

Shingle Mill 4.8 Fish Passage Project

This project improved fish passage along Shingle Mill Gulch in Santa Cruz County, repairing and reconstructing rock weirs downstream of the road crossing at Eureka Canyon Road Post Mile 4.8. Shingle Mill Gulch is a tributary to Corralitos Creek in the Pajaro River Watershed. This project is one component of improving fish passage within Shingle Mill Gulch and within the Corralitos Watershed.

The project included dewatering the stream for construction, clearing the site of steelhead, constructing an access route, pulling apart and reconstructing the rock weirs and re-grading eroded stream banks. The project also re-graded the construction access route and replaced any vegetation that had been removed.

The Corralitos Creek watershed is a high priority steelhead stream that supports one of the most robust runs of steelhead in the South-Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment. Fisheries restoration efforts in Corralitos Creek have been a major focus of the National Marine Fisheries Service due to the quality of habitat in Corralitos Creek, a self-sustaining population and the watershed's location as the most downstream salmonid-bearing tributary to the Pajaro River. Due to its location on the Pajaro River, Corralitos Creek, including the Shingle Mill Gulch tributary, is accessible to steelhead even in the drier years when fish are unable to reach many of the tributaries higher in the watershed.

Project partners included CDFG's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Coastal Impact Assessment Program, the Coastal Conservancy, and the County of Santa Cruz.



Looking upstream through the completed project area and construction of rock weirs.