

SCOTT RIVER WATER TEMPERATURE ASSESSMENT

1.0 Study Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the study element is to acquire sufficient water temperature and metrological data in the Scott River watershed to support the characterization of salmonid rearing habitat in the rivers and tributaries as a function of river flow, springs, channel hydraulics (width, depth, and velocity), and riparian shade. Because water temperature is likely a limiting factor for fish habitat quality, the connection between these variables will be an important factor in the successful implementation of fish habitat protection and restoration (McCullough 1999, Carter 2005). Once acquired, existing data will be reviewed and a determination made by reach that they are either adequate or inadequate for habitat characterization using either direct thermal patterns or water temperature modeling. If determined to be necessary, new data should be collected that would be compatible with either approach. Both approaches would create frameworks for predicting and interpreting the effects of potential restoration actions (e.g., altered instream flow or increased riparian shade) on water temperatures and aquatic habitat.

High water temperatures often occur under low flow conditions and are presumed to be major limitations for fish habitat in the Scott River basin. Scott River temperatures generally remain cooler in the shaded mountain tributary streams, but warm considerably in the valley reaches because of wider channels, diverted flows, lower water velocities, and lack of riparian shade.

The specific objectives of the study include:

- Acquiring and summarizing existing data on water temperatures over space and time,
- Developing empirical water temperature maps showing the presence and persistence of thermal refugia that may be used by rearing juvenile salmonids during seasons of high temperatures,
- Creating a database of all springs by location, temperature, flow, and known water rights,
- Acquiring physical and meteorological data sufficient for development and calibration of water temperature models, and
- Identifying specific water temperature models compatible with either existing or acquired data and capable of predicting thermal effects of restoration activities.

2.0 Review of Existing Information

Flows and water temperatures in the Scott River watershed have been of great interest for fisheries resources for many years. Staff reports were prepared by North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) for the Scott River temperature and sediment TMDL determinations (NCRWQCB 2006). Several previous surveys, investigations, and modeling studies of flow and water temperatures (and effects on fish habitat) have been conducted in the Scott River watershed (e.g., Watershed Sciences 2004; 2007, SRCD 2013). Optimal, sub-optimal, and detrimental water temperature thresholds for coho salmon have also been identified in the adjacent Shasta River watershed (Stenhouse et al. 2012).

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The Scott River TMDL staff report (NCRWQCB 2006) provides an excellent analysis of the factors controlling water temperatures (e.g., flow, meteorology, stream geometry, shade, springs), and used the Heat Source model with extensive data collection to evaluate management alternatives for the 50 miles of the Scott River downstream of Fay Lane and selected tributaries. Results of recent efforts by the Karuk Tribe (Papadopulus 2012) and UC Davis (Foglia et al. 2013a, 2013b) to develop groundwater models for the Scott River basin (e.g., SVIHM, Scott Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model) also contribute to the understanding of surface flow water temperatures. These documents, literature cited below, and related sources of existing information should be obtained and reviewed as part of this water temperature assessment in the Scott River watershed.

3.0 Study Areas

The Scott River watershed is about 812 square miles at the confluence with the Klamath River, and about 650 square miles at the USGS streamflow measurement station (gage) at Fort Jones. During project scoping, the Scott River was segmented into study reaches using criteria such as hydrology, length, geomorphology, and others (Normandeau Associates 2013; Figures 1 and 2). Water temperature monitoring is currently being conducted within the Scott River basin (Table 1). There are few reaches of the Scott River or tributaries where there are known springs that could serve as thermal refugia. Table 2 identifies reaches to be surveyed to determine their potential suitability. All reaches of the watershed designated in the Potential Studies Matrix (http://www.normandeau.com/scottshasta/project_materials.asp) are identified as needing data for water temperature modeling (Table 3).

Table 1. Reaches of the Scott River and tributaries where water temperature monitoring has been conducted (see Table 4 for specific reaches).

REACH DESCRIPTION	Reference(s)	Studies Status
Mainstem Scott River	NCRWQCB 2005, 2009, 2011; Quigley 2008; Quigley et al. 2001; Bowman 2009; SRWC 2006; Yokel 2009; Yokel 2013	On-going
Scott River Tributaries	NCRWQCB 2005, 2009, 2011; Quigley 2008; Quigley et al. 2001; Bowman 2009; SRWC 2006; Yokel 2009; Yokel 2013	On-going

Table 2. Reaches of the Scott River and tributaries where areas of springs, groundwater accretion, and potential thermal refugia are to be identified and mapped.

REACH DESCRIPTION	Reference(s)	Studies Status
Mainstem Scott River	CDFG 2003; NMFS 2012; SRWC 2006	Needed
Scott River Canyon Tributaries (Thompson, Canyon, Kelsey, Mill)	CDFG 2003; NMFS 2012; SRWC 2006	Needed
East Fork Scott River	NCRWQCB 2011	Needed
South Fork Scott River	Sommarstrom 2015, Magranet 2015	Needed
Sugar Creek	Sommarstrom 2015, Olswang 2012	Needed

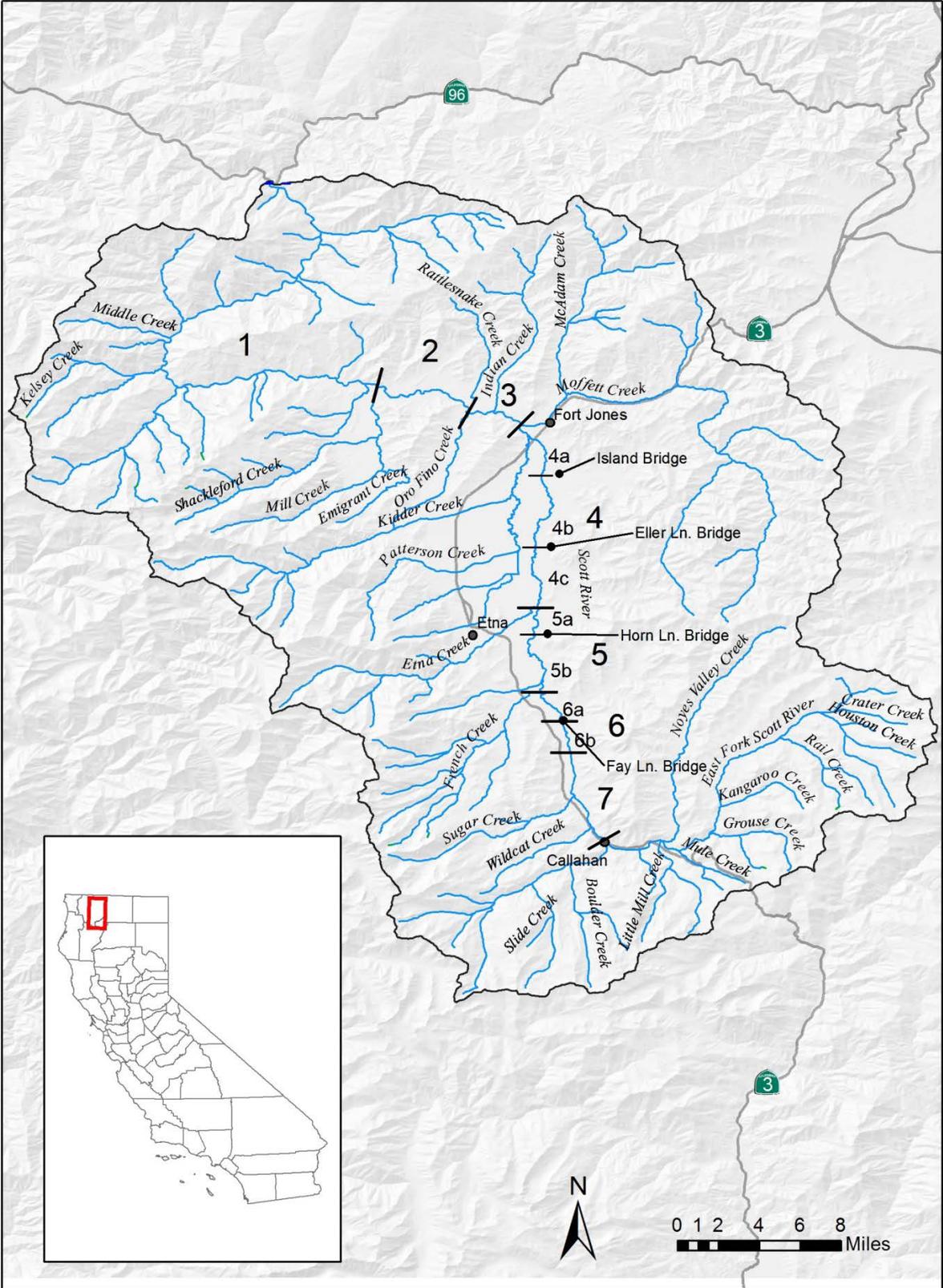


Figure 1. Scott River Mainstem Reaches.

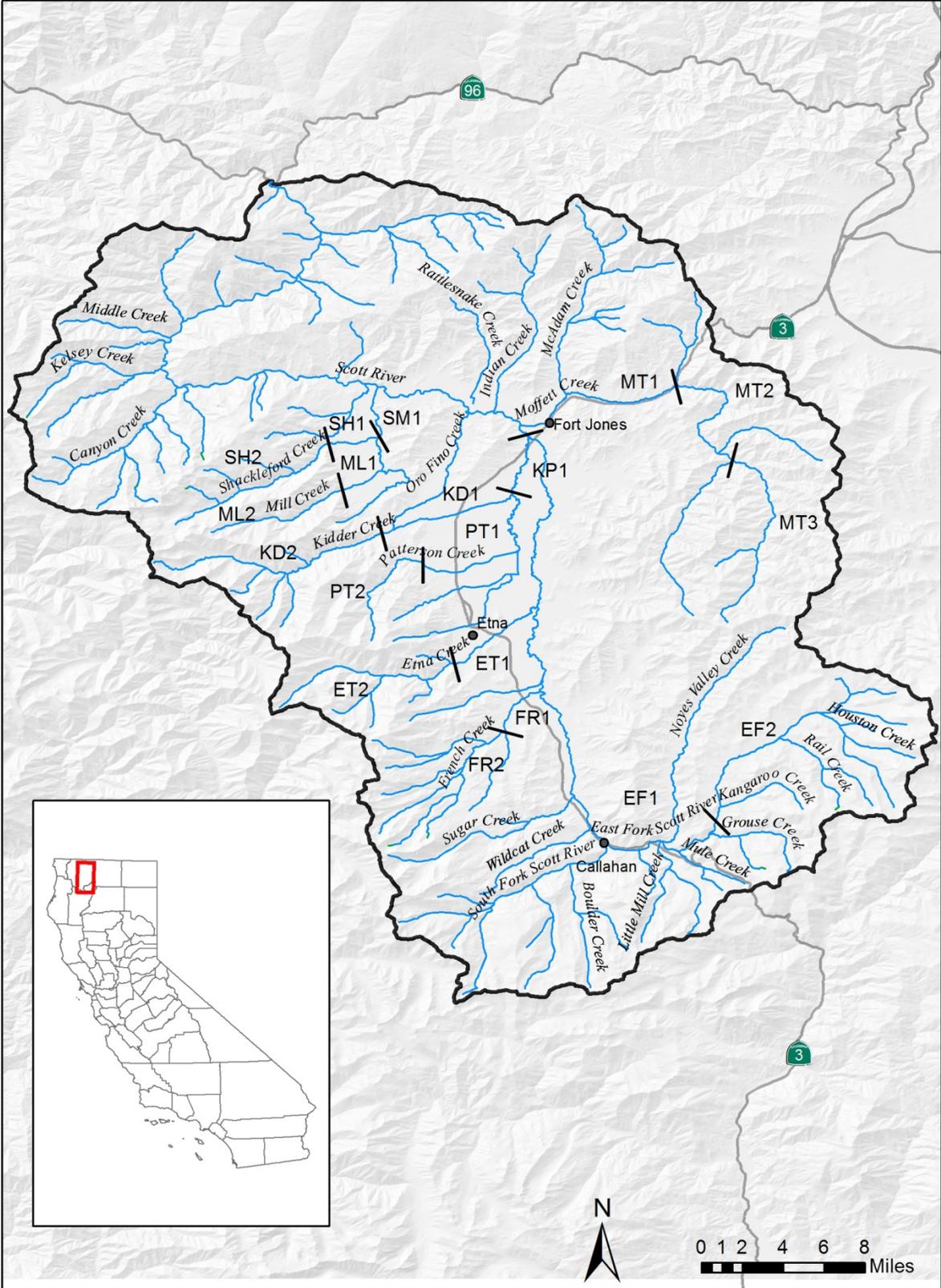


Figure 2. Scott River Tributary Reaches.

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Table 3. Reaches of the Scott River and tributaries where data suitable for predictive water temperature modeling will be acquired.

REACH DESCRIPTION	Reference(s)	Studies Status
Mainstem Scott River	CDFG 2009; SRWC 2006	Needed
Scott River Tributaries	CDFG 2009; SRWC 2006	Needed

4.0 Study Methods

The thermal relationships in the Scott River and tributaries between streamflow, spring inflow, and potential thermal refugia for rearing salmonids are to be assessed with three basic approaches:

1. Collect (compile) all previous water temperature measurements. Prepare watershed map(s) with stream reaches, spring locations, and riparian vegetation
2. Conduct multiple FLIR thermal overflights to locate sources of spring inflow and evaluate patterns of mixing or cool water retention in relation to streamflow
3. Validate the level of effectiveness of FLIR images at locating small seeps and springs by comparison to existing and new field measurements
4. Investigate the application of distributed temperature sensing (DTS) fiber optic technology for collecting water temperature data.
5. Collect physical and meteorological data sufficient for developing and calibrating water temperature models capable of predicting thermal effects of restoration activities.

All aspects of this study plan should be closely coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the NCRWQCB, their specified contractors who work on the Scott River TMDL, and the Siskiyou County Scott Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee, and with other studies related to water temperature such as the *Scott River Hydrology and Integrated Surface Water/Groundwater Modeling* study plan.

4.1 Water Temperature Data Compilation

All known sources of water temperature data for the Scott River and tributaries are to be compiled and the data itself collated, analyzed, and summarized in a searchable electronic database. Water temperatures have been measured at many locations in the Scott River watershed as an important variable to suitable fish habitat. Several agencies have established measurement stations, and numerous evaluations, monitoring programs, and modeling studies have already been undertaken. Table 4 identifies temperature measurements in the Scott River since 1994, although not all of these stations have been consistently active.

Table 4. Water temperature sampling locations in the Scott River and tributaries.

Scott River above Canyon Ck	Alder Creek near 123 deg long.	Kelsey Creek (295)
Scott River above mouth of Etna	Boulder Creek - high	Kelsey Creek d/s 44N41 bridge
Scott River below French	Boulder Creek - lower	Kelsey Creek, Upper SF 9.4
Scott River above French	Boulder Creek - mid	Kidder Creek at Scott River
Scott River at Alexander's	Boulder Creek - near mouth	Kidder Creek-d/s of FGS ownership
Scott River at Buker Br (d/s of	Boulder Creek (SF) near mouth	Kidder Creek-u/s Clendenning

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Canyon Ck)		Fk
Scott River at Deep Creek	Cabin Meadows Creek at rd 41N04	Little Houston Creek @ Houston Ck
Scott River d/s of Moffett Ck (Eiler Ranch)	Cabin Meadows Creek d/s of rd 41N03	Meamber Creek -FGS
Scott River at Fay Lane	Canyon Creek 500ft d/s of Canyon Ck Br	Middle Creek at mouth
Scott River at Horn Lane	Canyon Creek- d/s of deep lake ck	Mill Creek 24.1
Scott River at Hwy 3 -1	Canyon Creek near mouth	Mill Creek - Lower (near confl w/ shackleford)
Scott River at Hwy 3 -2	Clarks Creek - Lower (at diversion)	Mill Creek - Scott Bar u/s Coats Ck
Scott River at Jones Beach	Clarks Creek - Upper (at forks)	Mill Creek (shack) u/s of Mill Ck ditch
Scott River at McGuffy Cr	Crater Creek at rd 41N03	Mill Creek at Etna Ck
Scott River at Meamber Br.	Crater Creek at Houston Ck	Mill Creek -Scott Bar d/s new barn gulch
Scott River at Meamber Cr.	Deep Creek at mouth	Miners Creek appx 100m u/s of French Ck
Scott River at mouth of Boulder Creek	EF Scott River at Callahan	Moffett Creek -betw Skookum Glch & Spring Br
Scott River at mouth of Canyon Creek	EF Scott River at Upper Masterson Rd	NF French Creek (appx 0.6 km u/s of French Ck)
Scott River at mouth of Kelsey Creek	EF Scott River d/s Houston Ck	NF French Creek, Upper (u/s of Meeks Meadow Ck)
Scott River at mouth of McGuffy Creek	Etna Creek - Lower (d/s of Mill Ck)	Patterson Creek nr middle Sec 7, R9W, T42N
Scott River at mouth of Tompkins creek	Etna Creek at Mouth	Rail Creek near KNF bndry
Scott River at Red Bridge	Etna Creek d/s Ruffey Ck	SF Scott River - u/s of SF Rd
Scott River at Serpa Lane	Fox Creek at mouth	SF Scott River at Boulder Ck
Scott River at Steelhead Bridge	French Creek u/s Miner's Rd Br.	SF Scott River u/s 40N21Y
Scott River at Steelhead Bridge	French Creek - Headwaters	SF ScottRiver u/s Blue Jay Ck
Scott River at Townsend Gulch	French Creek near Miner's Rd Br	Shackleford Creek - Lower
Scott River at USGS Gage	French Creek near mouth	Shackleford Creek at Trailhead
Scott River below Black Bridge	French Creek d/s NF	Shackleford Cr-near Alder Gulch
Scott River below mouth of Etna	Grouse Creek at Rd 40N03	Shackleford Creek-Near Shackleford falls
Scott River u/s of Sugar Creek	Grouse Creek u/s Hayes gulch	Sissel Gulch near mouth
Scott River at Meamber Creek	Houston Creek at EF Scott	Sniktaw Creek near 123 deg
Scott River between Kidder and Moffett Cks	Houston Creek u/s of L. Houston	Snow Creek 21.3
Scott River at Roxbury Br.	Jackson Creek at Cecilville Rd	Sugar Creek - u/s HW3
Scott River at Sweazey's Bridge	Kangaroo Creek - at 40N08 xing	Sugar Creek near KNF bndry
	Kangaroo Creek - EF, u/s of Facey Mine	Tompkins Creek at mouth
	Kangaroo Creek - EF at rd 40N08 xing	Wildcat Creek near KNF bndry
	Kangaroo Creek - WF, 100m u/s 40N08	

Additional water temperature information in the form of raw data files associated with the Maximum Weekly Average Temperatures (MWAT) values in NCRWQCB (2011) are available from the North Coast Regional Board (NCRWQCB 2015).

4.2 Thermal Refugia Monitoring and Evaluation

Aerial thermal infrared imaging will be conducted using the latest available technology along each reach of the Scott River and tributaries identified in Table 2. Image collection and data processing methods should be substantially the same as those used in previous surveys of the watershed by Watershed Sciences (2004) as part of the NCRWQCB TMDL process. The NCRWQCB funded a thermal infrared remote radiometry (TIR) survey of the Scott River and select tributaries. As described in the TMDL report (NCRWQCB 2011), “on July 25 & 26, 2003, Watershed Sciences, LLC conducted aerial TIR surveys of the Scott River, East Fork Scott River, South Fork Scott River, Shackelford Creek, and the lower reaches of Kidder Creek. The imagery was collected using side-by-side video and infrared cameras. The survey yielded temperature measurements of approximately half-meter resolution, in images that captured an area approximately 140 m – 193 m (459ft - 635ft) on the ground, depending on flight altitude. The accuracy of TIR data was better than +/- 0.5°C (0.9°F), based on temperatures measured at the time of the flight. Watershed Sciences subsequently processed the thermal information into longitudinal profiles, a GIS database, and other data products.” A similar aerial infrared survey was conducted by Watershed Sciences in 2006 on the Scott River and Shackelford Creek (Watershed Sciences 2007) on behalf of the Quartz Valley Indian Tribe.

These two surveys should be repeated on two successive years under different summer flow and meteorological conditions to validate the results and confirm the conclusions that thermal refugia are present and persistent. Evaluation should consist of mapping colder water pockets within springs, where spring runs join and merge with tributaries or the main stream, and where springs emerge from the stream bed or along stream banks, then relating the existence and areal extent of the pockets to stream flow. With six TIR surveys in three different years (two completed and four planned), it should be possible to assess whether and what flows disrupt or disperse the pockets, and whether higher or lower net stream temperatures result. If higher flows increase instead of decrease stream temperatures in specific areas used as thermal refugia by rearing juvenile salmonids, riparian shade management might be preferred over flow enhancement in potential habitat restoration scenarios.

The cold water springs identified through a review of existing information and TIR imagery should be compiled into a searchable data base and series of maps documenting where the springs are located, along with discharge, temperature, ownership, and water right. If no data on discharge or temperature is located, they should be added to the field data monitoring sites needed to meet the requirements of water temperature modeling in the following section.

4.3 Water Temperature Data Collection for Modeling

In reaches of the Scott River identified in Table 3 as needing a water temperature model capable of predicting thermal effects of restoration activities, sufficient physical and meteorological data should be collected for developing and calibrating such a model (or models). For any given reach, most water temperature models require continuous records of inflow, outflow, flow accretion (point or diffuse), starting and ending water temperatures, flow accretion water temperatures, air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and percent sun (or solar radiation). The continuous data may be in daily, hourly, or sub-hourly form, depending on the time-step requirements of the model. Model input requirements also include physical data on upstream and downstream topographic elevation, wetted channel widths in relation to streamflow, stream channel aspect by distance (coarse or fine scales), ground temperature, ground reflectivity, thermal gradient, dust coefficients, channel roughness (Manning’s n), east and west topographic altitude, and riparian vegetation height, width, density, and offset.

Existing data compiled under study element 4.1 will need to be evaluated to determine if any reaches of the Scott River and tributaries have sufficient information to populate a model, and if so, what type of model. Daily time-step models that calculate average, maximum, and minimum water temperatures can use daily average data and approximations of the physical input data, while more sophisticated, shorter time-step models need more detail, since they will be sensitive to short-term variability (afternoon thunderstorms, or diurnal snowmelt change, for example). A single year's data between May 1 and September 30 (the warmest part of the year coinciding with the juvenile salmonid rearing period) is less preferable than two or more years of data, because models are typically calibrated with one season or year and validated against another season or year. If the validation statistics (mean error, maximum error, bias, etc.) approximate the calibration statistics, the model would be suitable for simulation of restoration activities such as flow change or riparian vegetation enhancement.

For any reach that does not meet these data requirements, field data collection will be necessary and could be fairly elaborate, depending on the complexity of conditions within the reach. A simple reach with virtually the same rates of inflow and outflow and no diversions or irrigations returns would only require temperature recording devices at the upstream and downstream ends, along with a continuous stream gage recorder. Any significant change from these characteristics will require additional continuous monitoring data on both water temperature and flow volume by location, whether point or diffuse. Two years of comprehensive data suitable for detailed, seasonal water temperature modeling will be required. The feasibility of collecting water temperature data through the use of DTS technology should also be investigated (e.g. Hausner et al. 2011).

The most suitable meteorological station is an hourly CIMIS station, used throughout California for irrigation management (tracking of evaporation and crop transpiration) based on soil moisture and crop needs. The direct measurements of solar radiation are particularly valuable for hourly water temperature estimates from heat transfer equations (and water depth). A CIMIS station (CI225) has recently been established just south of Ft. Jones at elevation 2,733 feet, and two other active stations are located at McArthur in northern Shasta County at elevation 3310 feet, and Tulelake in Siskiyou County at elevation 4,035 feet. Data from these stations, in combination with the hourly weather stations at Callahan (no solar radiation) in Scott Valley and Weed (includes solar radiation) in Shasta Valley will likely be adequate for accurate water temperature modeling.

4.4 Water Temperature Model Selection

A water temperature model should be recommended by reach as part of the Scott River water temperature assessment. There are several water temperature modeling packages available, such as SNTMP (Bartholow 1999) developed by USGS, Heat Source (Boyd and Kasper 2003) currently maintained and used by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/tmdls/heatsource.htm>), RQUAL from the Tennessee Valley Authority (Hauser and Walters 1995), CE-QUAL-W2 from the Corps of Engineers (Cole and Wells 2006), QUAL2K or QUALKw from the Environmental Protection Agency (Brown and Barnwell 1987, Chapra et al. 2008), TEMP (ICFI 2014), and W3T (Watercourse Engineering 2013) among others. The pros and cons of each model considered for application to the Scott River watershed should be clearly described and the recommended model or models justified by accuracy, professional acceptability, data requirements, and the objectives of this study plan.

Determining the relationships between surface flow, groundwater inputs, riparian shade, channel geometry, and downstream water temperatures are the most important results from the water temperature modeling. There are sufficient historical temperatures for identifying tributary

reaches that remain relatively cool (higher elevations with shade and higher flows or springs) and those valley reaches that warm to above suitable water temperatures for fish rearing (lower elevations with less shade and lower flows). Increased flows will likely provide more suitable habitat and will moderate the temperature warming in the valley sections of the tributaries. The water temperature model could be applied to determine minimum flows below each major diversion or to assess the effect of riparian vegetation enhancement that would maintain more suitable water temperatures for fish habitat.

5.0 Deliverables

The main products from the *Scott River Water Temperature Assessment* Study Plan will be:

- 1) A searchable electronic data base containing all known water temperature data for the Scott River and tributaries, along with sourcing and collection methods.
- 2) Four new thermal image maps for identified reaches showing the location and persistence of potential thermal refugia, along with evaluation,
- 3) A searchable electronic data base and series of maps documenting where all springs are located in the watershed, along with discharge, temperature, ownership, and water right.
- 4) Two complete years of continuous data on water temperature and flow suitable for predictive water temperature modeling, and
- 5) A recommendation for a water temperature model capable of assessing the potential effect of surface flow and riparian vegetation enhancements.

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