

# Russian River Biological Opinion WAC/TAC Update February 7, 2011

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# Biological Opinion Findings

- Status quo water operations:

- Jeopardize Coho salmon and Steelhead
- *Do not* jeopardize Chinook Salmon
- 23 Actions for SCWA and USACE to modify operations and facilities to mitigate impacts

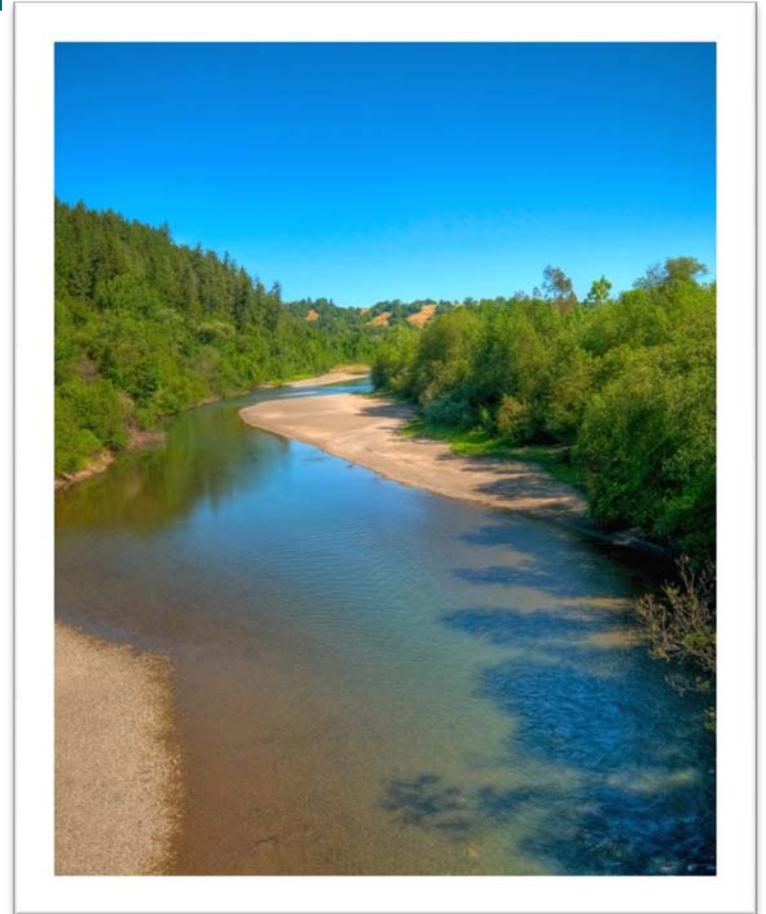


- Reduce flows Russian River May through October 15
- Minimize high flow impacts in Dry Creek – Habitat Enhancement
- Conduct feasibility study of Dry Creek bypass pipeline
- Adaptive management of estuary breaching
- Strengthen coho captive broodstock program
- Monitoring of Fisheries, Water Quality, and Aquatic Ecology

# Biological Opinion

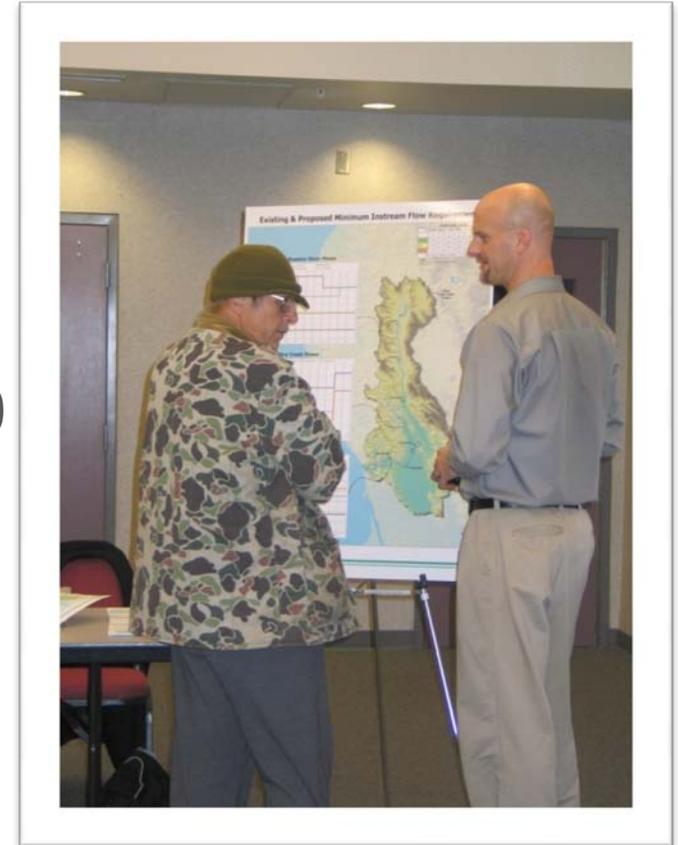
## Flow Change Requirements

- The Water Agency must pursue permanent changes to D1610 minimum flow requirements.
- Beginning in 2010, the Water Agency must pursue interim relief from D1610 minimum flows.



# Progress to Date (continued)

- Notice of Preparation of EIR for Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project
  - Released NOP September 2010
  - Three scoping open houses
  - About 40 people submitted comments



# Progress to Date

- Filed Water Right Petition in 2009
- Filed Temporary Change Petition in 2010
  - Received & Implemented Order Summer 2010

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
ORDER WR 2010-0018-DWR

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IN THE MATTER OF PERMITS 12947A, 12949, 12950, AND 16598  
(APPLICATIONS 12919A, 15735, 15737, 19361)

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SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

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SOURCES: Dry Creek and Russian River  
COUNTIES: Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

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**ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGE**

BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WATER RIGHTS:

**1.0 SUBSTANCE OF PETITION**

On April 6, 2010, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) requesting approval of a Temporary Urgency Change to the subject permits pursuant to California Water Code section 1435. The petition requests the following temporary modifications to the Russian River in-stream flow requirements as mandated by the Russian River Biological Opinion (Biological Opinion) for the improvement of juvenile salmonid habitat:

- (1) From May 1 through October 15, 2010, in-stream flow requirements for the upper Russian River (from its confluence with the East Fork of the Russian River to its confluence with Dry Creek) be reduced from 165 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 125 cfs; and
- (2) From May 1 through October 15, 2010 in-stream flow requirements for the lower Russian River (downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek) be reduced from 125 cfs to 73 cfs, with the understanding that SCWA will typically maintain approximately 85 cfs at the Hacienda gage as practicable feasible.

No changes to the in-stream flow requirements for Dry Creek are requested. The petition is made to comply with mandates in the Biological Opinion that was issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on September 24, 2008.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

SCWA's petition involves the following permits:

- Permit 12947A is for year-round direct diversion of 92 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Russian River and storage of 122,500 acre-feet per annum (afy) in Lake Mendocino.

# Next Steps

- Organize/Consider Comments
- Provide Summary of Comments to Board
- Prepare Draft EIR
  - Complete Necessary Studies
  - Perform Impact Analysis
- Release Draft EIR Summer 2012 (Year 4)

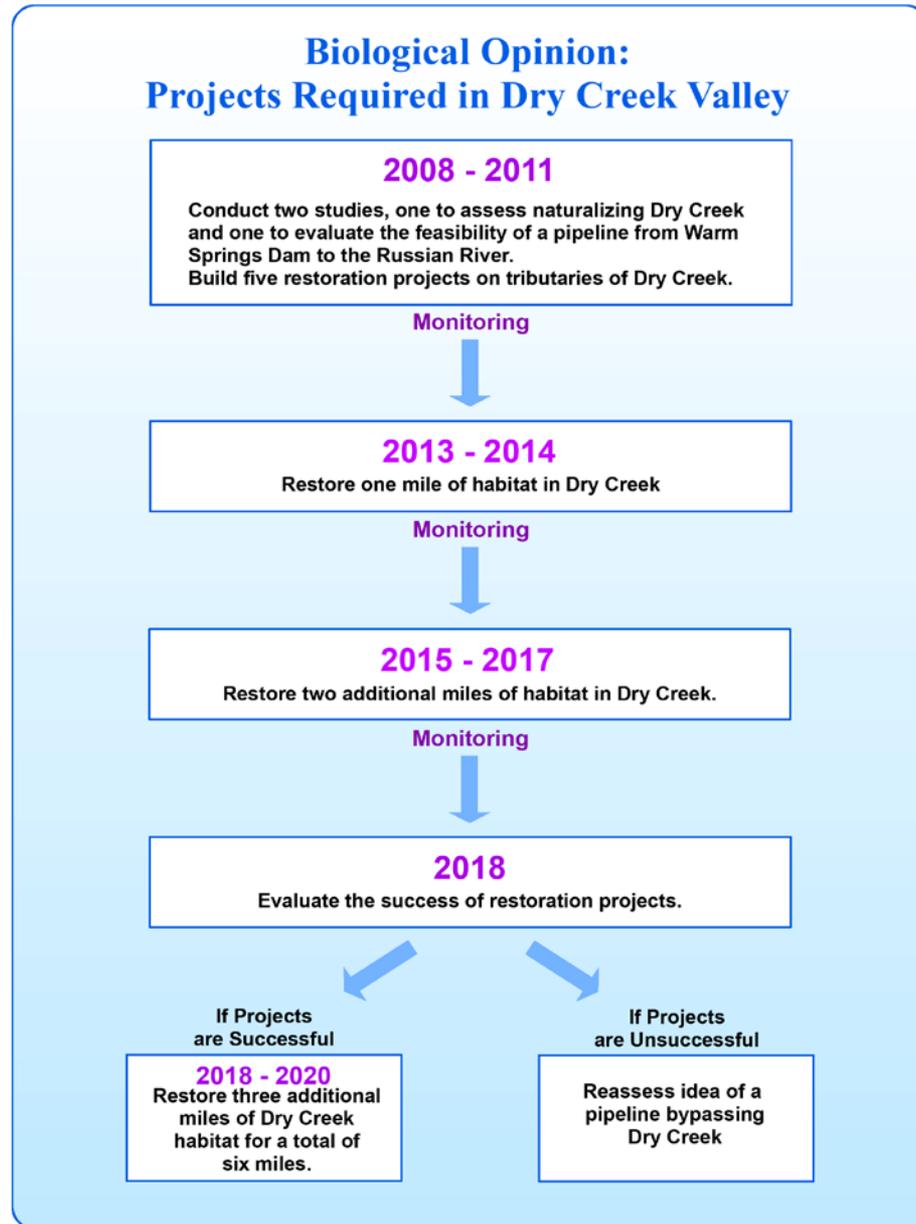
# Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement, Monitoring, and Planning



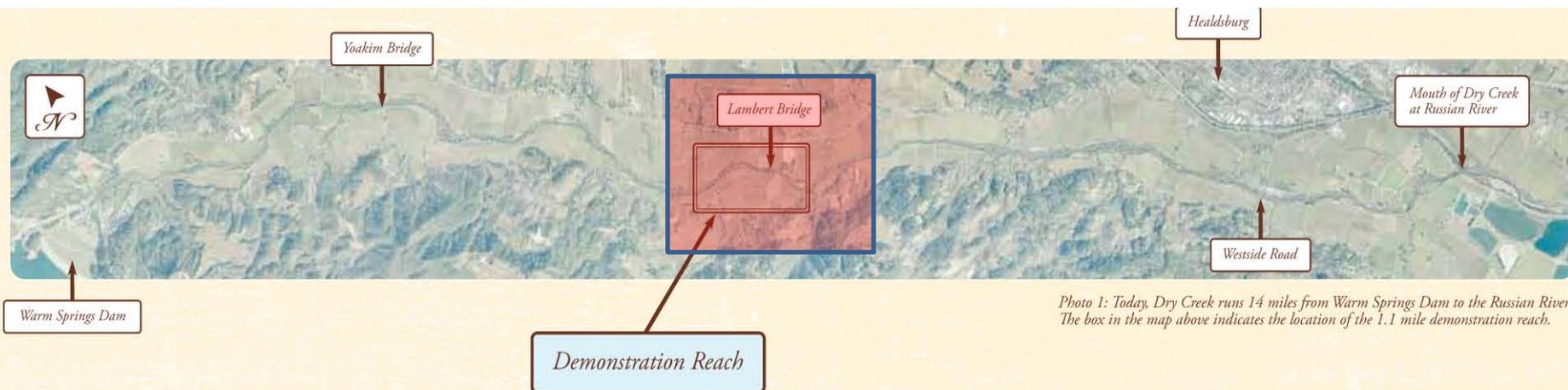
David Manning  
Principal Environmental Specialist



# Dry Creek Biological Opinion Projects and Timeline



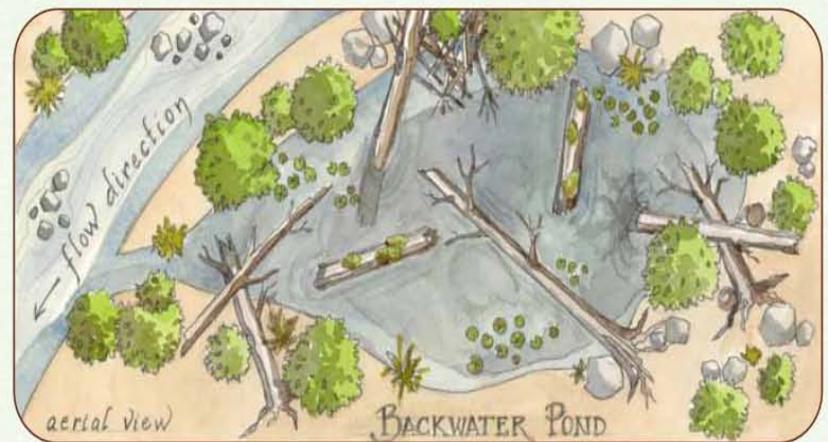
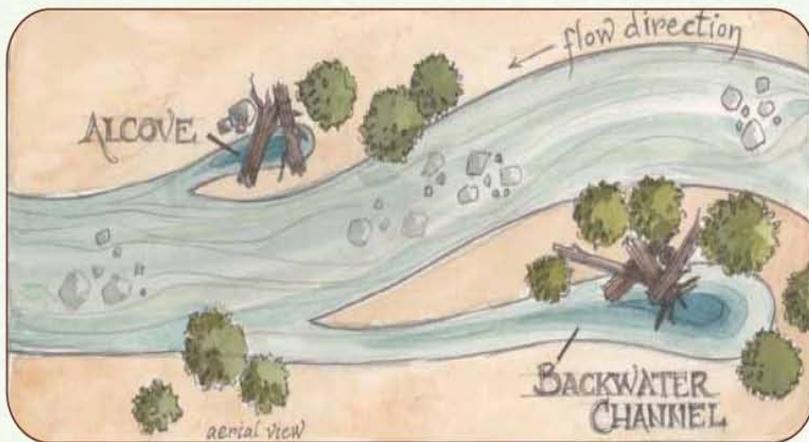
# The Demonstration Mile



- Contiguous mile in middle Dry Creek Valley near Lambert Bridge
- 10 Voluntary landowners including 5 Wineries (Amista, Dry Creek Vineyard, Rued, Quivira, Seghesio)

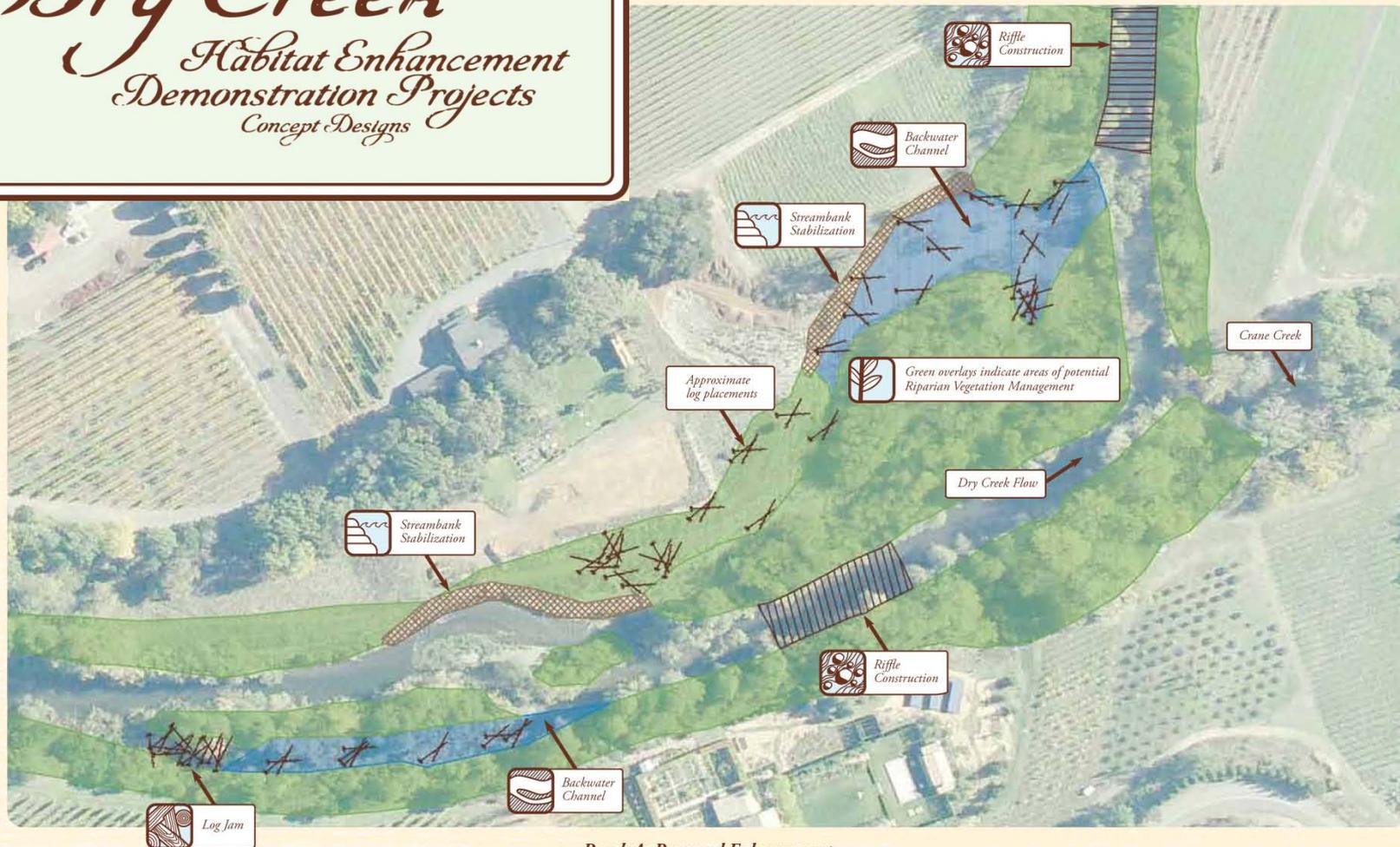
# Enhancement Techniques

## Low Velocity Backwater Pools, Alcoves Side Channels



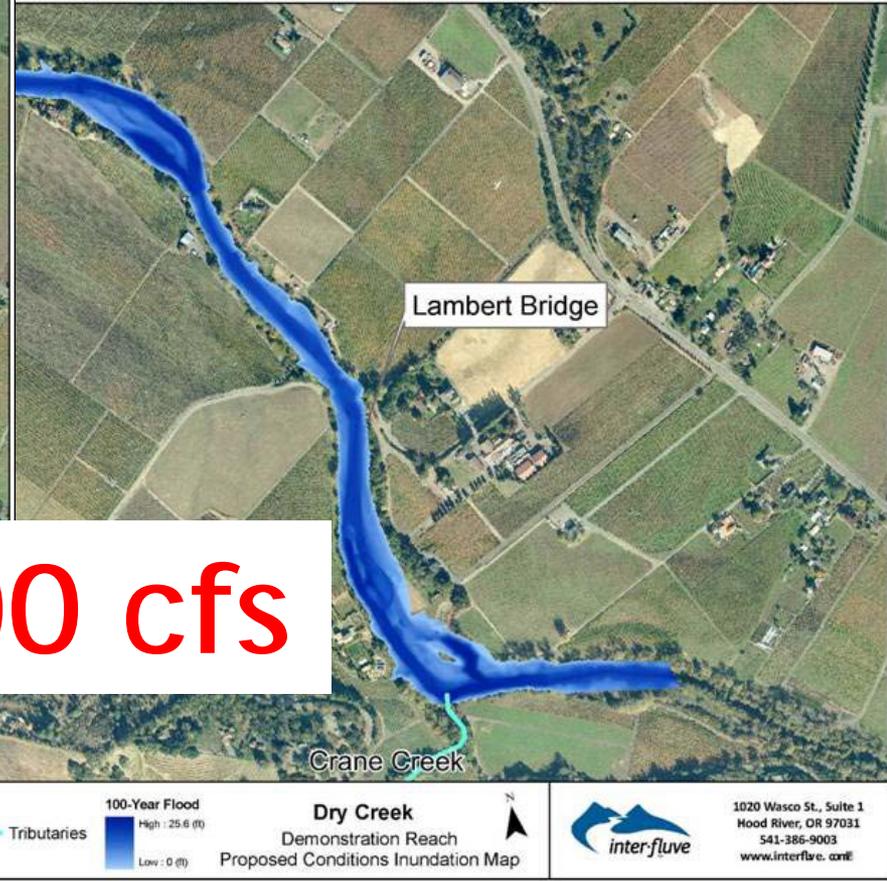
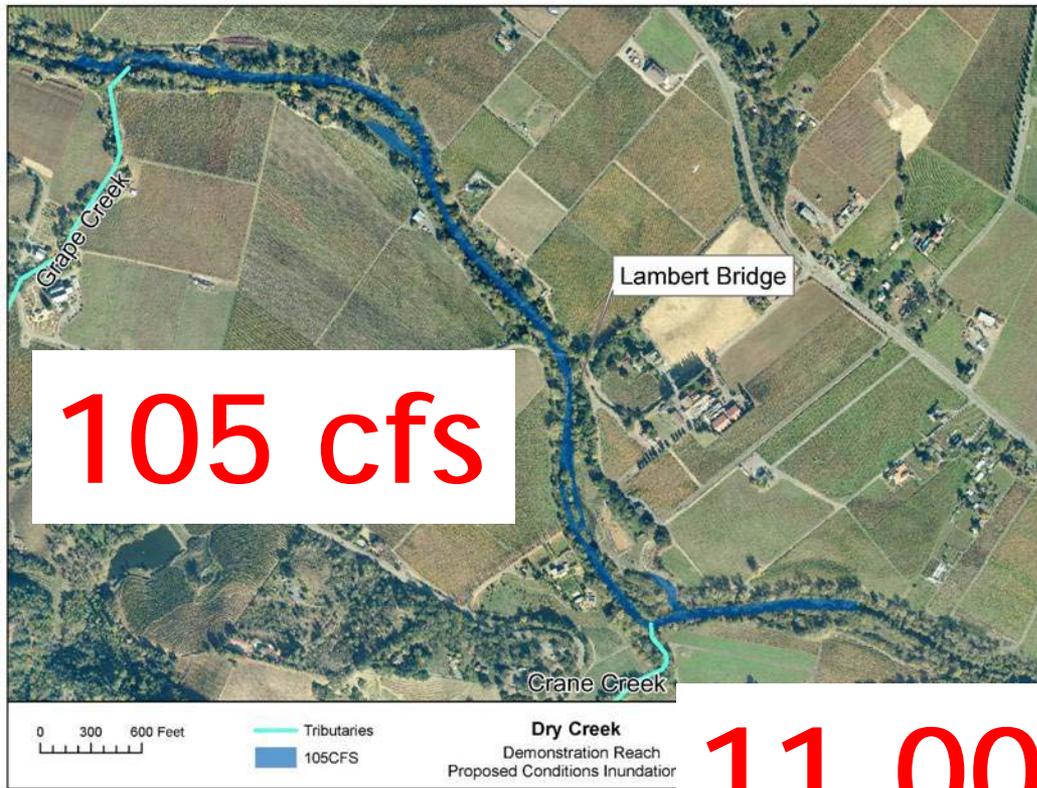
# Dry Creek

Habitat Enhancement  
Demonstration Projects  
Concept Designs



**Reach A: Proposed Enhancement**  
Scale: 1 inch equals 100 feet

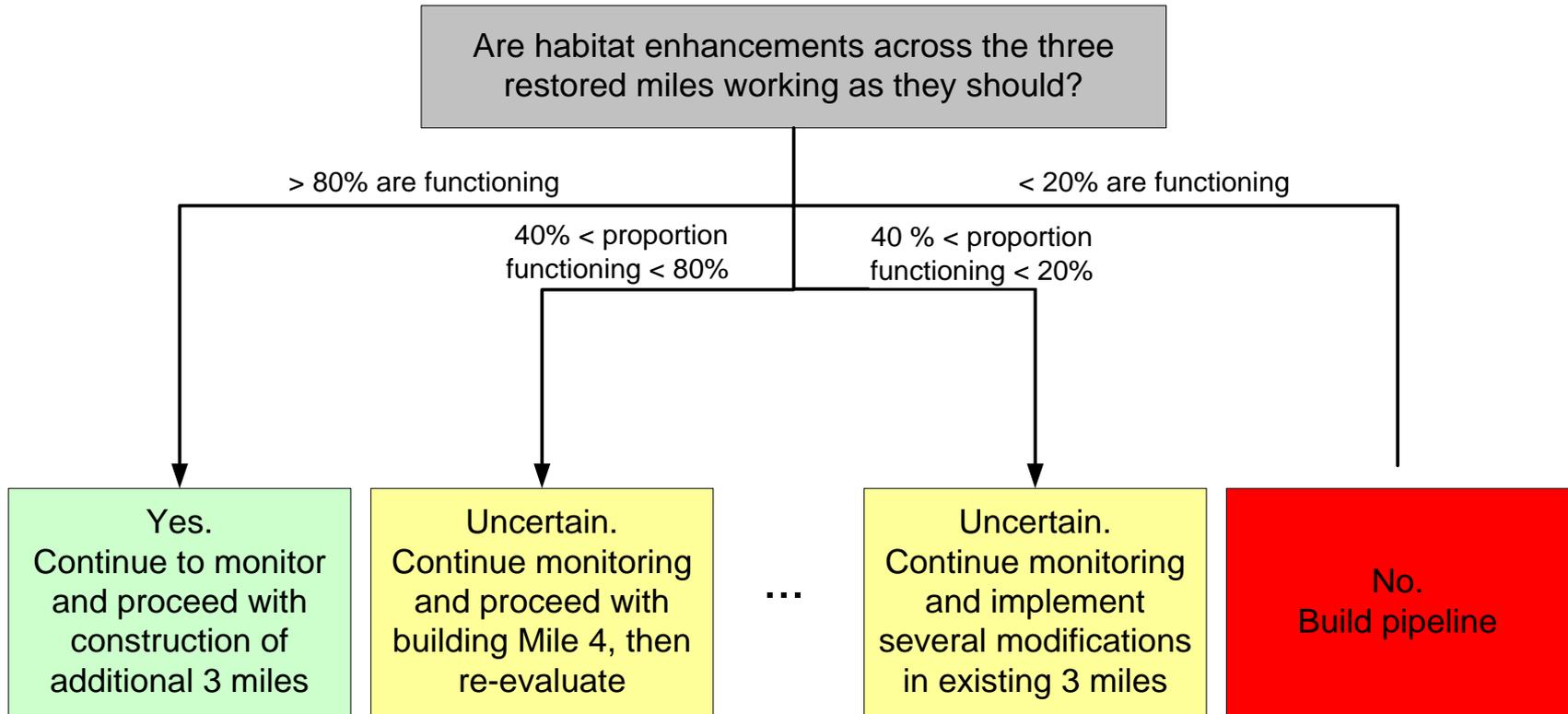
# Planning for High Flow Events



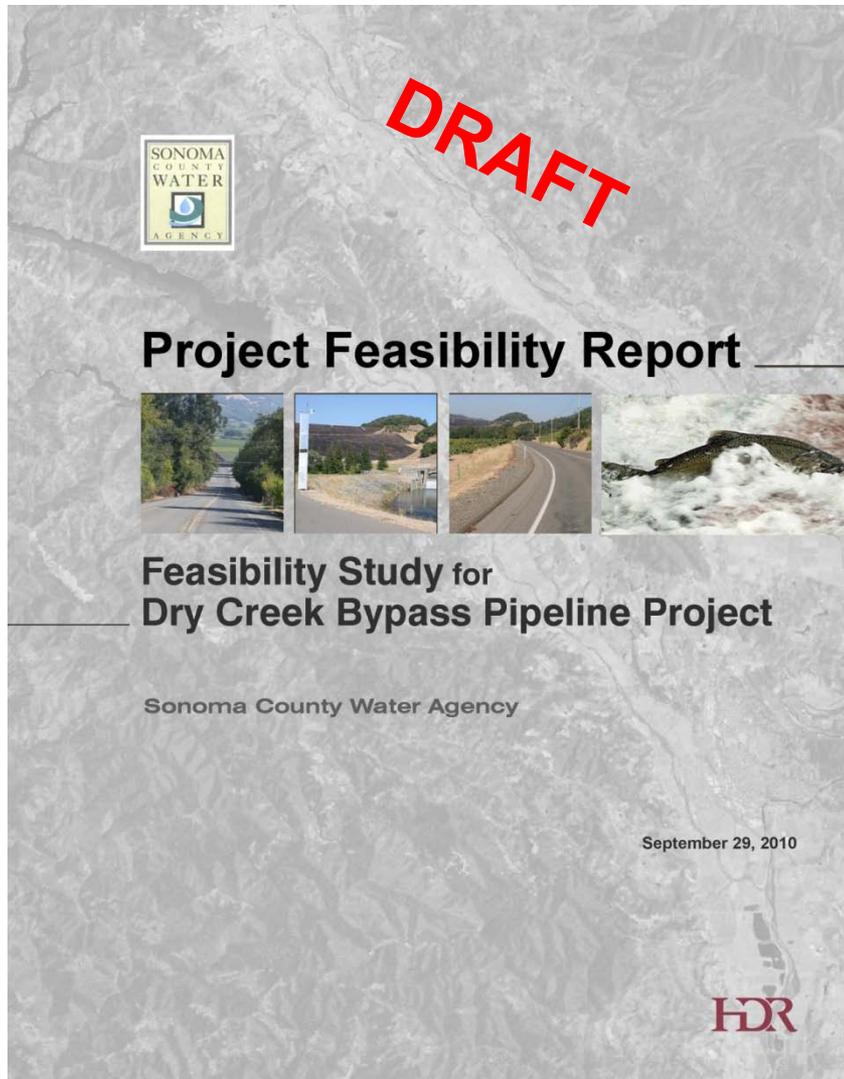
1020 Wasco St., Suite 1  
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www.interfluve.com



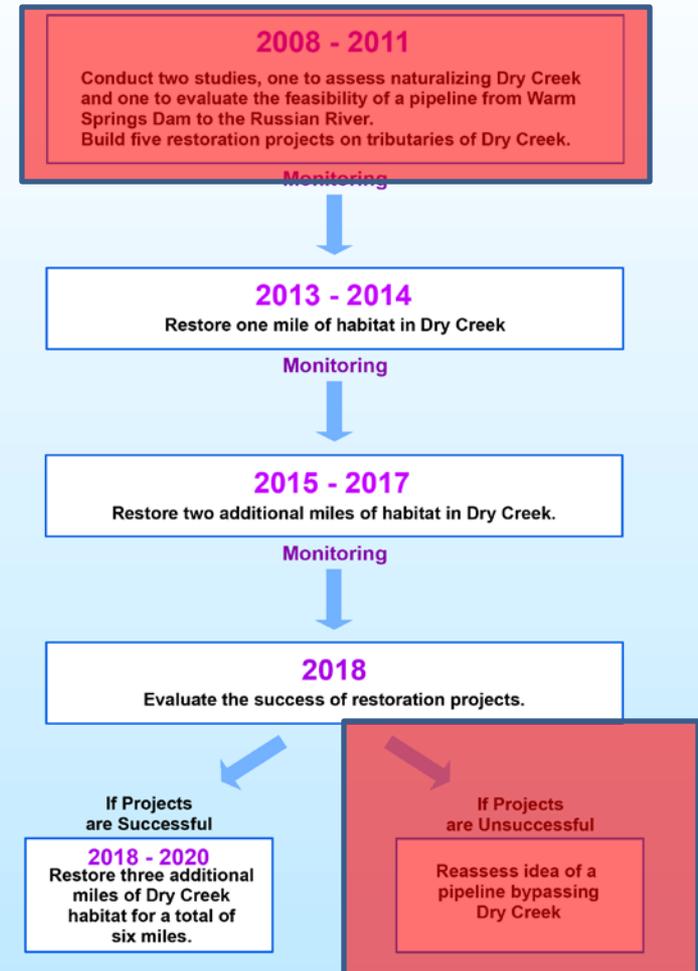
# Adaptive Management Plan



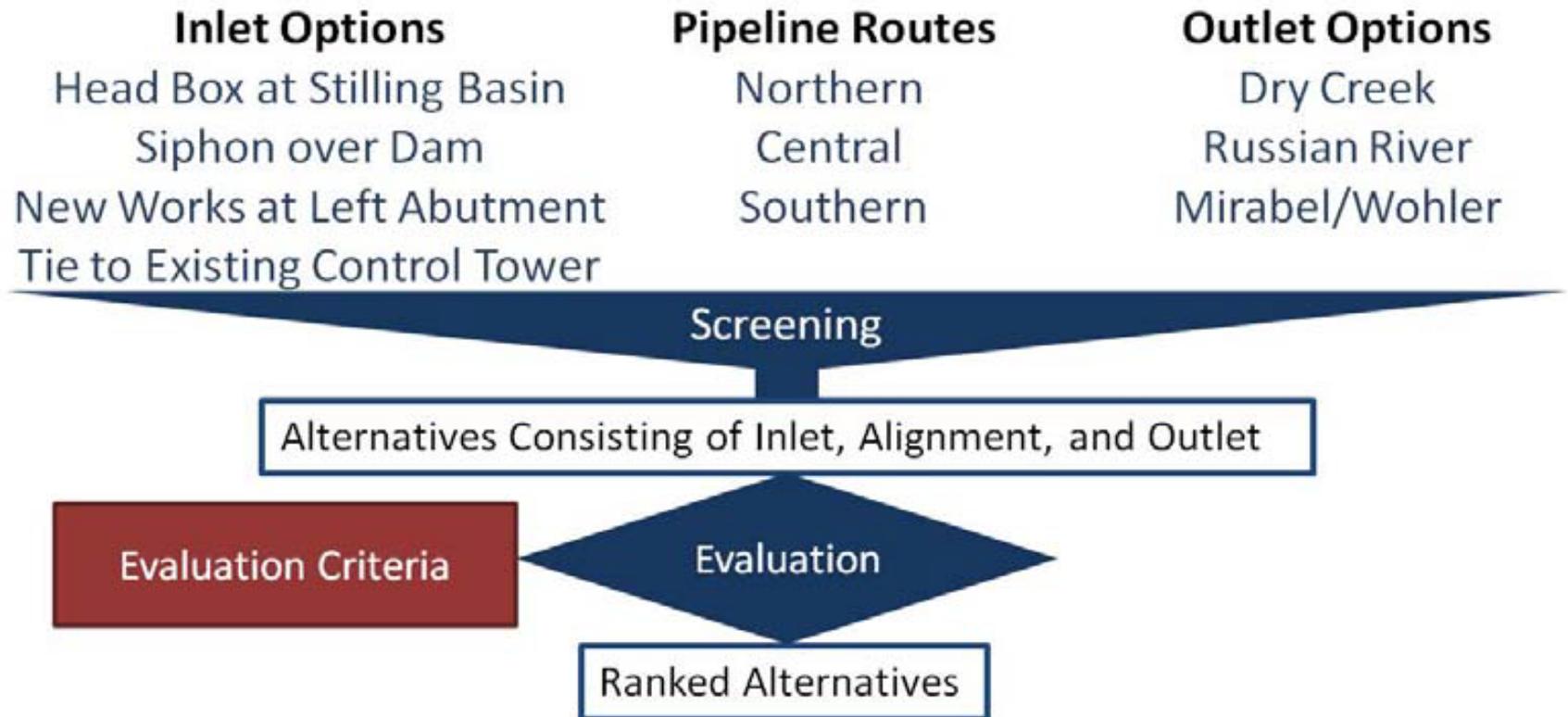
# Dry Creek Bypass Pipeline Study



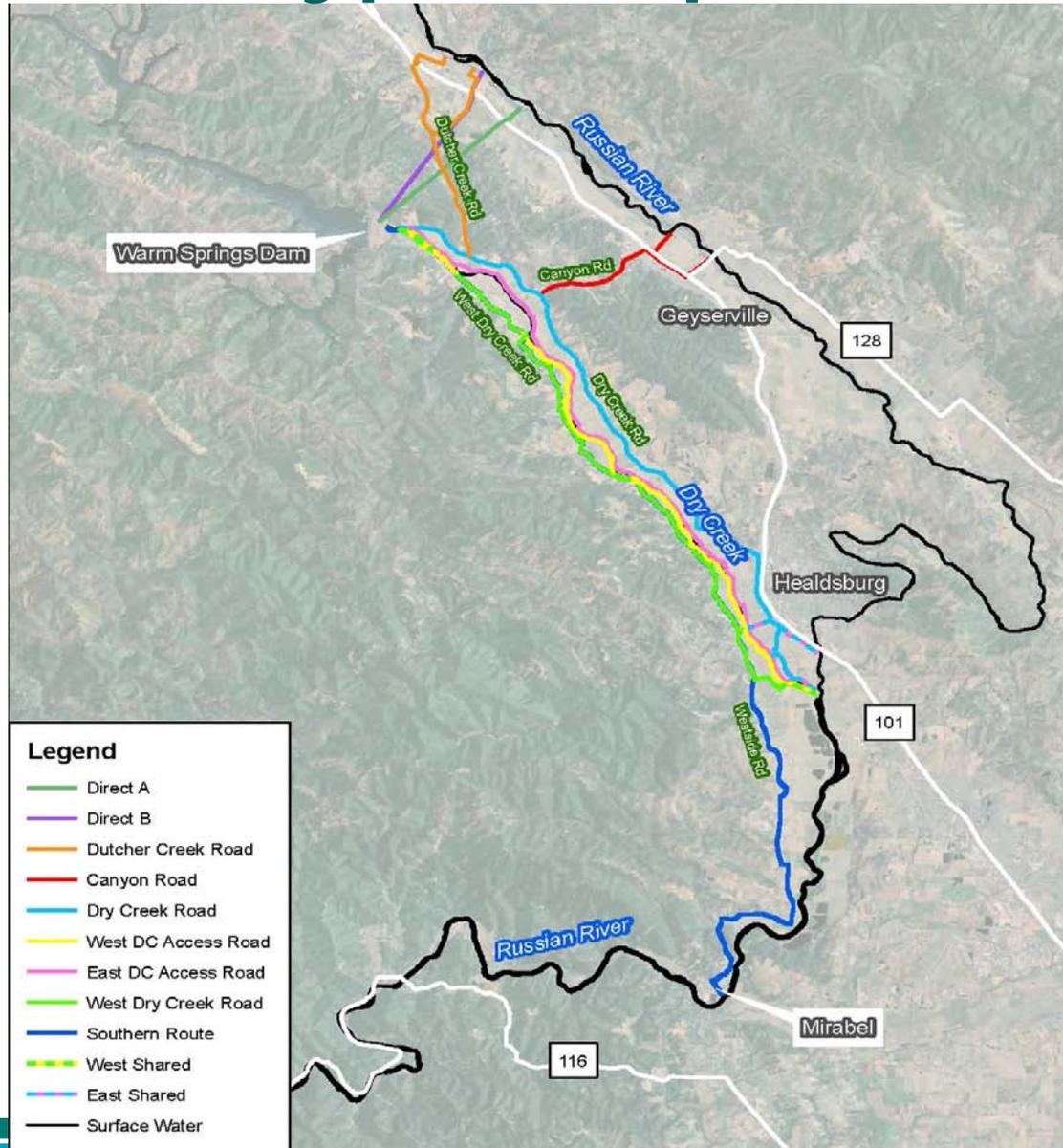
## Biological Opinion: Projects Required in Dry Creek Valley



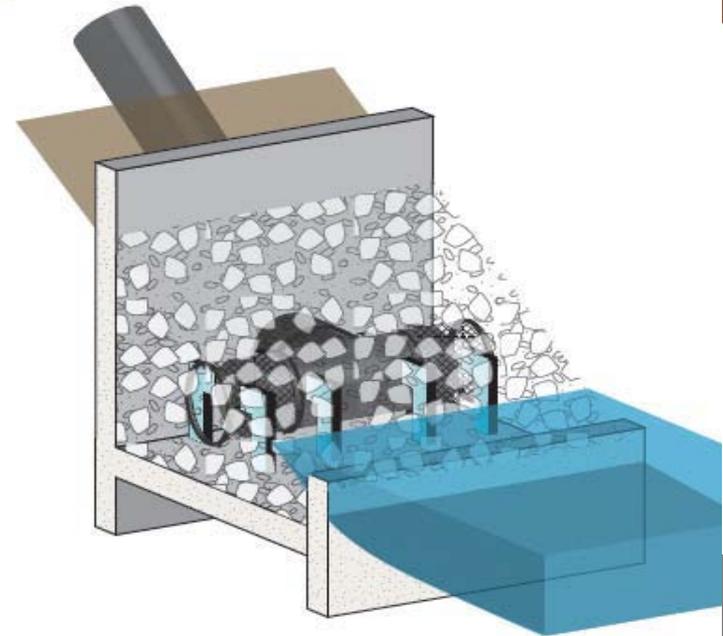
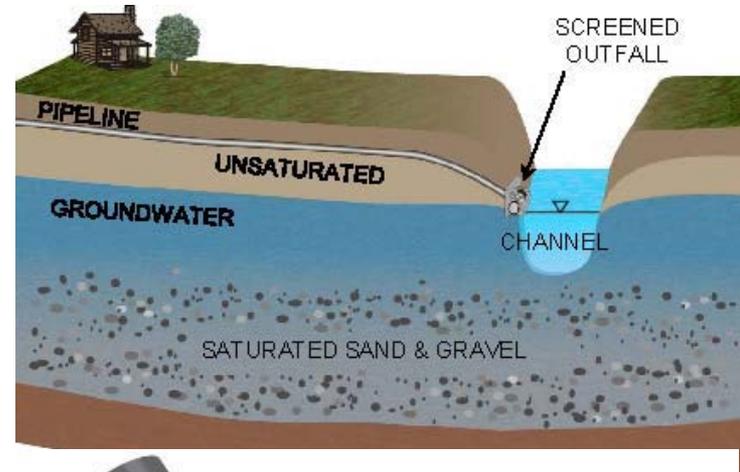
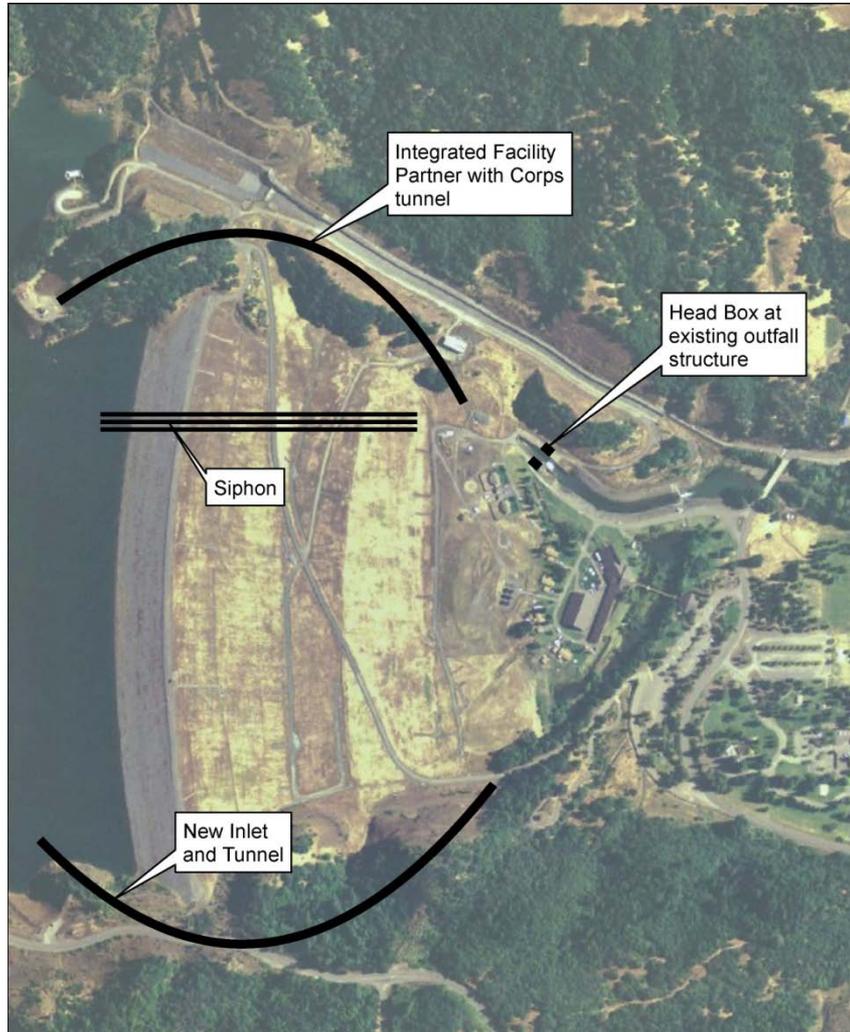
# Pipeline Screening and Evaluation Criteria



# Potential Bypass Pipeline Routes



# Pipeline Inlet and Outlet Options



# Milestones, Status, & Next Steps

## Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project:

*SCWA, InterFluve, ESSA Inc.*

<b>Milestone:</b>	Habitat Enhancement Feasibility Study	End of 2010.
<b>Status:</b>	Demonstration Project 10% Design	August 2010. Completed
	Demonstration Project 30% Design	November 2010. Completed
	Current Conditions Report	December 2010. Completed
<b>Next:</b>	Full Feasibility Study 14 miles of Dry Creek	Summer 2011
	Demonstration Project 60% Design	February 2011
	Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan	July 2011

# Milestone, Status, & Next Steps

## Tributary Habitat Enhancement Projects

*SCWA, Sotoyome RCD, Prunuske Chatham, Trout Unlimited,  
County Public Works, County PRMD*

**Milestone:** Five Tributary Projects Completed

End of 2011

**Status:** Grape Creek Habitat Enhancement  
Willow Creek Funding Agreement

August 2010. Completed  
October 2010. Completed

**Next:** Grape Creek Fish Passage  
Crane Creek Fish Passage  
Wallace Creek

Summer 2011

Fall 2011

Fall 2012

# Milestones, Status, & Next Steps

## Dry Creek Bypass Pipeline Feasibility Study:

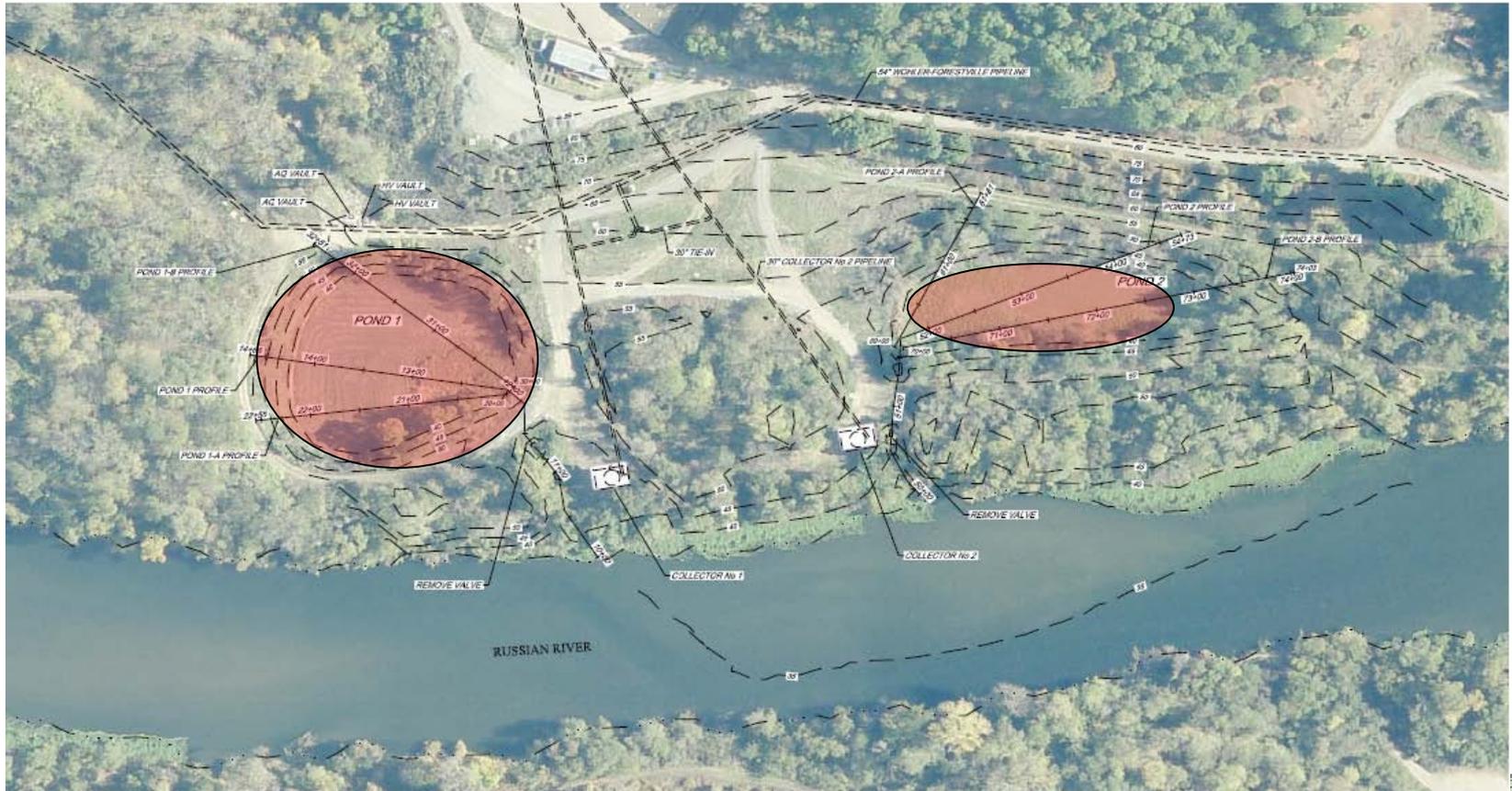
*SCWA, HDR Inc.*

<b>Milestone:</b>	Dry Creek Bypass Pipeline Feasibility Study	End of 2010.
<b>Status:</b>	Draft feasibility study is currently under review	September 2010
<b>Next:</b>	Feasibility Study Draft released	March 2011

# Mirabel Fish Screen and Ladder Replacement



# Fill Wohler Infiltration Ponds



# Milestones, Status, & Next Steps

## Mirabel Fish Screen/Ladder and Wohler Pond Modification:

<b>Milestone:</b> Fish Screen Design	October 2011
Fish Screens Replaced	October 2014
Wohler Ponds Modified	December 2011
<b>Status:</b> Fish Screen Feasibility Study	December 2009 <i>Completed</i>
DFG Fishery Restoration Grant	February 2011 <i>Anticipated</i>
Wohler Pond Design, CEQA, Permits	October 2010 <i>Completed</i>
<b>Next:</b> Fish Screen Design	Fall 2011
Wohler Pond Fill and Grading	Summer 2011

# Estuary Management Project



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# Lagoon Management & Breaching

- 6 closures in 2010
- Lagoon mgt in July
  - Closed July 4
  - Outlet July 8
  - Breach July 11
- Artificial breaching
  - 1 in January
  - 2 during LMP (Oct)
- 2 natural breaches in Oct & Nov



July 1, 2010 Natural Open Channel. Photo from Highway 1 Overlook.



July 7, 2010 Channel Closed by Tidal Action. Photo from Highway 1 Overlook.

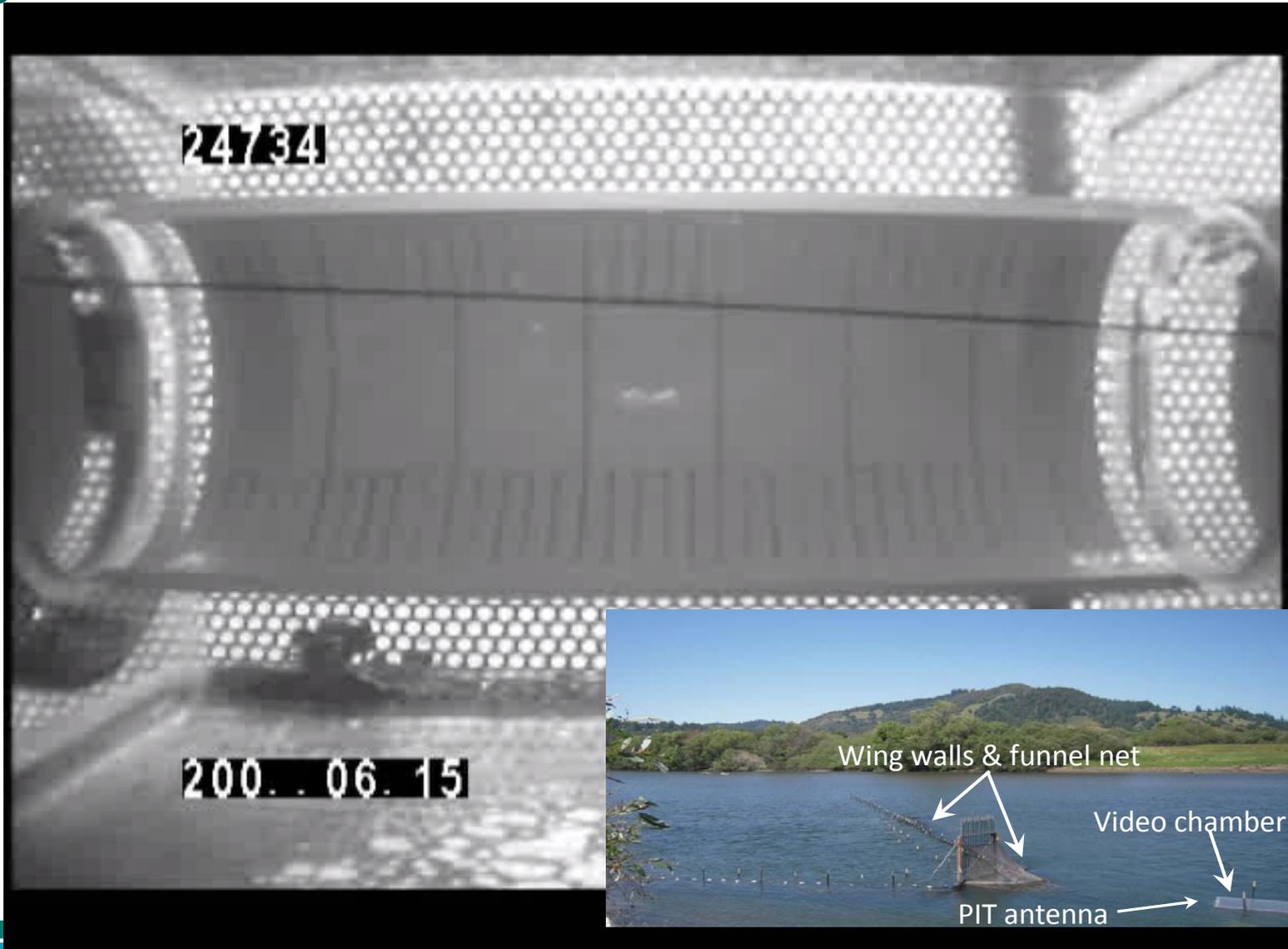


July 8, 2010 Created Outlet Channel. Photo from Highway 1 Overlook.

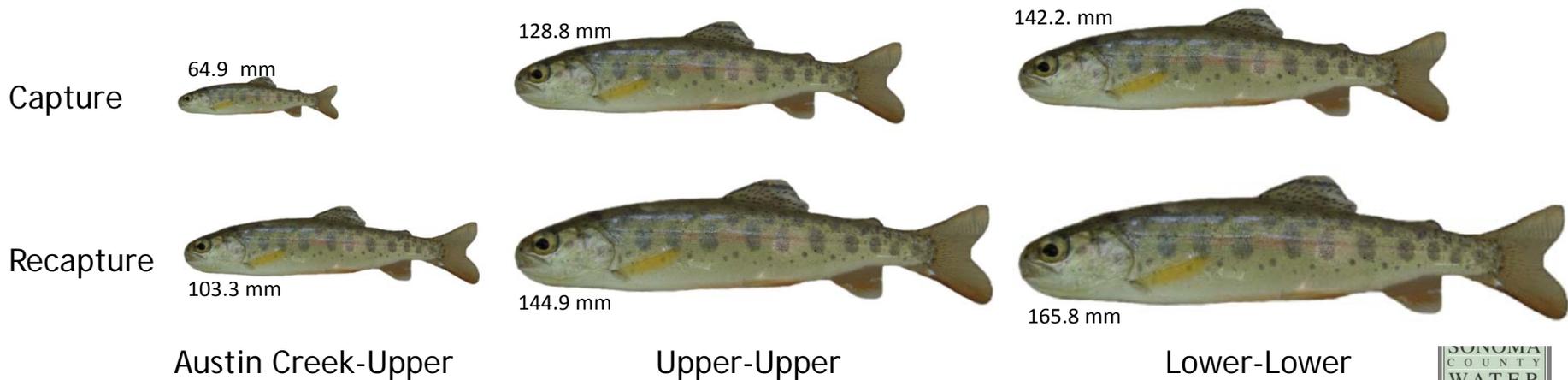
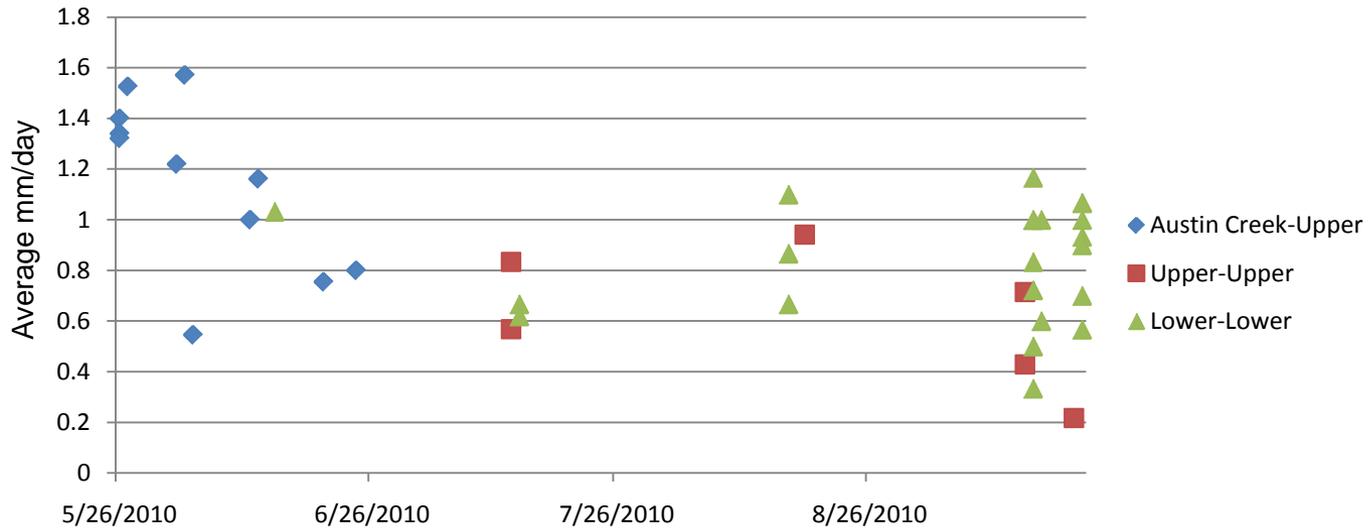
# Monitoring



# Fyke Antenna & Video



# Steelhead Recaptured



# Permitting & CEQA

- Marine mammal Incidental Harassment Authorization - April 2010
- Notice Of Preparation - June 2010
- Draft Environmental Impact Report - Public review 12/15/10 to 2/14/11
- New permit applications

# Year 3 Tasks

- Continue monitoring
- Adaptive management plan
- Final EIR
- Permits
- Jetty study



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