES FOR INSTREAM DEDICATIONS



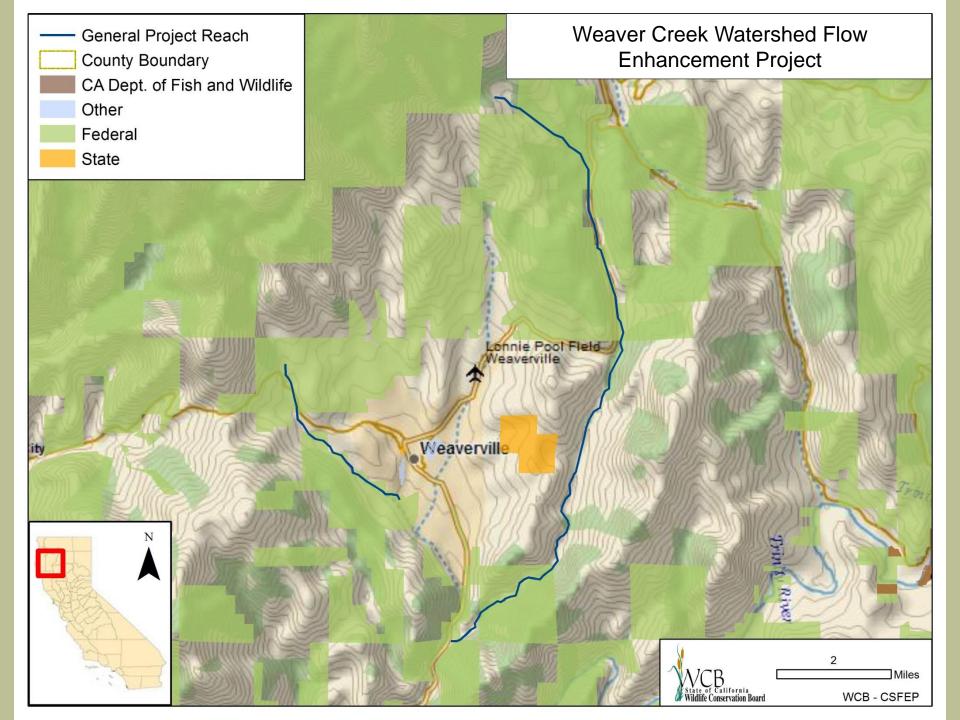
- Water rights that do not legally have fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement listed as a beneficial use cannot be left instream without risk of diversion by other water users
- The petition to change the allowable use of a water right to instream uses is known as a California Water Code (CWC) § 1707 transfer and process can be complex and extensive, including a consumptive use analysis.



DEVELOPING EFFICIENCIES FOR INSTREAM DEDICATIONS



- Conduct a pilot program that will batch petitions for change under CWC § 1707 on the upper Shasta River
 - Develop a concise guide to water rights and compliance
- For some types of 1707 changes, the amount of water that can be dedicated to instream flow is limited to the amount of water that would have been *consumptively used*
 - Project will develop recommendations for conducting consumptive use analyses to support future instream flow transactions in California





WEAVER CREEK WATERSHED FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



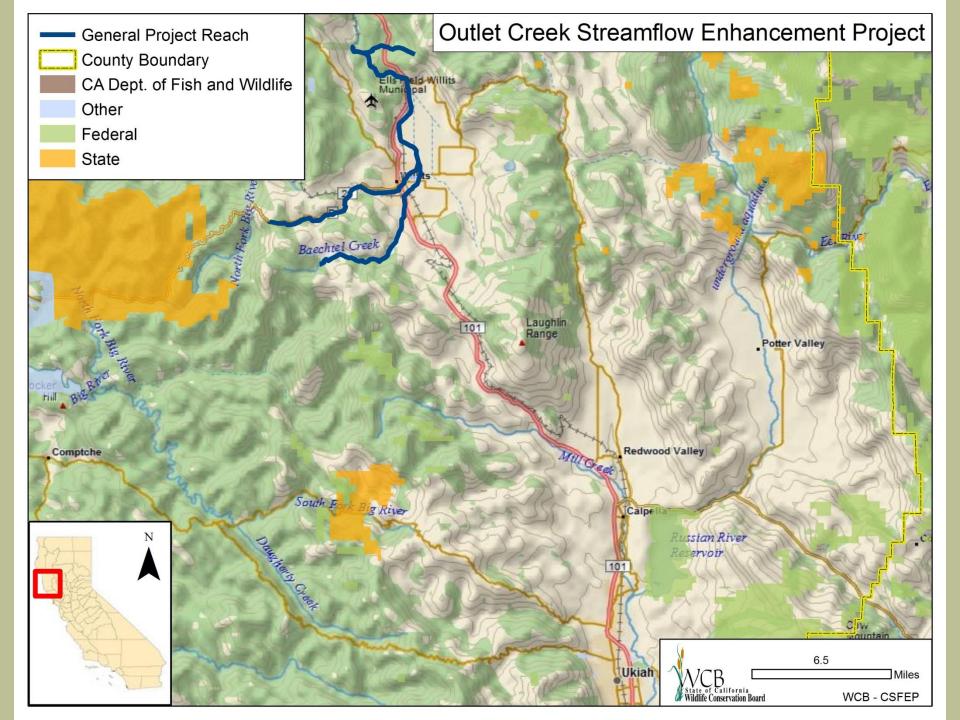
- Historic hydraulic mining from the gold rush era, through the early part of the last century, reshaped the landscape and dredged all the major streams
- Fire exclusion over the last 35 years, combined with the recent drought, has generated dangerous fuel loads



WEAVER CREEK WATERSHED FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



- Provide the foundation for future implementation projects that will support threatened anadromous fish by improving habitat and enhancing stream flow in the Weaver Creek Watershed through:
 - weed removal
 - fuel reduction
 - water conservation
 - channel rehabilitation





OUTLET CREEK STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Challenge:

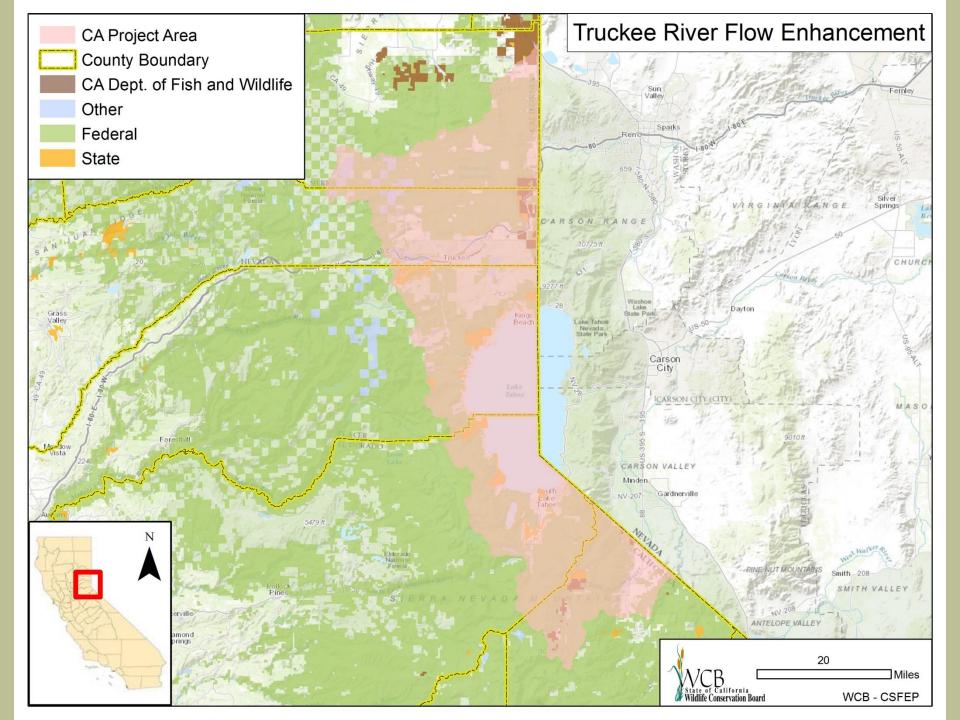
Low dry season streamflow has been identified as a major limiting factor for coho in tributaries to Outlet Creek, and the NMFS coho Recovery Plan calls for the development and implementation of a forbearance program to reduce summer diversion as a high priority recovery action



OUTLET CREEK STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



- Establish the first on-the-ground water storage program to reduce summer diversions in tributaries of Outlet Creek
- Objectives include:
 - collecting streamflow data
 - quantifying existing human water use
 - identifying alternative sources of water
 - identifying the most promising project types and locations for increasing stream flows
 - Iandowner outreach





TRUCKEE RIVER FLOW ENHANCEMENT



Challenge:

- Truckee River Operations Agreement
 - DWR is the Scheduling Party for the State of California
 - DWR integrates data from a wide variety of stakeholders but relies on CDFW for biological data

Outdated data:

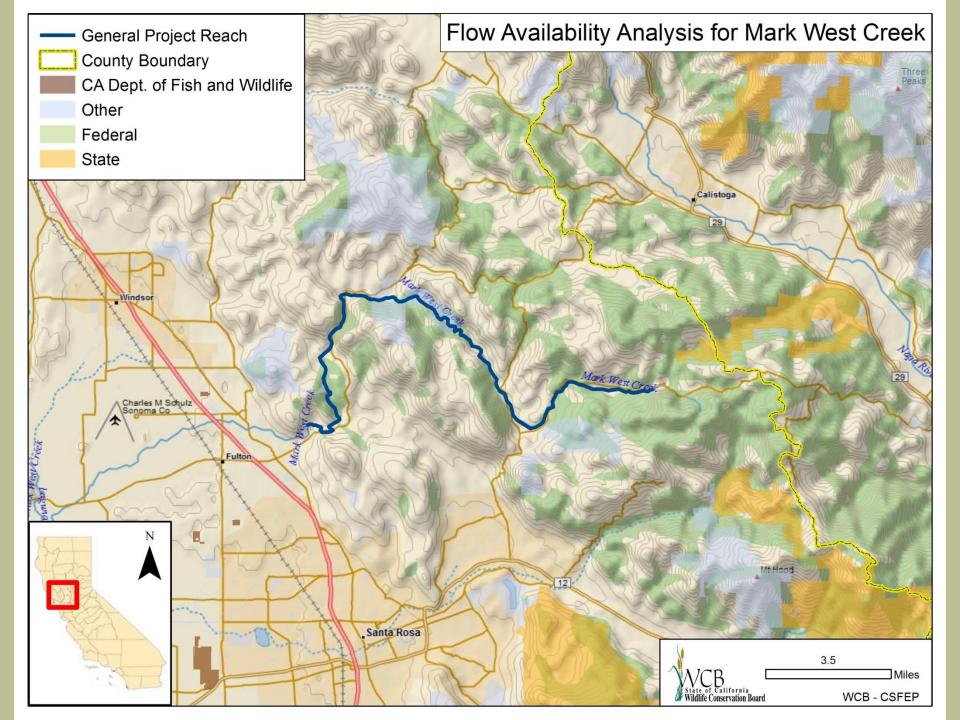
 flow-habitat relationship data and flow recommendations are based on data from a 1996 study completed by CDFW - now over 20 years old.



TRUCKEE RIVER FLOW ENHANCEMENT



- Update flow recommendations in the TROA California Guidelines
 - Habitat Suitability Determination (field habitat typing)
 - Inundation mapping
 - Incorporation of flow targets into CA. Guidelines
 - Ramping rates establishment
 - Hydraulic studies for flushing flows and weed management
 - Due diligence to facilitate water rights acquisition
 - Identification of existing water rights and willing sellers
 - Local stakeholder coordination (TRWC will participate in monthly planning meetings between DWR, DFW, and the TRBWG chair to set agendas, identify speakers, and outline future agenda items)
 - Technical meeting participation





FLOW AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS FOR MARK WEST CREEK



Challenge:

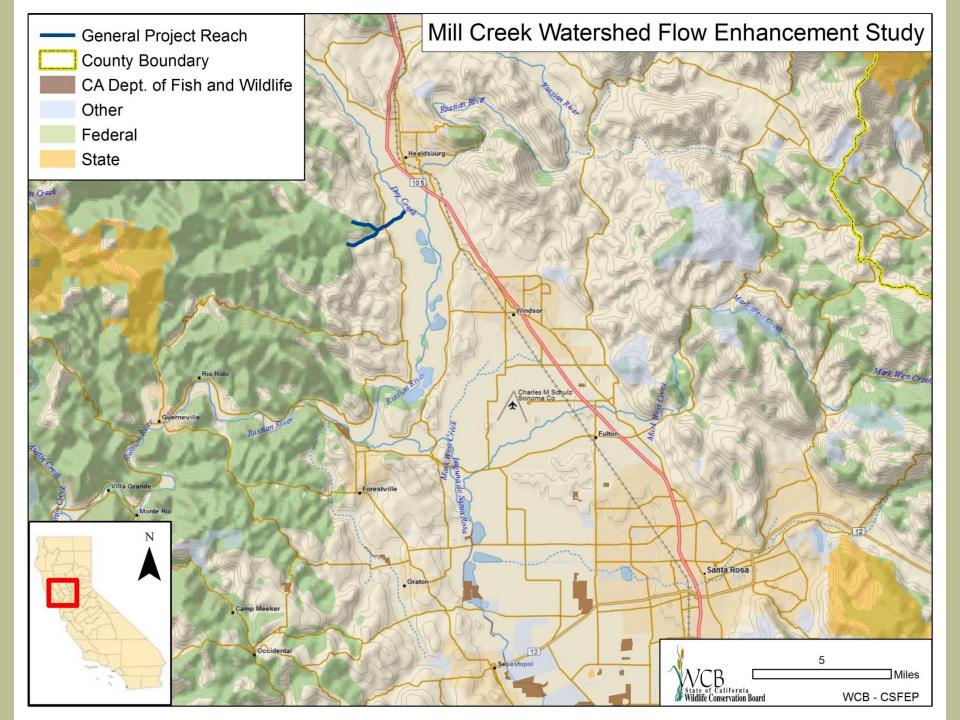
 Currently, insufficient summer streamflows, low dissolved oxygen levels, and disconnected pools are the limiting factors impacting Mark West Creek



FLOW AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS FOR MARK WEST CREEK



- Generate restoration prioritization maps which identify where flow enhancement projects would provide the greatest coho benefits.
 - integrated hydrologic model The model will provide the basis for describing spatial and temporal variations in hydrologic conditions throughout the watershed.





MILL CREEK WATERSHED FLOW ENHANCEMENT STUDY



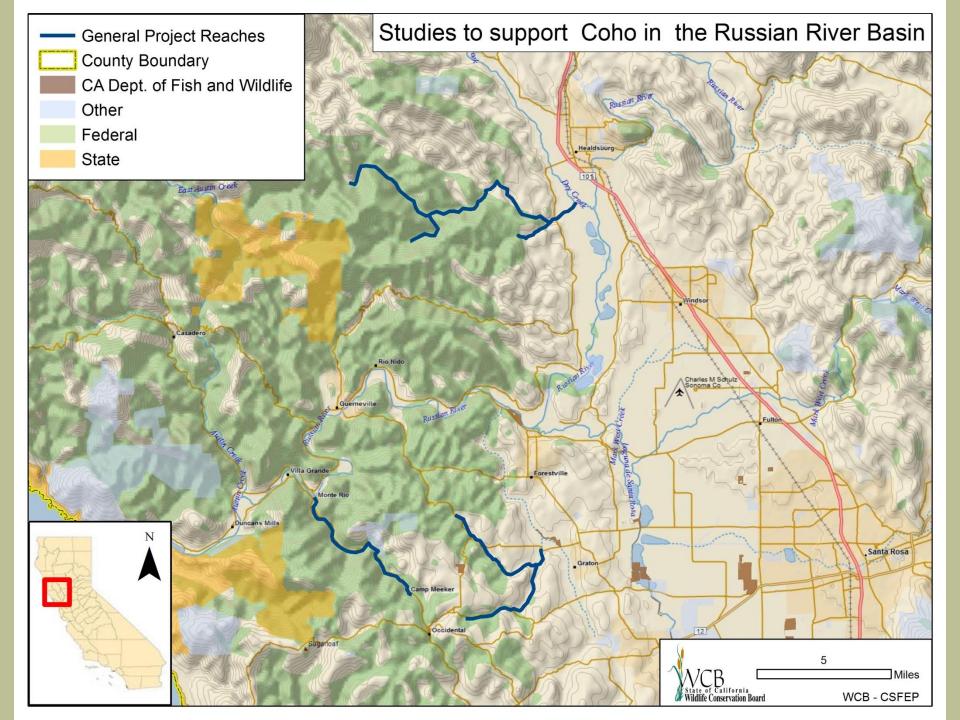
- NMFS has identified Mill Creek as a Core Area for Coho protection and restoration
- Insufficient summer streamflow, low dissolved oxygen levels, and disconnected pools are considered limiting factors in the Mill Creek Watershed



MILL CREEK WATERSHED FLOW ENHANCEMENT STUDY



- Generate restoration prioritization maps that identify reaches that are likely to provide the greatest habitat value and where flow enhancement projects would be most beneficial.
 - integrated hydrologic model The model will provide the basis for describing spatial and temporal variations in hydrologic conditions throughout the watershed.





STUDIES TO SUPPORT COHO IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER BASIN



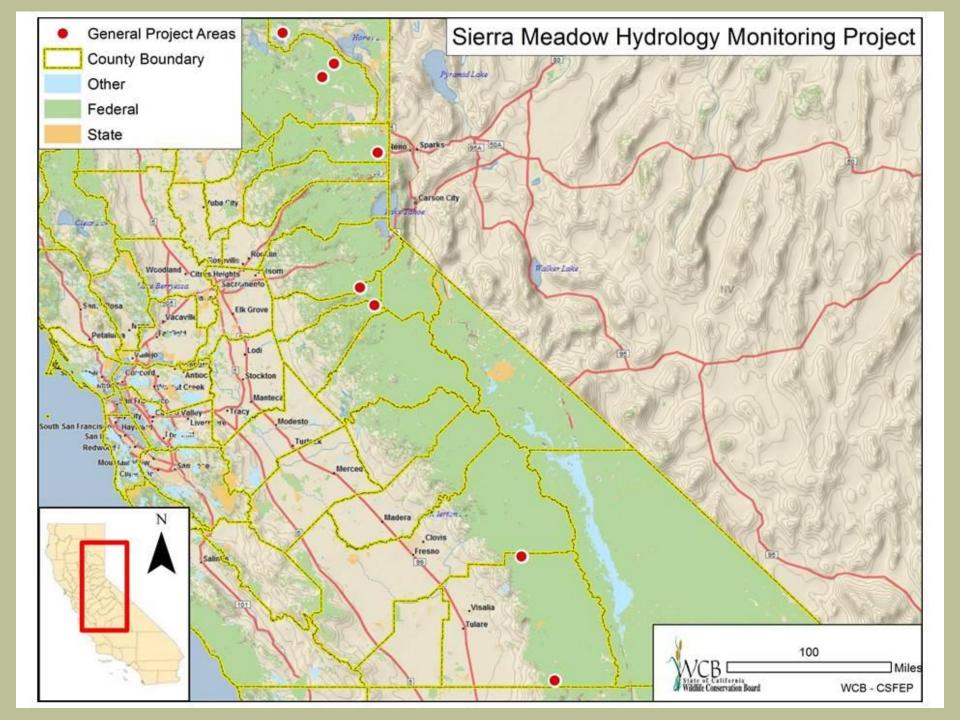
- Streams in project reach have been identified by CDFW and NOAA Fisheries as flow-impaired streams
 - CDFW has rescued thousands of juvenile salmonids from drying pools throughout the Russian River watershed during drought years - relocating them to reaches with suitable flow.
- Need for rigorous monitoring and scientific analysis to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of flow enhancement projects.



STUDIES TO SUPPORT COHO



- Develop predictive models relating stream flow, environmental metrics, and juvenile coho salmon survival in small coastal California streams.
- Document and model wetted habitat conditions in Dutch Bill, Green Valley, and Mill creeks in relation to stream flow and fish distribution, and build a predictive model for surface water recession.





SIERRA MEADOW HYDROLOGY MONITORING PROJECT



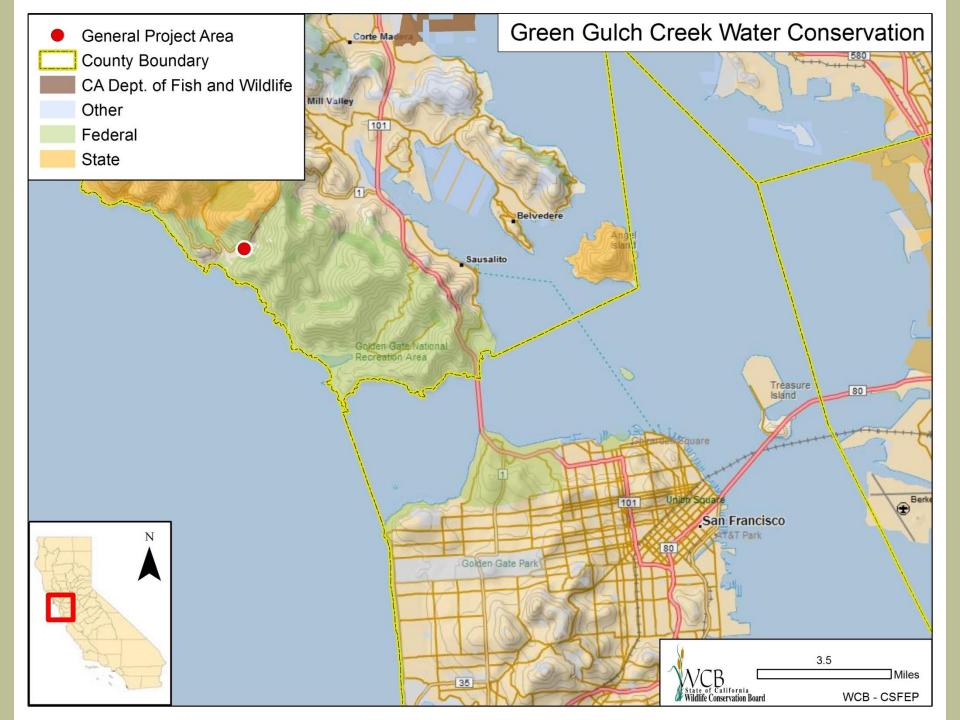
- Quantifying improvement in hydrologic function from restoration of degraded meadows, onsite and downstream, has been difficult.
- Numerous studies on individual restored meadows in short time frames (2-5 years) have shown a wide range of outcomes.
 - Estimates of potential water retention and release from restored meadows in the Sierra Nevada vary by an order of magnitude, approximately 50,000 to 500,000 acre-feet annually.



SIERRA MEADOW HYDROLOGY MONITORING PROJECT



- Collect baseline pre-restoration and post-restoration hydrologic data on a suite of meadow restoration projects representing a range of watershed characteristics.
 - All the meadow systems will be restored in the next 2-3 years, or have already been restored.
- Assess the effectiveness of, and demonstrate the link between meadow hydrologic conditions and enhanced stream flows emanating from restoration of degraded meadows.





GREEN GULCH CREEK WATER CONSERVATION



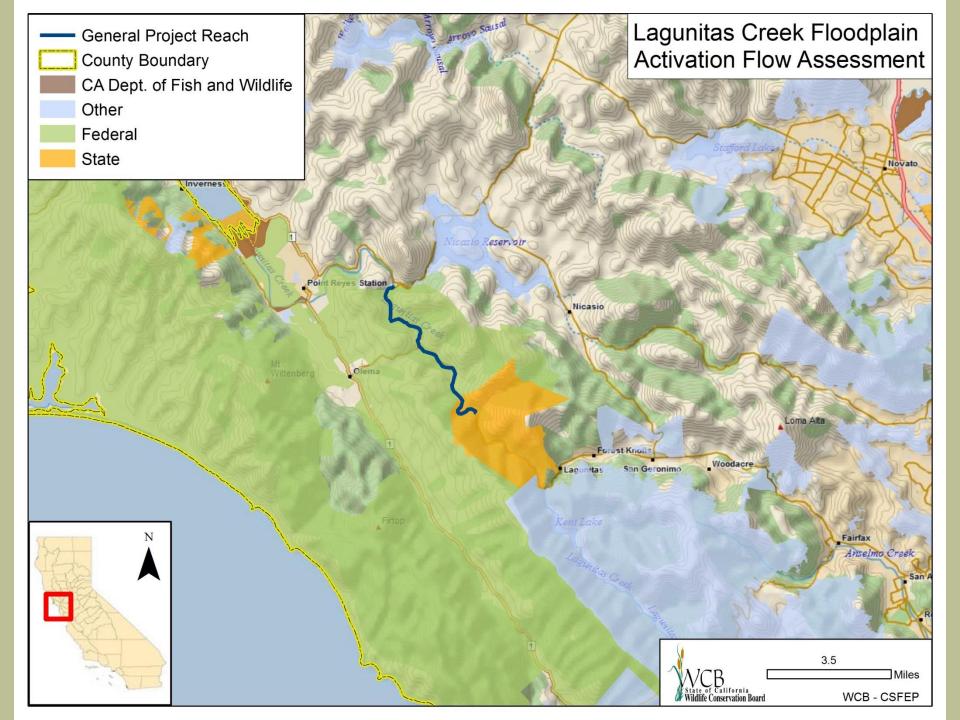
- The salmonid populations have been negatively impacted by the drought, with typically viable summer rearing locations drying up or becoming uninhabitable due to temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions.
- Green Gulch Farm uses stored water (on- and off-channel ponds) and riparian diversions to irrigate their organic vegetable fields and gardens. These fields and diversions are located just upstream of recently restored reach and likely reduce streamflows during the spring and summer.



GREEN GULCH CREEK WATER CONSERVATION



- Compile and analyze the water use data and map the Farm's current water management system to improve efficiency.
- Identify a method for achieving flow enhancement through modifications to the operation of an instream pond and a shallow near-channel well benefiting late spring and summer flow rates in Green Gulch Creek during average and dry years.



#12 LAGUNITAS CREEK FLOODPLAIN ACTIVATION FLOW ASSESSMENT

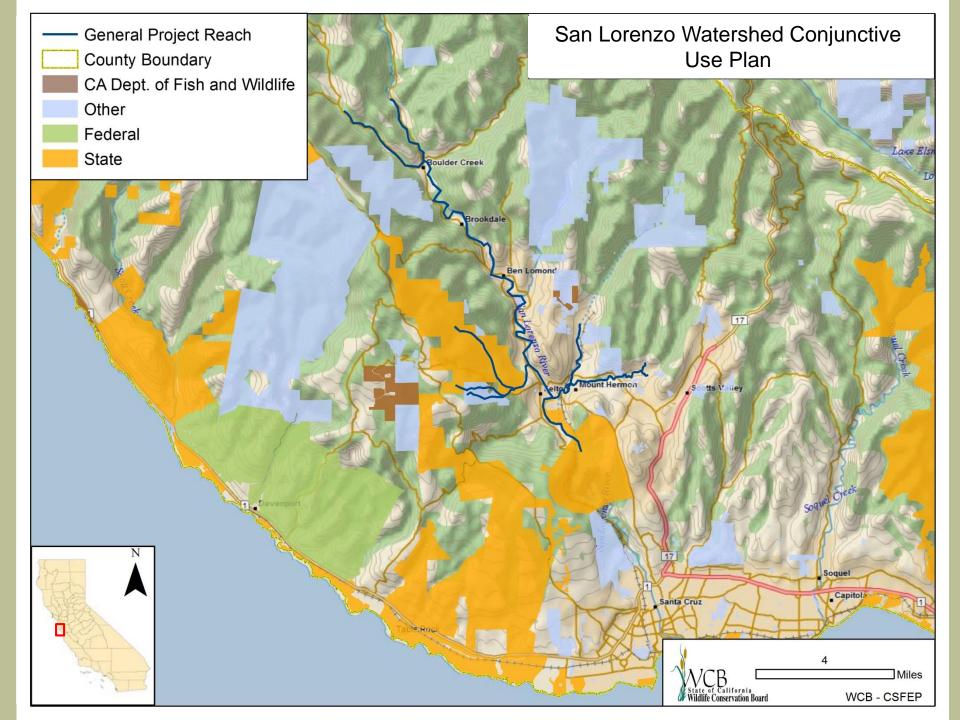


- Current water releases from Peters Dam were set under Water Board Order: WR 95-17 and are now 21 years old.
- The water releases do not account for the new knowledge acquired on habitat needs, limiting factors analysis, and instream flow requirements for salmonids.

#12 LAGUNITAS CREEK FLOODPLAIN ACTIVATION FLOW ASSESSMENT



- Identify stream reaches of lower Lagunitas Creek that can benefit from restoration to facilitate floodplain enhancement and connection under the determined flow changes.
- Flow assessment will identify the magnitude, frequency, duration, timing, rate of change, and intensity of stream discharges needed for a long-term flood event that produces characteristic ecological benefits for salmonids.
- Following the identification of the floodplain activation flow, if changes to water rights are needed to improve flows, then filing a petition pursuant to Water Code Section 1707 will be planned.





SAN LORENZO WATERSHED CONJUNCTIVE USE PLAN



Challenge:

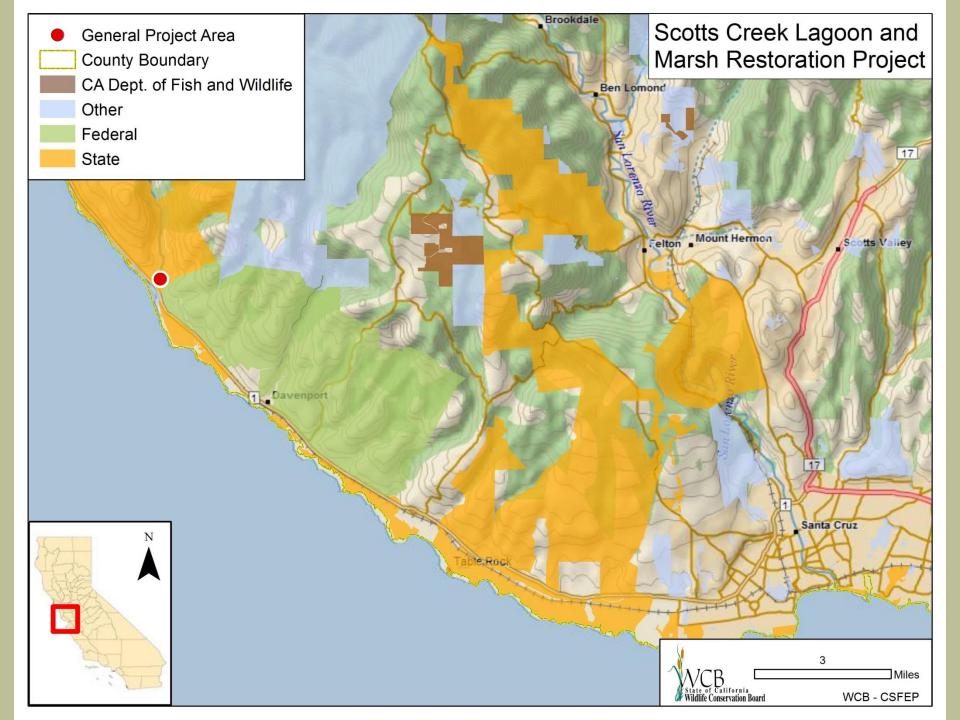
 Currently, the summer baseflow is considered poor for juvenile steelhead rearing as a result of the number and magnitude of water diversions. Water diversions and impoundments are also considered a very high threat to the population.



SAN LORENZO WATERSHED CONJUNCTIVE USE PLAN



- San Lorenzo Watershed Conjunctive Use Plan (Plan) will identify ways to enhance dry season stream flows through increased water resource management efficiencies.
 - The Plan will be based on system modelling, operational procedures and environmental analysis necessary to select the optimal management alternatives accompanied by CEQA review and water rights filings, as well as a list of recommended infrastructure upgrades.
- Allowing the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin to rest and recharge, conjunctive use will contribute to increased basin storage, recovery, and sustainability.
 - Utilizing more groundwater during the dry season, less surface water will be diverted from streams.





SCOTTS CREEK LAGOON AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT



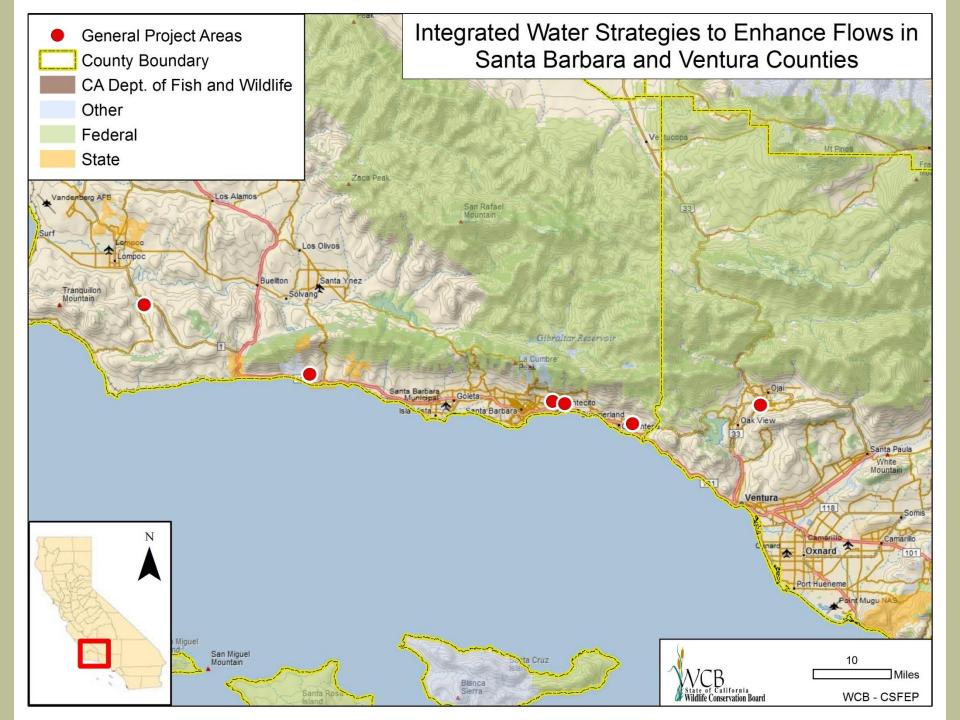
- Three major limiting factors have been identified for the Scotts Creek estuary and they are all linked to the current infrastructure associated with the Highway 1 crossing. These factors are:
 - Lack of hydrologic connectivity between the channel and the marshplain,
 - Lack of complexity in the main channel
 - Changes to the natural timing and duration of lagoon breaching.



SCOTTS CREEK LAGOON AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT



- Develop:
 - Quantitative tools to support scientific and consensus based decision-making
 - Restoration designs that restore ecological integrity and connectivity
 - Design of new Highway 1 transportation infrastructure that maximizes the resilience and ecological capacity of the system and anticipates impacts of climate change.





INTEGRATED WATER STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE FLOWS IN SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COUNTIES



Challenge:

 Modification of natural flow regimes has resulted in depleted flows necessary for migration, spawning and rearing, increased water temperatures, changes in fish community structures, flushing of sediments from spawning gravels, and reduced gravel recruitment. Across both counties, adequate stream flow is a significant barrier to the recovery of steelhead.

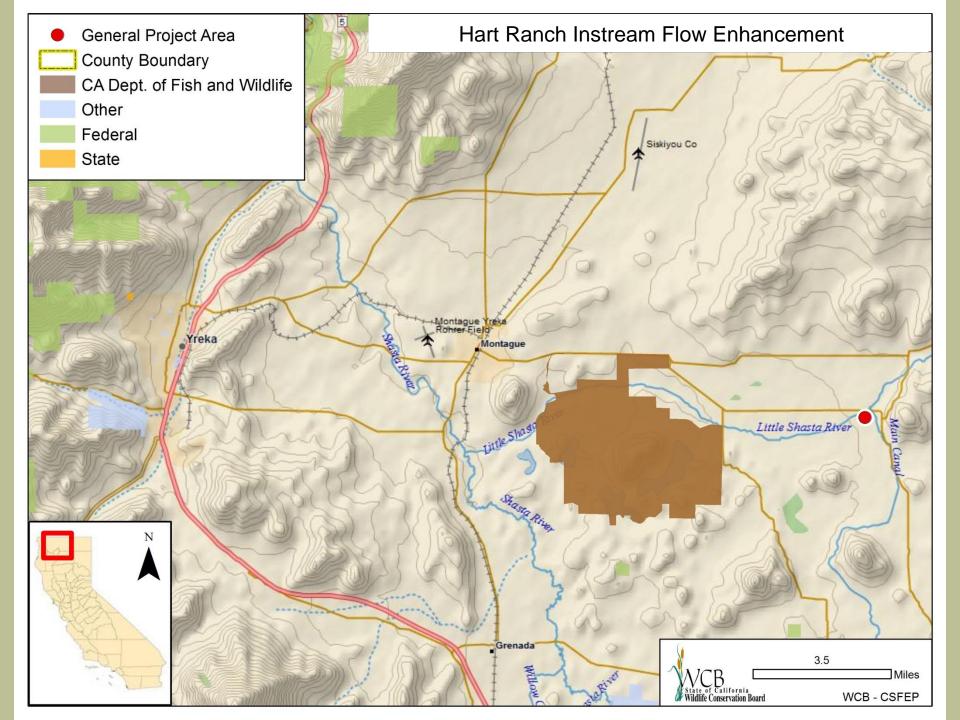


INTEGRATED WATER STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE FLOWS IN SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA COUNTIES



Objective(s):

 Geographically identify and prioritize opportunities for water conservation and reduced consumptive use that promotes the highest potential for instream flow contributions in five different watersheds in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.



#16 HART RANCH INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT

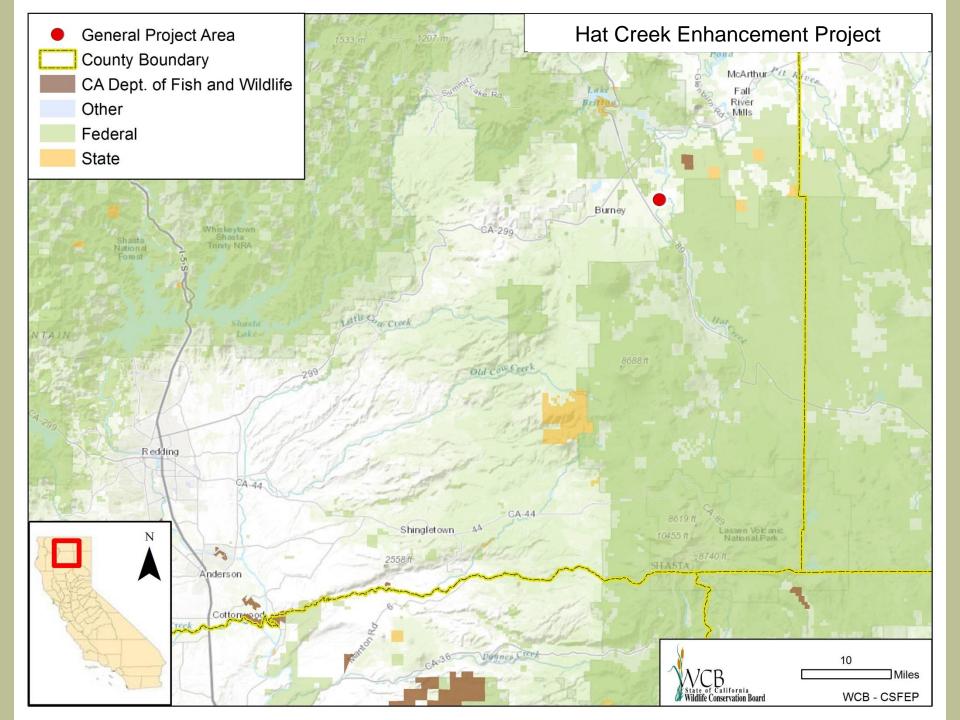


- The observed decline of coho in the Shasta River coincided with the development of both surface and groundwater sources in support of irrigated agricultural activities throughout the Shasta Basin including the Little Shasta River.
- Water development led to reductions in the quantity and quality of cold-water habitat for rearing coho salmon. Historic adjudication of water rights did not consider the water needs of native fish species.

#16 HART RANCH INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT



- Provide 1.5 cfs to the stream at targeted times of the year.
- Foundation for future enhancements through improved water management flexibility at Hart Ranch
 - Collaborate with the Montague Water Conservation District (MWCD) to explore options for lining the MWCD Canal that currently crosses the Hart Property.
- Removal of the Hart's flashboard dam and re-profiling of the stream channel below the diversion structure will provide access to seven additional kilometers of ideal, cold-water juvenile rearing salmonid habitat.







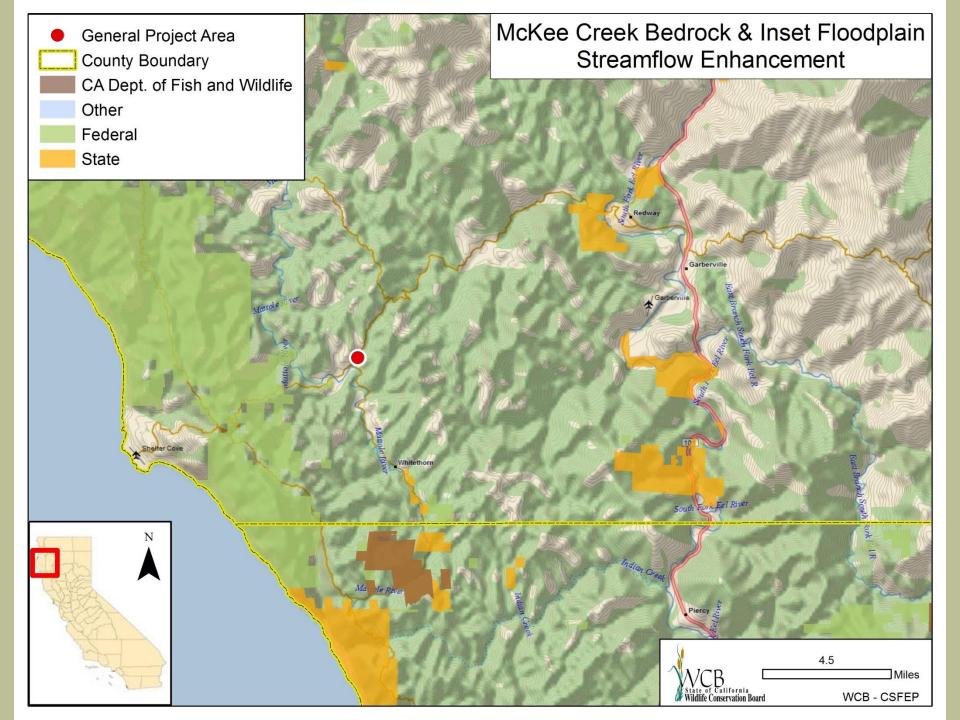
- Hat Creek was channelized in the 1950s, resulting in severely diminished hydrological and ecological function.
- Inspection of Hat Creek in the 4000' project reach confirms poor habitat value due to its ditch-like morphology
- Project reach is prone to late season low flows.



HAT CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



- Utilize the "Pond and Plug" technique
- Reshape the hydrograph within project reach to enhance lateseason stream flows, and enhance water quality and other habitat benefits for trout and native birds



#18

MCKEE CREEK BEDROCK & INSET FLOODPLAIN STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT



Challenge:

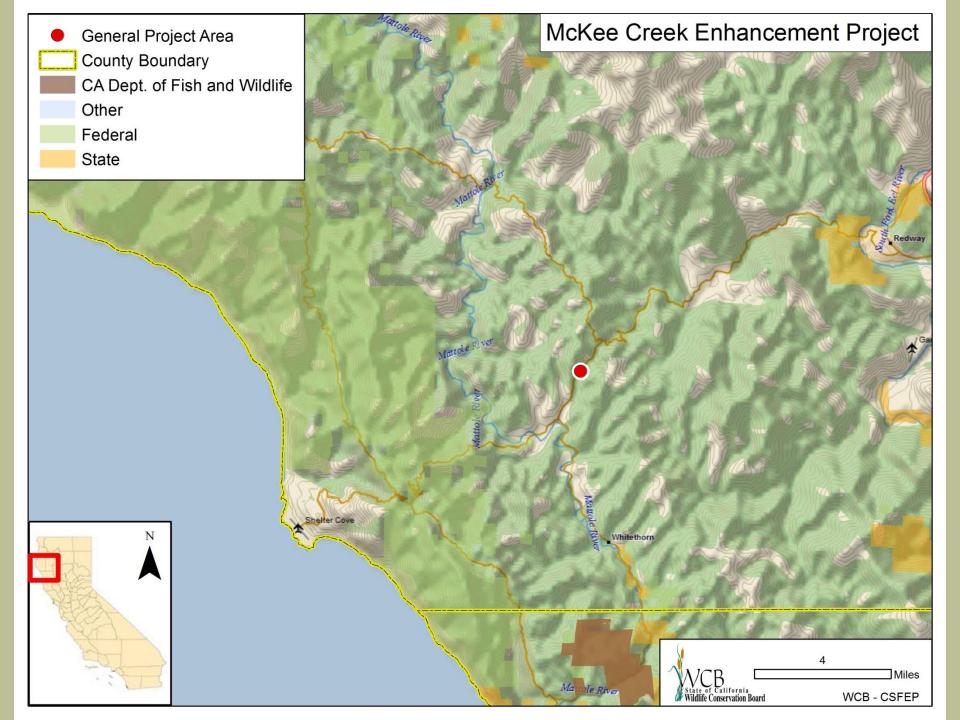
 Historic land management practices have led to disconnected floodplains, lowering of the water table, reduced groundwater storage, reduced magnitude and duration of baseflows, and reduced quality and extent of riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat.

#18

MCKEE CREEK BEDROCK & INSET FLOODPLAIN STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT



- Raise the streambed through a series of 18 instream structures planned at 13 sites in the reach including 8 pool habitat and scour structures, 4 log weir structures, 3 boulder weir structures and 3 unanchored structures.
 - These structures will mimic the natural accumulation of large wood jams and will be strategically placed to cause the inundation and connection of the floodplain.
 - Groundwater recharge, storage, and corresponding instream flow, as well as create much needed winter and summer rearing habitat for anadromous salmonids will be enhanced.



#19 MCKEE CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Challenge:

 Historic land management practices have lead to disconnected floodplains, lowering of the water table, reduced groundwater storage, reduced magnitude and duration of baseflows, and reduced quality and extent of riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat.

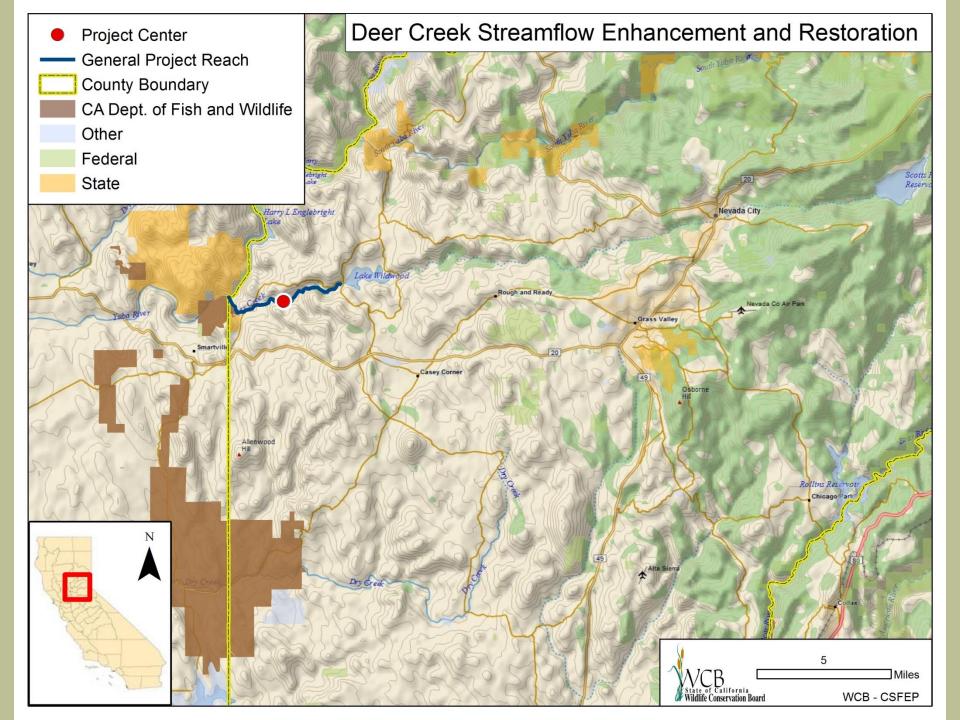
MCKEE CREEK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Objective(s):

#19

- Raise the streambed through a series of log and boulder step pools in the main stem of McKee Creek and by utilizing check dam techniques in an intermittent tributary to McKee Creek, above the point where fish can migrate
 - Check dams will elevate the bed elevation by trapping sediment which, will create pools, increasing groundwater recharge in the channel bed alluvium and in the toe of the hillslopes in a steep intermittent tributary.
 - Step pools will mimic the natural accumulation of large wood jams and will be strategically placed to cause the inundation of the inset floodplain





DEER CREEK STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION



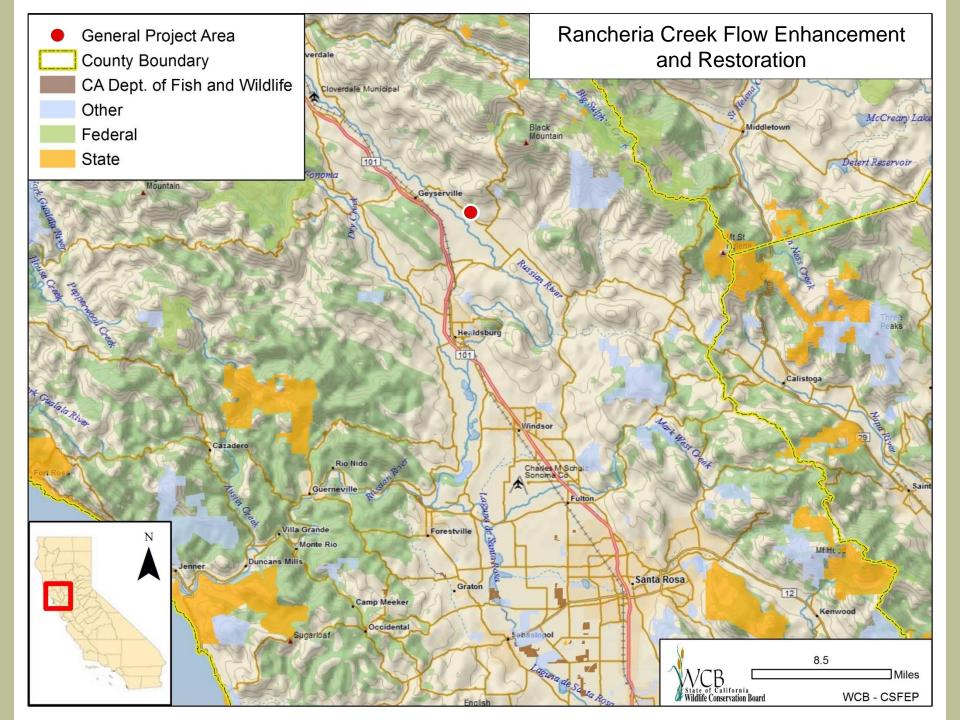
- The primary limiting factors in lower Deer Creek include poor water quality and quantity, and gravel recruitment.
- The presence of Lake Wildwood dam alters flow and natural sediment supply downstream rendering gravels immobile and unsuitable for spawning.



DEER CREEK STREAMFLOW ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION



- Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), in collaboration with Lake Wildwood Association (LWA), will use low flow release structures on the dam to implement the appropriate hydrograph depending on water management and drought conditions.
- SSI will collaborate with LWA to use drawdown releases to enhance flows in Deer Creek, acting like a fall storm event to trigger fish migration or provide enhanced flows for fish
- The dredging of the lake has afforded a unique opportunity to release suitable spawning gravels from Upper Deer Creek downstream of the dam





RANCHERIA CREEK FLOW ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION



Challenge:

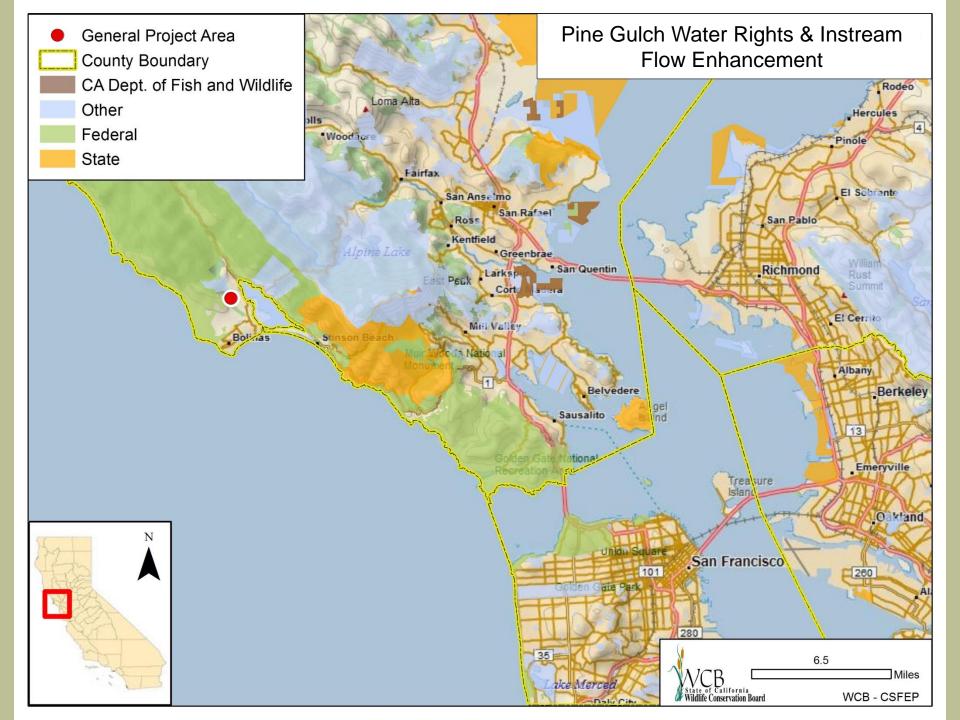
Limiting factors negatively impacting steelhead and salmon in the project area include limited instream flows, impaired passage, high sediment load, contaminated runoff from roadways and agriculture; high stream temperature; and lack of complex habitat, cover, and high flow refugia.



RANCHERIA CREEK FLOW ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION



- The ecological benefits of the project related to improved instream water quality and quantity will be realized via:
 - floodplain reconnection to reduce sediment from bed and bank incision
 - strategic releases of treated wastewater and storm-water to increase instream flows during critical dry periods;
 - riparian vegetation planting along the vineyard reach to provide shade and reduce stream temperature and reduce pollutants by filtering agricultural runoff.





PINE GULCH WATER RIGHTS & INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT



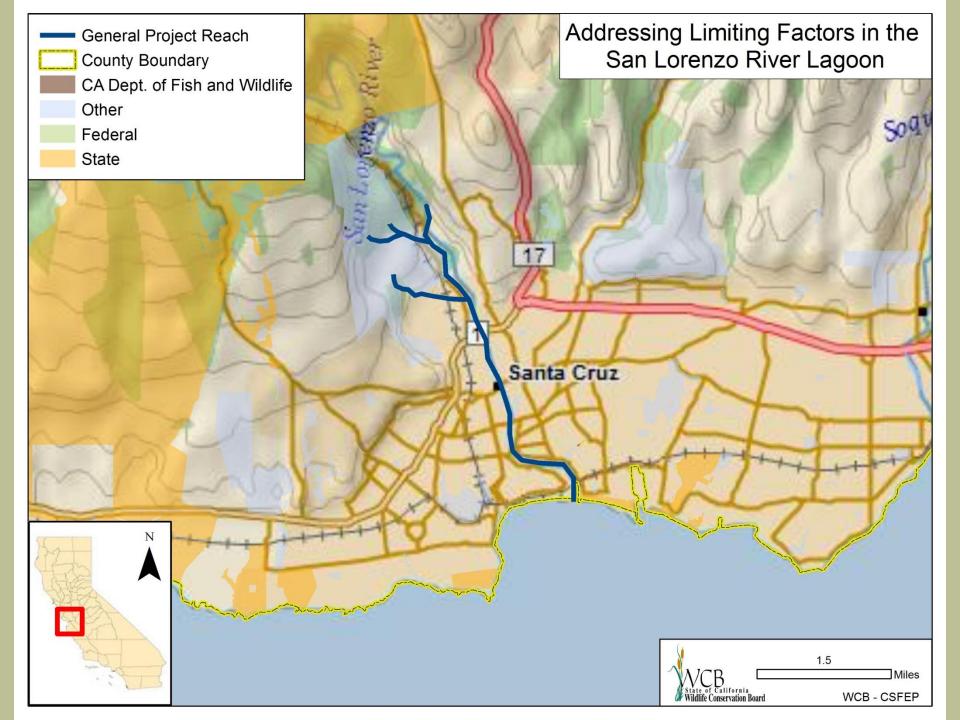
- Short-term irrigation demands exceed the creek's base flows and reduce rearing habitat for salmonids:
 - Farms started to develop off-site water storage to reduce agricultural summer demands upon the creek.
- Four ponds were constructed in 2015; two un-lined ponds were losing in excess of 4 acre-feet per month due to seepage and two farms cannot fully relinquish their summer riparian water rights until modifications are made to stop the seepage.



PINE GULCH WATER RIGHTS & INSTREAM FLOW ENHANCEMENT



- Project seeks to complete the two ponds to stop seepage.
 - The farmers have secured their water rights permits to dedicate their commercial agricultural riparian diversions between July 1 and December 15 of each year to instream flows under CA Water Code §1707
- This project is expected to reduce the rate of diversion and increase streamflow rates by 15 - 45%.





ADDRESSING LIMITING FACTORS IN THE SAN LORENZO RIVER LAGOON



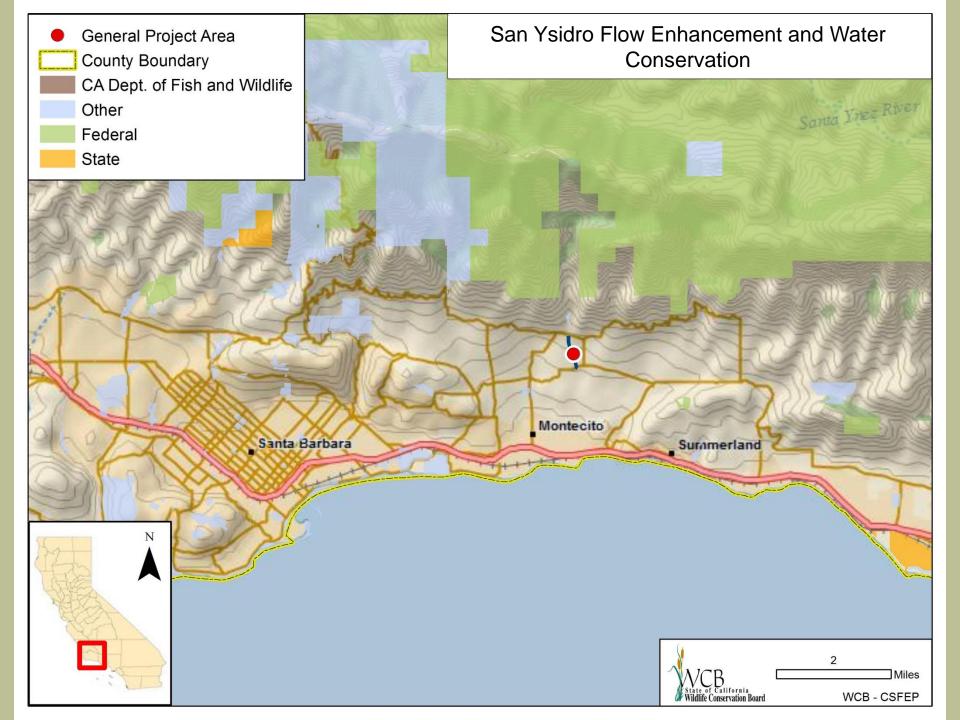
- The lagoon closes as a result of the formation of a natural sandbar however, constricted flood channels upstream of the lagoon has increased susceptibly to flooding for low-lying public and private infrastructure when the closed lagoon water elevation reaches about 7.0'
- Unauthorized and illegal breaching frequently occurs in response to the flooding of the beach and low lying properties.
 - Flush steelhead and tidewater goby into the ocean prematurely
 - Creates poor habitat conditions for steelhead and impact the productivity



ADDRESSING LIMITING FACTORS IN THE SAN LORENZO RIVER LAGOON



- Install a water level control structure in the San Lorenzo River lagoon that will provide a stabilized water elevation and lessen localized flooding, while maintaining a closed lagoon for salmonids and tidewater goby
- The City of Santa Cruz will dedicate approximately 0.5 cfs of summer instream flows in two important cold-water tributaries in the lower watershed & install large woody material in the San Lorenzo River estuary to provide protective cover and temperature refuge for juvenile steelhead.





SAN YSIDRO FLOW ENHANCEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION



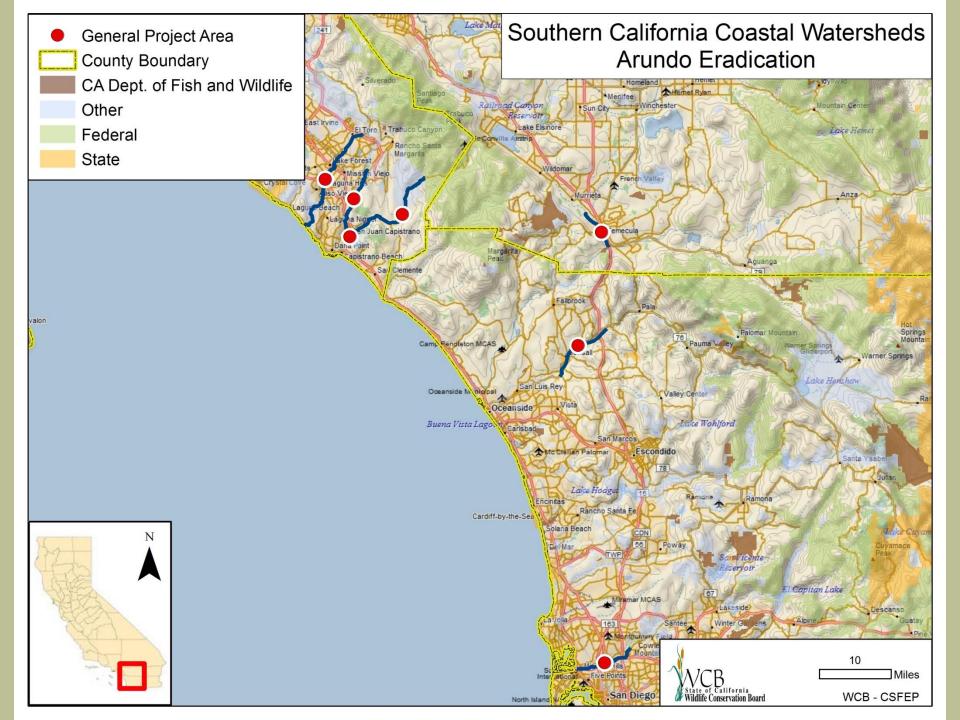
- The San Ysidro Creek reach is channelized from local property density and high storm intensity inputs
- The creek has irregular summer surface flows due to cumulative diversions for summer irrigation.
- Poor water quantity and quality to meet spawning and rearing requirements, poor fish passage, excessive storm water erosion, and excessive nutrient loading:



SAN YSIDRO FLOW ENHANCEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION



- Increase summer base flows through direct offset of stream diversions
 - Dedicate this offset to instream flow
- Decrease peak storm event discharge and contribution of rainwater tank capture
- Increase summer base flows through groundwater infiltration; and
- Model successful best practices through active local community and regional outreach.





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATERSHEDS ARUNDO ERADICATION



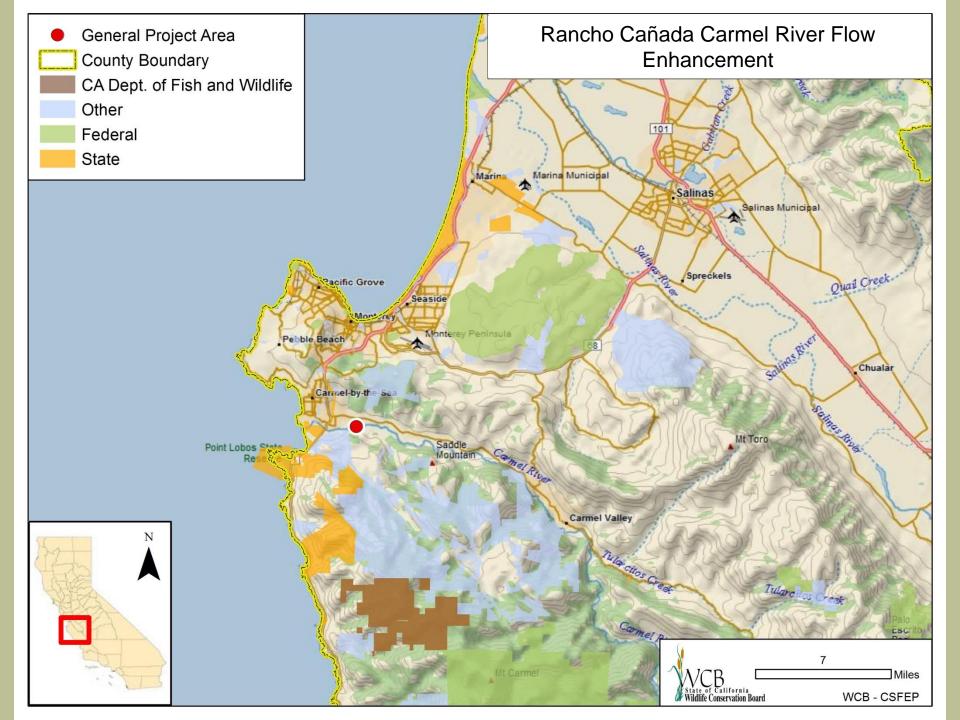
- Arundo stands have numerous significant impacts negatively affecting abiotic and biotic processes within river systems:
 - Stands modify fluvial processes by changing the magnitude and direction of flows, which in turn change the structure of the habitat.
 - Arundo consumes significantly more water annually due to its dense biomass



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATERSHEDS ARUNDO ERADICATION



- Eradicate 98 acres of Arundo from the San Juan, Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, and San Diego watersheds:
 - Restore fluvial process and riparian habitat, while also reducing flood, erosion, and fire risk
 - Will save significant water resources, estimated at 1,960 acre feet per year





RANCHO CAÑADA CARMEL RIVER FLOW ENHANCEMENT



- The Property has been used for over 40 years as a 36-hole golf course.
 - Second-largest diverter of water on the Carmel River



RANCHO CAÑADA CARMEL RIVER FLOW ENHANCEMENT



- Public protection of 185± acres of the golf course, and permanently reduced water diversion by the second largest water diverter in the Carmel River system.
 - The Project will dedicate 185 ± acre feet of water to the Carmel River system.