



Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association

NEWSLETTER

2025

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 updates of projects funded through California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program (FRGP).

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Lindsay Creek Off-Channel oxbow inlet

Project Updates

Lower Little River Off-Channel Coho Habitat Improvement Project

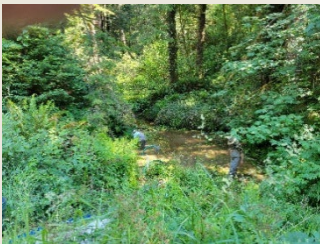
This project significantly expanded valuable estuary rearing habitat for Little River’s relatively healthy population of Coho salmon, as well as three other native salmonid species. It involved reconfiguring a small tributary to lower Little River that, in the past, had been altered into a simple linear ditch with a tide-gate at its confluence with Little River. The tide-gate and over 50 feet of levee were removed, and over 3,100 feet of a newly configured meandering channel was created. Twenty habitat structures containing 32 logs with root wads were installed to provide cover for juvenile salmonids. The project created 4.91 acres of new estuary, which was planted with over 20,500 native plants grown by Samara Restoration, a native plant nursery. Over 23 acres of the landowner’s remaining pasture was improved for grazing while maintaining wetland function. Carmesin Construction supplied the heavy equipment and labor needed and Pacific Watershed Associates provided technical support and construction oversight. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for both the design phase and full implementation of the project.



Lower Little River Off-Channel Project aerial view

Lindsay Creek Off-Channel Coho Habitat Improvement Project

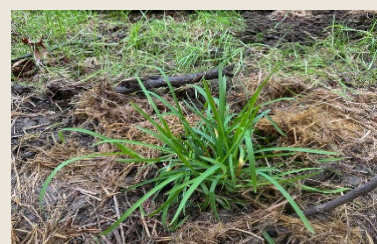
This project reestablished .37 acres of floodplain rearing habitat for Coho salmon and other native salmonids by reconnecting an old oxbow channel cut off from Lindsay Creek early in the last century by railroad construction. The two existing small culverted crossings of the Old Railroad Grade Road were replaced with much larger “oval” culverts to provide juvenile fish passage and more frequent backwatering by Lindsay Creek into the oxbow. A small ephemeral stream and several groundwater fed springs also feed water into the off-channel habitat. The project straddles lands owned by Green Diamond Resource Company and van Eck Forest Foundation. Over 40 whole Sitka spruce trees donated by the landowner (van Eck Forest Foundation) were used to create cover habitat for juvenile salmon. The disturbed area was replanted with redwoods, Big-leafed maple and willows. Native vegetation salvaged before construction, including a “Special Status” species, Nodding semaphore grass, was replanted on the site. Local contractor Sargent Excavation supplied the heavy equipment and labor needed and Pacific Watershed Associates provided technical support and construction oversight. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for both the design phase and implementation of the project. Some additional implementation funding was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s National Fish Passage Program.



Fish relocation



Oxbow inlet culvert



Nodding semaphore grass

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

This project was designed to improve spawning and rearing habitat in Lindsay Creek by adding large wood habitat structures and connecting an alcove in the floodplain. The project spanned both sides of Lindsay Creek on two different property ownerships. Unfortunately, one landowner passed away in early 2025 and complications prevented us from implementing the work on the west side streambank. But the decision was made to implement the habitat improvements on the east side, property owned by Steve and Sharon Kramer. Six complex wood structures were installed in Lindsay Creek with a total of sixteen logs harvested on-site from whole redwood and fir trees donated by the Kramers. We are looking forward to working with a new landowner on the west side in 2026 to complete the project as designed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for both the design phase and full implementation of the project.



Whole tree structure



Joe Flynn (PWA) and Beatrijs Ward (CDFW)

Lindsay Creek Coho Barrier Removal Project

Lindsay Creek is clearly the stronghold for Coho salmon in the much larger Mad River drainage.

This summer the second fish passage barrier removal involved in this Lindsay Creek project was completed. The 2025 work involved removal of an undersized and failing culvert and replacement with a bridge fabricated locally by Kernen Construction. Removing this barrier opened up over a mile of spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon and other native salmonids and was the last major fish passage barrier in Lindsay Creek's estimated 16.25 miles of salmon habitat. Two large wood structures were part of the design to provide rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids and velocity breaks for migrating adults.

The first barrier in this project was treated in 2024 on the nearby Lindsay Creek tributary of Crystal Creek. In December of 2024 images of eleven adult salmon were captured passing through the new natural bottom road crossing by time-lapse cameras in a single day. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for both the design phase and full implementation of the project.



Barrier before bridge



Barrier after bridge

Upper South Fork Little River Instream Habitat Improvement Project

This project came out of a basin-wide assessment and design to improve instream habitat for native salmonids in Little River. The Upper South Fork was identified as a stream reach that would benefit from the addition of large wood to create more complex fish habitat. The project consisted of both large wood structures placed with heavy equipment where access was available, and a significant amount of “chop and drop”. Whole trees are directionally felled into the channel where no roads were available and steep slopes made equipment access impossible. A total of 171 logs and whole trees were added to 1.8 miles of the Upper South Fork. The landowner, Green Diamond Resource Company, donated Redwood and Douglas fir trees with considerable value to the project. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for both the design phase and full implementation of the project.



Whole trees placed in Upper South Fork Little River

Ongoing Design Projects

We currently have design projects to produce 100% engineered designs for habitat improvements in the following streams: South Fork Rowdy Creek and Savoy Creek in the Smith River watershed in Del Norte County; Wilson Creek in Del Norte County; Cider Mill and Tip Top Ridge Creeks in the Lindsay Creek watershed; North Fork of the Mad River and Salmon Creek in the Humboldt Bay Watershed. Some of these design projects will be completed in 2026 and some will go into 2027. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Restoration Grant Program provided grant funding for the design efforts. For more details, see our [2024 Newsletter](#).

To learn more about our projects or organization, or to contact us, visit pcfwra.org by clicking below.

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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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