

HABITAT RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT ACT



The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) established permitting efficiencies for any person, public agency, or nonprofit organization seeking to implement a habitat restoration or enhancement project. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) approval pursuant to HREA can expedite small voluntary habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

Appropriate for projects such as:

- Fish Passage Barrier Removal
- Large Woody Debris Installation in Streams
- Invasive Vegetation Removal

HREA Benefits:

- Approval in 30-60 days
- Lower fees for most projects
- No other CDFW approvals required (i.e., Lake or Streambed Alteration and California Endangered Species Act)
- Ministerial or Categorically Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)



Photo courtesy of Betsy Stapleton

WHAT MAKES A PROJECT ELIGIBLE?

- Project primary purpose is improving fish and wildlife habitat not associated with compensatory mitigation.
- Project meets eligibility requirement for State Water Resources Control Board's Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (401 SHRP). Currently limited to 5 acres or 500 linear feet.
- Project is consistent with best available restoration and enhancement methodologies.

HREA APPROVAL PATHWAYS DEFINED IN FISH AND GAME CODE:

Section 1652

- When you have not received 401 SHRP certification
- 60-day approval

Section 1653

- When you have received 401 SHRP certification
- 30-day approval

