Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association

NEWSLETTER

2023

PACIFIC COAST FISH, WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS RESTORATION ASSOCIATION is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to restore, enhance, and protect fish, wildlife and wetland resources of the Pacific Coast region. In collaboration with multiple partners, we have restored over 150 miles of streams and prescribed treatments for over 500 square miles of salmonid habitat since 1991. Additionally, we have been providing botanical and Geographic Information System (GIS) services under the direction of our Plant Ecologist. Our botanical services include vegetation inventory and mapping, sensitive plant surveys, invasive species management, wetland delineation, California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) wetland assessment, and habitat restoration monitoring.

In this edition of the newsletter, we feature seven projects funded through California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program (FRGP) and one funded through the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

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Upper South Fork Little River Instream Habitat Improvement Project

Looking downstream

The goal of the project is to accelerate fisheries recovery by installing 136 key logs throughout the 1.8 mile anadromous reach of Upper South Fork Little River. This project is designed with physical and biological processes in mind and instream habitat features will mimic natural self- sustaining examples to the extent feasible. The expected results of this project will be to develop more frequent and deeper pools, produce complex cover, create high velocity refuge, achieve wood loading densities above "Very Good," and start the process of redistribution of channel- stored sediment and large wood throughout the anadromous reach of Upper South Fork Little River. Increased backwatering and aggradation will lead to increased floodplain connectivity and an increase in available food from macroinvertebrate productivity that occurs on inundated floodplains, and ultimately improved habitat for all life stages of Coho and three other native salmonids.

Cider Mill Creek (Lindsay Creek tributary) Coho Barrier Removal and Habitat Enhancement Design Project

The specific objectives of this Project are to explore and analyze potential designs for fish passage at two individual road crossing fish passage barriers, and habitat improvement of the dysfunctional stream channel below each of the crossings. The Project goal is to provide a construction ready design that would restore year-around access to 0.8 miles of rearing habitat and potential spawning habitat for Coho and other native salmonids, restoring habitat conditions and connectivity in the poorly functioning stream channel.

Small debris jam forces some flow back into original course.

Lindsay Creek Off-Channel Coho Habitat Improvement Project

View of the southern limb of the oxbow channel during winter conditions.

The goal of this project is to make 31,800 sq. ft. of off-channel habitat available for Coho Salmon within the Lindsay Creek floodplain. The goal is to reconfigure an abandoned oxbow to allow for frequent and longer duration connectivity between the oxbow and mainstem Lindsay Creek during winter flow events. Habitat features composed of Large Woody Material (LWM) will be constructed throughout the project oxbow and in Lindsay Creek. The inlet and outlet of the oxbow will be modified to allow for a greater area of backwater flooding and to ensure fish passage in and out of the oxbow. The Project will increase habitat complexity instream

and create off-channel Winter rearing habitat for Coho salmonids in this middle reach of Lindsay Creek.

Lindsay Creek (Kramer/Daley Property) Instream Salmonid Habitat Improvement Project

The primary purpose of the Project is to implement the designs completed for the Lindsay Creek In-Stream Coho Habitat Improvement Design Project, previously funded. The Project includes increasing in-stream habitat complexity by installing large woody material (LWM) structures and enhancing existing off-channel conditions associated with inset floodplains and alcoves. This will improve in-stream habitat conditions for salmonids in this 1,000 ft. reach of Lindsay Creek.

Wildlife log at oxbow.

View looking upstream at reach in Savoy Creek with minimal amounts of large, instream wood.

South Fork Rowdy/Savoy Creeks Salmonid Habitat Improvement Project

This Project will locate and design instream habitat structures and riparian treatments to improve Coho habitat and restore riparian function in the 1.8 mi. stream reach currently lacking quality salmonid habitat and large woody material (LWM). LWM structures create habitat complexity and enhance valuable spawning and rearing habitat for all anadromous salmonid life stages. The LWM habitat designs and riparian treatments will address limiting factors by improving fluvial geomorphic function and instream habitat conditions. The major project partners are the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and landowner Green Diamond Resource Company.

Tip Top Ridge Creek Coho Habitat Improvement Design Project

The project will design plans that will benefit rearing and spawning habitat through placement of large woody material (LWM) features to improve habitat volume and

Looking downstream toward Fieldbrook Road.

Coho spawning downstream of project reach.

complexity. By increasing the areal extent of off-channel, high flow, refugia the design will provide for access to relatively clear clean water during high flow events when the mainstem is usually impaired by sediment caused turbidity.

Lindsay Creek Coho Barrier Removal Project

View looking downstream at culvert inlet.

The project is necessary to improve and extend habitat access for Coho Salmon to 1.3 miles of habitat in upper Lindsay Creek by removing two barriers to migrating adult and rearing juvenile salmonids. A complete engineered design was completed to ensure successful passage after implementation.

Northern California Coast and Coast Ranges Vegetation Sampling and Mapping Project

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), in partnership with Tukman Geospatial, LLC, and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife are working to survey and map vegetation throughout the North Coast and North Coast Ranges ecoregions. We were contracted by CNPS to assist with vegetation data collection from October 2022 through September 2023. We conducted fieldwork in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. We worked in a variety of habitat types including coastal marshes, coastal scrub, riparian, conifer forests, oak woodlands, and grasslands.

Old mill pond, Lake Earl Wildlife Area (07-26-23)

Within sample plots, we recorded the presence and cover of plant species, soil type, slope, aspect, and other general features. We mapped the location of the sample plots using a GPS unit, and we took representative photographs. The data will be used to develop a detailed, hierarchical vegetation classification for the Northern California Coast and Northern California Coast Ranges ecoregions as a foundational step towards completing vegetation maps.

Montane meadow at Cahto Peak Wilderness Area (06-19-23)

Fine scale vegetation maps improve natural resource management in several ways by helping land managers better understand wildlife habitat, maintain biodiversity, and respond to natural resource challenges such as invasive species and wildland fires. The project will be completed in early 2025, and the classification and map products will be available to the public.

To learn more about our projects or organization, or to contact us,
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Though PCFWWRA receives public agency funding for the bulk of the direct costs associated with design and implementation projects, this funding does not cover all of the indirect costs associated with running a nonprofit organization, such as the office expenses and insurance. If you wish to securely donate to PCFWWRA, go to www.pcfwwra.org/donate or click below.

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