

CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Connectivity Case Studies

www.cafishpac.org

PRESENTERS



Salsipuedes Creek

Sarah Sandstrom

Acting Senior Fish Biologist, Caltrans Office of Biological Science and Innovation Aquatic Resource Biologist, Caltrans District 5



Little Lost Man Creek

Susan Leroy

Caltrans District 1 Natural Resources Environmental Planner



Salsipuedes Creek Bridge Scour Mitigation Project

Sarah Sandstrom

Acting Senior Fish Biologist, Caltrans Office of Biological Science and Innovation

Aquatic Resource Biologist, Caltrans District 5 Santa Barbara County

Tributary to Santa Ynez River

~100 miles of upstream habitat



Scour Threatening Roadway







Replace threespan bridge with single-span bridge

Remove manmade elements constructed to reduce scour and erosion and restore full fish passage

Caltrans District 5 (Central Region)

- Long History- Begin Environmental 2008, Project Completed in 2020
- Consultants- ICF, SWCA, Balance Hydraulics
- Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (fish ladder)



Species and Habitat

- Southern CA Steelhead (FE), California Red-Legged Frog (FT), Western Pond Turtle (SSC), Two-striped Garter Snake (SSC)
- Existing fishway exceeded juvenile passage criteria for steelhead
- Large ponded areas upstream and downstream supported quality habitat for steelhead, Red-legged Frog and Pond Turtle





Planning and Project Delivery

- Full-span pre-cast bridge, new abutments pushed back 30 feet (150ft span)
- Early agency coordination for fish passage (NMFS, USFWS, and CDFW)
- Initially considered concrete fishway with partial passage, eventually landed on a roughened ramp
- Geomorphological study (x2)
- 2D modelling for depths and velocities





Fish Passage Design



Permitting

- 404, 401 Certification, 1600 Agreement, Biological Opinion (NMFS), Programmatic BO (USFWS)
- Extended review and negotiations with permitting agencies
- Balance of fish passage with pool habitat
- Added basking habitat in downstream pool for Western Pond Turtle

Funding

Right of Way	132,000
PID support (k phase)	109,000
PA&ED support (0 phase)	2,115,000
PS&E (1 phase)	2,730,000
Construction	2,697,000
Construction Capital	5,776,000
Post-Construction Monitoring	500,000
Total	14,059,000

Construction-Year 1



Construction-Year 2





Construction-Year 2



Stability Boulder Sill

Low Flow Channel

Habitat Pools

Post-Construction (November 2020)



Post-Construction (November 2020)



Post-Construction (March 2021)



Post-project Monitoring

Longitudinal Profile 2014-2021, 6.2 VE



Post-project Monitoring

Success Criteria	Year 1	Progress toward Criteria
Native Riparian Cover	Native herbaceous cover 4.6%	Cover low. Reseeding and invasive control
		will improve herbaceous cover.
Riparian survival	96% survival of container plants	Meets criterion
Riparian Species Diversity	7 native woody species and 5 native	Meets criterion
	herbaceous species	
Willow cover	31% native cover at Year-1	On track to meet criterion
Native Emergent Cover	10% native cover at Year-1	On track to meet criterion
Emergent Species Diversity	8 native emergent species	Meets criterion
Invasive Plant Cover	No woody invasive species. Herbaceous	Meets criterion, maintenance will help
	invasive vegetation 5% in riparian and 1%	progress in future years
	in wetland.	
Contiguous surface water low-flow	Surface water connection maintained	Meets criterion
channel		
Bankfull depth allows fish passage	Bankfull depth of 1.32 m (4.33 ft)	Meets criterion
No hydraulic drops	No channel spanning hydraulic drops	Meets criterion
Total pool area	3,541 SF pool area	Meets criterion
Erosion	16% bank erosion	Meets criterion
Deep pool habitat	Bankfull pool area >3,000 SF with >4 ft	On track to meet criterion
	depth	
Basking habitat present all years	Basking habitat present	Meets criterion

Multispecies benefits



Lessons Learned

- NSSP for Engineered Stream Mix (ESM) placement
 - What is entailed in washing in fines?
 Jetting vs soaking
 - What does it mean to have surface flow? Through one cell vs through entire channel
 - Careful oversight needed of first cell (contractors not familiar with technique or objectives- requires close coordination between RE, Inspector, and Hydraulics expert)
- Fines are critical
 - ESM spec did not account for enough fines, additional fines were added



Lessons Learned

- Rocks will move
 - Mix large rocks through ESM instead of strategically placing individual rocks at surface
 - This will help lock smaller rocks in place thoughout the material
 - Design weirs to ensure function if uncovered (embed rocks into concrete)
- Willow fascines may be better than live siltation fencing where high flows are possible.



Special Thanks

ICF- Jeff Peters Mindy Trask Lilian Bennetzen Mitch Doucette Ben Erchul

Sarah Sandstrom sarah.sandstrom@dot.ca.gov

Little Lost Man Creek Fish Passage Project

HUMBOLDT COUNTY ROUTE 101, POST MILE 124.49 APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES NORTH OF ORICK, ADJACENT TO REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK.

01-0K690 SUSAN LEROY, CALTRANS DISTRICT 1 BIOLOGIST

Little Lost Man Creek is tributary to Prairie Creek. The Hwy 101 crossing is about 450' upstream of the confluence with Prairie Creek. Approximately 3 miles downstream, Prairie Creek drains into Redwood Creek, which is about six miles away from the Pacific Ocean. The watershed is within Redwood National Park and ancestral territory of the Yurok Tribal People.



55 109 CLASSESI



Built for fish!

- Purpose and need was to restore fish passage under Route 101 in northern Humboldt County
- Listed species present:
 - Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch), Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast ESU
 - Steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus), Northern California DPS
 - Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), California Coastal ESU
- Identified in the 2015 SB 857 Fish Passage Annual Legislative Report and programmed and moved to the active list in 2016.
 - Ranked in the top 20 priorities in the Caltrans District 1 pilot Fish Passage Assessment Study by Dr. Margaret Lang P.E., Environmental Resources Engineering, Humboldt State university, 2005 (Lang study)
- Restored passage to 1.21 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish (and other fish, amphibians), and also expands passage for terrestrial wildlife



Bonus: Project also serves to reduce our maintenance needs at this location



Replaced an 8 x 8-foot reinforced concrete double box culvert with a full span 70-foot long bridge





After



Project Funding

100% Department of Transportation funding

Caltrans Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) almost \$2 million for project development Construction phase: First fish passage project funded by Senate Bill 1approximately \$5.4 million for construction



Artist: Mateo Hinojosa

The **Project Development Team (PDT)** collaborated closely in order to design and implement the project and to get all the information together for the internal and external approvals. PDT members include:

- Project Engineer
- Hydraulics Engineer
- ► Traffic Safety
- ► Right of Way
- ► Structures Engineers
- Structures Construction

- ► Geotechnical Engineering
- Environmental Management
- Landscape Architecture
- Revegetation/Stewardship
- Roadway Construction
- Environmental Construction Liaison

Fish Passage Analysis

Adults

- Fish X-ing software showed that adults were only able to pass the culvert during 5% of the passable flows due to water velocity constraints
 - shallow water depths during the winter also limited adult passage

Juveniles

- it was a complete velocity barrier to juvenile salmonids and resident fish
- complete depth barrier during the summer also inhibited juvenile and resident passage
- in addition, a leap at the outlet prevented most juvenile and resident fish from entering the culvert.



Multiple species benefits -

In addition to three listed salmonids Little Lost Man creek provides habitat for a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species.

- Pacific lamprey
- Western brook lamprey
- Coastal cutthroat trout
- Northern red legged frog
- ► Tailed frog
- Chorus frog
- Coastal giant salamander
- Southern torrent salamander
- Gray fox
- Raccoon
- River otter
- Pacific fisher
- Humboldt marten
- Roosevelt elk and black tailed deer
- Black bear









Federal and State consultations and permits

▶ <u>Federal</u>

- Section 7 ESA consultations from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- **US Army Corps of Engineers** Nationwide Permits:
 - ▶ #14 for Linear Transportation Projects and Nationwide Permit
 - ▶ #27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement and Establishment Activities

► <u>State</u>

Because the project was programmed based on its merits to improve access to fish habitat, it qualified for Habitat Restoration Enhancement Act (HREA) permitting process

- ► Coverage under HREA
 - ► California Endangered Species Act (CESA) consultation
 - ► 1600 agreement
 - General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects



Installation and Maintenance of fish exclusion netting

► Assurances were made that the fish exclusion netting measured 0.5" diagonally, that it spanned the entire width of the wetted channel, and was sealed with the bottom of the channel.

► Fish exclusion netting was maintained daily to avoid debris buildup that could lead to failure.



Fish Relocation

- Contractor was required to submit an aquatic species relocation plan
- Fish relocation was conducted by a contractor supplied biologist (CSB).
- Two backpack electrofishers were utilized to capture and relocate fish. Shallow water depths required cautious placement of the anode ring for the recently emerged steelhead/coastal cutthroat fry.
- Removal by hand dipping with aquaria nets was used to relocate the remainder of aquatic species in the relocation reach as the dewatering began and the water receded.

Altogether, more than 1000 fish!

About 800 steelhead/rainbow, mostly young of the year (18-1+). No coho or Chinook although coho spawning was noted in years previous.

► Other fish species included:

coastal cutthroat trout, sculpin, brook lamprey, pacific lamprey, and stickleback

Amphibians: coastal giant salamander, tailed frog, northern red legged frog.

More than anticipated, needed to reinitiate consultation with NMFS







Fyke trap and Water diversion

A fyke trap was used to capture out-migrating fish so they could be moved downstream.

The contractor installed sheet piles to isolate the work area from the water, and then installed a five pump gallery to capture the surface flow



Clear Water Diversion

- The clearwater diversion was about 200 feet long.
- Contractor required to submit a clear water diversion plan (according to Caltrans' Field Guide to Construction Site Dewatering (2014).
- The plan included measures to slowly ramp down flows to allow for aquatic species to voluntarily relocate and also rewater the site slowly to avoid a release of sediment.
- A five pump gallery was used to get the water up and over the highway to a point downstream of the work area.
- Sump pumps at the inlet and outlet collected subsurface water to further dry work area.

Construction 22.5' active channel width---70 foot long single span precast slab. (No piers or columns in the channel)



Half width construction







Stream Restoration

- Channel restoration
- Bank restoration
- Revegetation efforts



Channel Restoration



Boulder clusters were added to create channel diversity and localized scour



Installation of Root Wad Structures



Biostabilization of the vertical bank (downstream right bank)



Willow Blanket (upstream left bank)



Cultural Consideration



Artist: Mateo Hinojosa

Revegetation

Botanical Name	Common Name	Notes
Alnus rubra	red alder	nursery container stock
Athyrium filix-femina var		
cyclosorum	lady fern	nursery container stock
Frangula purshiana	cascara	nursery container stock
Heracleum maximum	cow parsnip	nursery container stock
Iris douglasiana	Douglas iris	nursery container stock
Marah oregana	coastal wild cucumber	salvage from site
Polystichum munitum	sword fern	salvage from site
Rubus parviflorus	thimbleberry	nursery container stock
Rubus spectabilis	salmonberry	nursery container stock
Salix sitchensis	Sitka willow	salvage from site
Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa	red elderberry	nursery container stock





Wildlife camera footage of multispecies use



Fox family

Some have just as much interest in us as we have in them.



Top predators

M TROPHY CAM 42°F5℃● 10-06-2021 00

Summary of Benefits

Permitting success Construction success Fish and wildlife success

Artist: Mateo Hinojosa

CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Connectivity Case Studies

www.cafishpac.org