

Dutch Charlie Instream Restoration – Phase I

Organization: Trout Unlimited

Project Period: April 2020 – April 2022

Amount: \$93,050

Location: Dutch Charlie Creek, Mendocino County

Project Description: This project will restore approximately 0.8 miles of high-priority salmonid recovery habitat in Dutch Charlie Creek by installing 59 pieces of large wood at 16 distinct structure sites. Dutch Charlie Creek currently supports runs of coho salmon and steelhead trout and has been identified as a high-priority restoration area with high intrinsic potential for salmonid recovery in the South Fork Eel River watershed. Large wood is a critical component to remediating impairments associated with historic logging and excessive sedimentation such as lack of habitat complexity, lack of refugia habitats, and high instream temperatures. This project is in partnership with Pacific Watershed Associates and Lyme Redwood Forest Company and will utilize a technique where multiple woven jam structures are installed with heavy equipment. This project is the first phase of a larger overall effort where 2.17 total miles of high-priority salmon recovery habitat will be restored with large wood.

Project Progress: During this year, they completed biological surveys and secured all necessary environmental compliance permits. They also completed sourcing and staging of wood materials. While the project team had initially anticipated completing construction during the 2020 operating season, the project experienced unforeseen delays due to subcontractor availability, and only one of the 16 spider jams was completed in Sept 2020. Project construction for the other 15 structures started in July 2021 and is expected to continue through October 2021. After a delay in construction, the project is anticipated to be done on time and within budget. Post construction surveys, photographic monitoring, wood inventory, and documentation of as-built conditions will be completed following 2021 construction.



Temporary heavy equipment crossing (left), LWD structure installed in Sept. 2020 (right)

