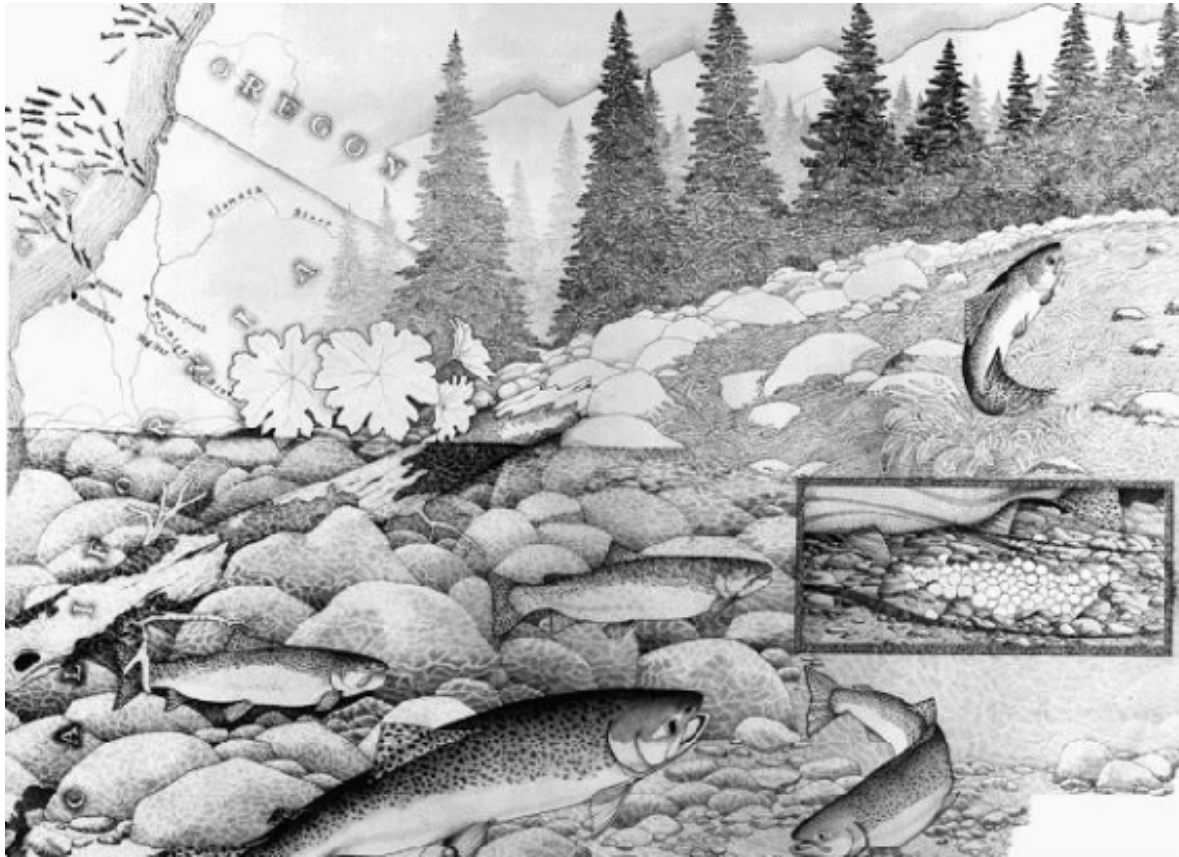


Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C) Final Report

Contract P0510327

CA Department of Fish and Game,
Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

March 2007 – July 2008



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C) is a collaborative process between Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties that began in 1997 in response to the listing of the coho salmon as a federally threatened species. The Program region encompasses the coho ESU within the five counties, which includes the following major watersheds:

- Albion River
- Bear River
- Big River
- Black Butte River
- Eel River
- Elk River
- Garcia River
- Klamath River
- Knopki River
- Little River
- Mad River
- Mattole River
- Navarro River
- Noyo River
- New River
- Salmon River
- Salt River
- Scott River
- Shasta River
- Smith River
- Ten Mile River
- Trinity River
- Van Duzen River

The 5C region excludes the Russian and Gualala River systems. Refer to Figure 1 below for a map of the 5C region. The program's objectives are to restore habitat and improve water quality to help re-establish salmonid populations. When the Program began, the University of California Cooperative Extension conducted an assessment of county policies and practices and their effect on salmonid populations. The assessment report, completed in 1998, summarized results and also included recommendations on ways the counties could improve policies and practices to restore and enhance those populations. To date, the Program has largely focused on: working to improve policies and practices related to infrastructure, notably roads system maintenance and capital improvement; training various county roads staff, planners, and policymakers in salmonid and water quality related topics; identifying, prioritizing, and implementing physical projects to restore access to habitats and improve water quality; and working with other restoration groups on larger collaborative efforts. Many 5C accomplishments were included or similar to the recommendations of the UCCE assessment. More detailed information on the Program can be accessed through the website: www.5counties.org.

Numerous local, state, and federal grants have been used to implement specific projects. The 5C has relied on many funding sources including NOAA Fisheries and CA Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program funds to oversee and execute the larger program including trainings and development of improved policies as well as to coordinate the on-the-ground work.

Under this contract, 5C staff mainly consisted of the Program Director Mark Lancaster, Manager Sandra Pérez, Assistant Manager Christine Jordan, and Natural Resources Technician Carolyn Rourke. For brief periods a part-time accountant and part-time project specialist were also on staff. Since inception, the Program has been housed in Trinity County as a special division of the Planning Department. Essentially, Trinity County has been the Program's legal, fiscal and administrative entity and has received most of the Program's grants for execution by 5C staff.

Due to increasing costs and other factors, the 5C Program began exploring options for becoming or moving under a different type of entity (see Section 2 below for more details). As of the time this report was prepared, the Program is transitioning from Trinity County to the Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, a 501 (c)3 non-profit group. It is anticipated that the transition will be complete by the first quarter of 2009. The Program goals and activities will remain consistent under the RC&D and will continue to be guided by the five counties' Boards of Supervisors.

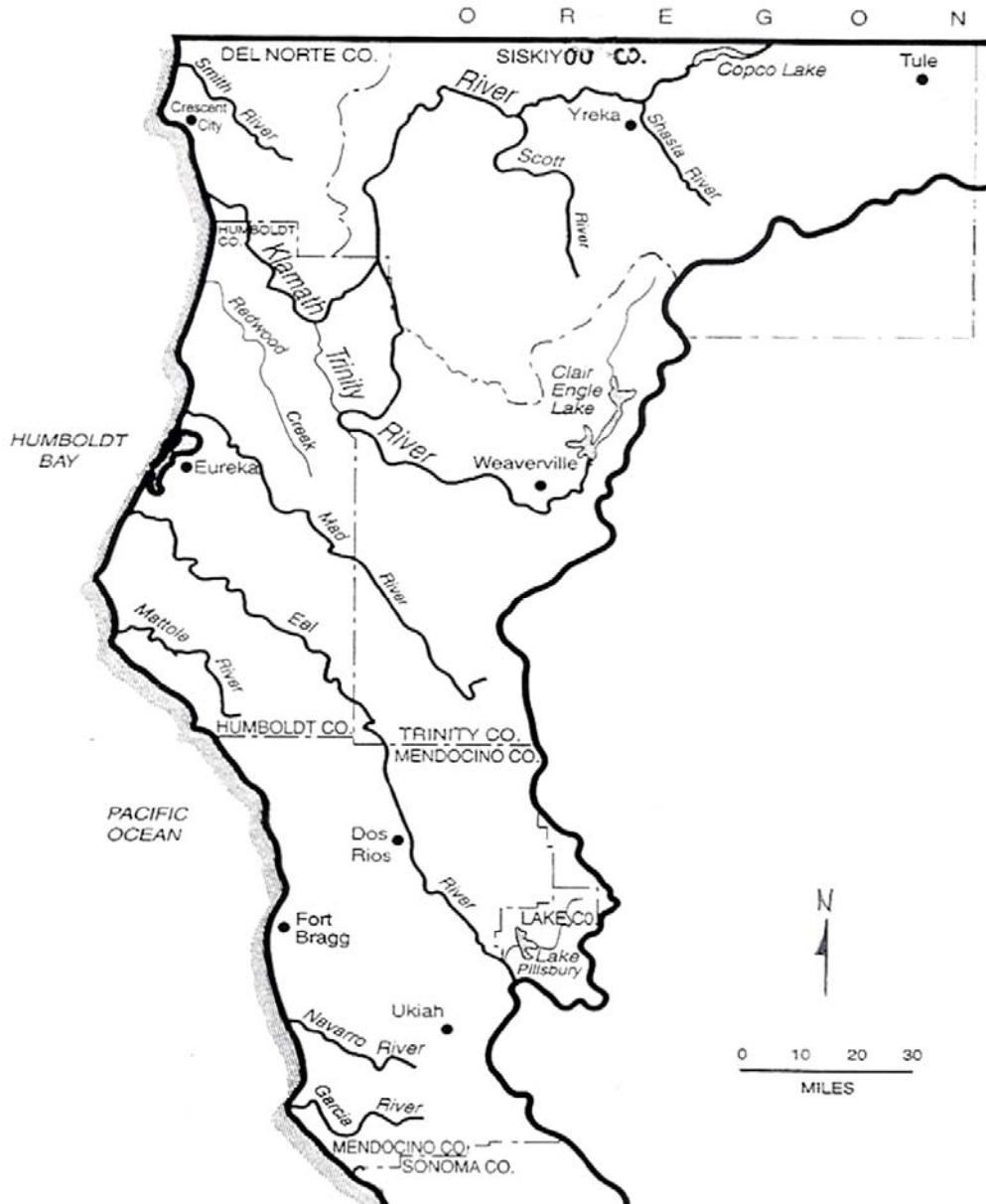


Figure 1: Five Counties Program Area

Although the contract effective date is shown as June 1, 2006, it funded the 5C Program activities for the time period of March 2007 to July 2008. The activities completed as part of this contract are described in this final report according to the tasks outlined in the scope of work. More detailed information (e.g., work descriptions, meeting agenda and sign-in sheets, reports prepared) may be found in the Progress Reports submitted throughout the contract period. Asterisks * in the text below denote work completed with matching funds. A summary of the costs associated with this contract are found at the end of this report. An electronic copy of this report and all Attachments are included on a CD accompanying this report.

2. 5C PROGRAM STEERING MEETINGS (TASK 2)

Two sit down 5C Program Policy meetings were held in the contract period in April 2007 in Eureka and in February 2008 in Arcata. 5C Board members (Board of Supervisors from each county) and County Road and Planning Department staff attended or participated via conference call. Topics included: current program projects and other activities (e.g., water quality, migration barriers); permitting and regulatory updates; the 5C Program reassessment (follow up to the original UCCE 1998 assessment – see Task 7 below); Program finances and future direction; and transitioning from being housed in Trinity County into a different type of entity.

The administrative costs and salary benefits of the Program in Trinity County have been rising notably. The County has also been less able to sustain short-term cash flow burdens associated with administering and implementing the numerous grant reimbursable 5C Programs and projects. A few options for a new entity type were researched and presented to the 5C Board: a Joint Powers Authority, a non-profit group, and a public-private partnership. Eventually, it was determined that the Northwest California RC&D Council would be an ideal entity under which the 5C Program could be housed. The Council's charter and its Five Year Area Plan (2008-2013) is structured by goals and programs similar to the 5C Program. The RC&D employee benefits costs are substantially lower than the County's while providing relatively similar benefits. The transfer of the 5C Program to the RC&D Council will not alter the 5C Program's work, programs, or projects but will reduce program costs and maximize the amount of funding spent on the ground. Agreements are currently being processed to authorize and facilitate the transfer of the 5C Program, staff, assets and resources, based on the continuation of the 5C Program's goals, mission and direction. This transfer has required 5C conference calls as well as numerous calls, emails, and visits with individual county Board members and staff. At present, the process of reconciling 5C finances within Trinity County and establishing a budget and employee salaries/benefits schedule under the RC&D are underway.

3. 5C CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (TASK 3)

5C staff coordinated various projects throughout the contract period. Specific aspects of that coordination (e.g., funding prioritization, professional/technical

assistance, permitting) are discussed in sections A-D below. Work on strategies and programs as well as general coordination for projects was performed:

- Sediment reduction projects within Trinity County: Staff met with Department of Transportation staff to discuss timeframes, possible subcontracting, and in-kind contributions for current, upcoming, and potential future projects.
- Fish passage improvement projects: The Program Director and Assistant Program Manager met with road departments and partner organizations (e.g., CalTrans) to discuss and facilitate the progress of priority migration barrier removal project design and construction projects.
- Weaver Basin Wetlands: The Program Manager met with Natural Resources Conservation District staff to discuss a strategy for the current Wetlands Reserve Program grant that consists of removing invasive species, revegetation, and reinforcing the spillway between constructed ponds with vegetation.
- The Program Manager updated the 5C Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments (DIRT) database to better capture landslide features, make information on unusual watershed conditions more accessible, and further enhance user data entry. The possible role of the DIRT inventory of the Scott River watershed in Siskiyou County within the Scott River Sediment TMDL was also discussed with the regional water board and Siskiyou County. (Portions of this work were completed with other grant sources.)
- Staff continues to participate in trainings in areas such as Land Use Planning, MS Access database use and training, basic archaeology, CEQA mitigation and monitoring, and Total Station use that will facilitate the development of 5C Program elements and project implementation.
- The Program Manager developed and has enhanced a financial database to facilitate and streamline fiscal tasks. In the absence of an accountant, the database minimizes the amount of staff time spent on fiscal tasks. A part time accountant was employed for one to two days a week for approximately five months (29% of contract period).



Figures 2 &3: Pilot bioengineering treatment on an eroding bank of Sidney Gulch in Trinity County shown as built in 2007 and one year later.

A. COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIZATION

Staff regularly discuss in-kind and other match contributions with member counties for 5C restoration projects. They also discuss the incorporation of habitat improvement or other best management practices into maintenance or capital improvement projects. Budgets for engineering and design work are developed with 5C member counties and design consultants. The use of possible special funds within counties (e.g., Transportation Enhancement Act, Transportation Commission) for restoration projects was also discussed.

B. CONTRACT FISHERIES, ENGINEERING, AND HYDROLOGY CONSULTANTS

The Assistant Program Manager and Director renegotiated the Scope of Work for the fisheries biologist contract with Ross Taylor & Associates (RTA) and extended the existing engineering contract with Michael Love & Associates (MLA).

RTA performed:

- Habitat surveys: 0 in Del Norte, 1 in Humboldt (Bullwinkle Creek), 0 in Mendocino, 0 in Siskiyou, and 1 in Trinity (Little Browns Creek) Counties; *1 of these was conducted with matching funds;
- Fish relocation: 0 in Del Norte, 0 in Humboldt, 1 in Mendocino (Albion River), 0 in Siskiyou, and 1 in Trinity Counties (Little Browns Creek); *1 of these were conducted with matching funds;
- Post project inspections of 2 project after completion to assess consistency with fish passage objectives (Warren and Little Browns Creeks); *1 of these was partially conducted with matching funds;
- Spawning surveys: 0 in Del Norte, 11 in Humboldt (Warren & SF Anker Creeks & Morrison Gulch), 0 in Mendocino, 0 in Siskiyou, and 1 in Trinity Counties; *1 of these was partially conducted with matching funds; and
- Presence/absence surveys: 0 in Del Norte, 12 in Humboldt, 1 in Mendocino, 0 in Siskiyou, and 1 in Trinity Counties; *1 of these was conducted with matching funds.

RTA also:

- Drafted a proposal for out migrant trapping to apply to various fish passage improvement project sites, using Morrison Gulch as the model, to assess biological response to removing migration barriers;
- Developed a proposal for habitat typing and monitoring work for the fords on the Mendocino County Tomki Road Rehabilitation/Sediment Reduction project;
- Prepared a monitoring plan for Little Browns Creek migration barrier removal project in Trinity County to monitor the physical channel and biological response;

- Provided input on the fish passage benefits of replacing existing crossings and on fish passage improvement design; and

MLA reviewed the design for a fish passage improvement project and performed a post project inspection for another project in Trinity County.

C. OTHER PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the contracted services described above, other assessment, design, monitoring, and/or implementation work is performed by either member counties or other parties:

- The Siskiyou Department of Public Works completed engineering on two fish passage projects and bioengineering design on a third;
- Humboldt County Department of Public Works completed engineering for a fish passage project;
- The Assistant Program Manager coordinated with Siskiyou, Humboldt & Mendocino Counties on the engineering progress of five projects. She also coordinated engineering with CalTrans on one project in Mendocino County.
- 5C staff:
 - Developed and helped to plan, design, and implement various aspects of fish passage projects in Mendocino, Del Norte, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties including site assessment in regards to overall priority, bioengineering design, permitting, construction implementation, contract management, and post-project monitoring.
 - In coordination with the Trinity County Department of Transportation, developed individual treatments for sediment reduction projects based on DIRT treatments originally prescribed in 2001.

D. AGENCY COORDINATION, PERMIT FACILITATION

As a result of the efforts of the Fish Passage Forum, in which the Assistant Program Manager and the Director participate, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adopted the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) engineering guidelines for stream-crossings in disaster recovery operations in California. Prior to this adoption, FEMA would only reimburse culvert replacement projects that restored the facility to its pre-disaster condition, not an improved condition that would allow for greater flows and fish passage.

The Program Director and Manager have participated in numerous presentations and public hearings on the North Coast Water Quality Control Board meeting on the staff sediment workplan, which is designed to coordinate and prioritize the implementation of many water quality protections. It involves many existing and proposed policies that would

broaden the current scope of Water Board regulations. In discussions with water board staff and presentations to the water board, the 5C staff has encouraged the inclusion of and deference to incentive-based opportunities in the workplan.

Throughout the contract period, 5C staff performed environmental analysis of and helped to obtain permits and/or environmental clearance for several sediment reduction and fish passage improvement projects.

Lancaster discussed with Siskiyou Department of Public Works (DPW) the changes in Water Board staff requirements regarding determination of wetlands and resulting additional permit and mitigation requirements. In this particular instance Water Board staff was proposing a standard that is in public review, but not adopted, for a restoration mitigation component of a DPW capital improvement project. The affected area was less than 1/100th of an acre of wetland area.

During the 2007 5C Roads workshop (see Task 16 below), one of the sessions involved discussions on permit streamlining. A frequent comment of 5C road department staff was that the process of filling out and submitting permits seemed more cumbersome than it should as much of the basic information for a project is requested by all of the agencies on their respective forms. The Program Manager proposed a concept for a permit streamlining database that would facilitate the single entry of basic information for projects yet be able to generate multiple forms required for various permits. This is distinct from the concept of a universal permitting form that has been discussed in the past in that the unique format and needs of each agency could be preserved without the need for member county staff to fill out multiple forms. The database would also allow each county to better track basic information for various projects. Development of this database will be pursued in the future and preliminary discussions with some agency representatives have been positive.

4. NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN (TASK 4)

For much of the contract period, the Natural Resources Technician was conducting a road erosion inventory* in Siskiyou County. In the last few months (approximately 20% of the entire contract timeframe), the Technician performed treatment staking, photo monitoring, and post project monitoring for several sediment reduction projects in Trinity County (with grant and matching funds). On one of these projects, she was also on-site to help oversee and review force account work.

A review of the existing Humboldt County DIRT databases and data collected through 2001 was developed by the Program Manager, Director, and Technician. After meeting with Humboldt County Dept of Public Works (DPW) staff, the Technician conducted a field review of sites to assess the quality of the data. At this time, it is anticipated that a re-inventory of several road segments will be

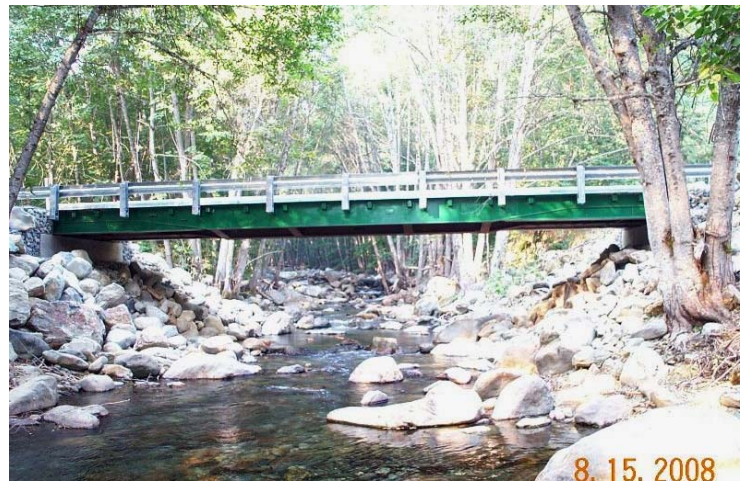
necessary based on observed deficiencies of some of the data (volume underestimation, incomplete treatment information, and site recognition).

5. RESOURCE SHARING OR POOLING (TASK 5)



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established for the transfer of two surplus railcar bridges obtained by 5C from the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) to Del Norte County. Follow-up discussions to address the encapsulation of lead based paint on the bridge were also held. The Program Director and

Assistant Manager also coordinated the transfer of a TRRP railcar bridge to Siskiyou Public Works under an existing MOU. This 55-foot bridge replaced a dilapidated bridge over Canyon Creek, a tributary to the Scott River (as shown in photos).



Figures 4 & 5: An old bridge with an eroding support structure over Canyon Creek in Siskiyou County was replaced with a surplus Trinity River railcar bridge.

6. PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING (TASK 6)

5C staff continually coordinates with member counties, grantor agencies, and Program partners on the status of 5C projects and programs. The Program has participated in the Trinity River Watershed Council, which is working to track restoration in the basin. GIS shapefiles containing 5C DIRT implementation project sites and migration barrier locations were provided to the Council for this purpose. When combined with information from other Council members, it will be used to track overall progress and facilitate future project development and prioritization. The Council has also discussed methods for improving project monitoring and data sharing. Program staff has also discussed steelhead and coho monitoring survey work and data with Trinity County CDFG staff.

The 5C also conducts long term monitoring of projects to assess the performance and success of treatments and adjust restoration implementation strategies accordingly as needed.

A general monitoring strategy specifically for sediment reduction projects has been developed* as a result of two such projects being implemented with State Water Board funding. Projects to implement DIRT treatments do not lend themselves to traditional monitoring that involves sampling or analyzing load reductions that most water quality grant requirements expect, as these projects are largely preventative work to treat potential sediment sources. The recommended monitoring strategy consists of visual review and/or photo documentation to verify proper installation of treatments, post project photo monitoring to observe road conditions after storm activity, and a possible re-survey of portions of treated segments using the original DIRT methodology used to inventory the road.

7. 5C PROGRAM REASSESSMENT (TASK 7)

As described in Section 1 Introduction, above, the 5C Program assessment conducted in 1998 outlined recommendations for the 5C salmonid conservation approach. The first phase of a second assessment to summarize accomplishments since that original assessment began under this contract. Richard Harris, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) staff person that led the original assessment, was available to lead this re-assessment. He and 5C staff developed a scope of work (SOW) in coordination with the 5C Board and member counties' staffs. This first phase assessment consisted of a paper review of policies and practices. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to county road and planning departments to capture changes that have occurred since the original assessment. Harris followed up with site visits to each county. A report summarizing these Phase I results has been prepared and was attached in Progress Report #5. Results indicated progress made in improving maintenance practices, land use planning processes, and other county practices. It was noted that field verification will be required to evaluate some of that progress.

A second phase will be conducted in the future and will include: field visits to specific project sites and, to the extent possible, a review of the effectiveness of policy changes on the ground.

8. 5C FRAMEWORK CONSERVATION PLAN (TASK 8)

As described in Sections 1 and 2 above, the 5C Program has been in the process of transitioning out of Trinity County into a different type of entity. Because of the magnitude of these changes and the fact that they will result in a new MOU between the counties, the development of a 5C Framework Conservation Plan has been temporarily postponed. Under the new entity, the RC&D Council, the 5C would have more flexibility to work with private landowners on various conservation efforts (e.g., land use planning incentive tools, voluntary conservation practices) at the discretion of the 5C Board members and Council. Expansion and development of these areas may be reflected in a conservation strategy.

9. 5C ROADS MANUAL IMPLEMENTATION, TRAINING, & CONSULTATIONS (TASK 9)

Under the previous 5C Program grant, Sommarstrom and Associates (SA) and the 5C worked to obtain ESA Limit 10 section 4(d) coverage of the 5C's "A Water Quality and Stream Habitat Protection Manual for County Road Maintenance in Northwestern California Watersheds" (Manual) by NOAA NMFS. This coverage was issued in July 2007 (refer to Attachment A). SA, NOAA NMFS staff, and the Program Director discussed the possibility of CalTrans assuming NEPA functions for federally funded transportation projects and consultation requirements.

SA organized several sessions as part of the 2007 Roads Workshop to:

- Provide counties with an understanding of what the 4(d) coverage means;
- Obtain input on the Manual's areas of effectiveness and possible improvement; and
- Conduct focused training on several Manual chapters and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

SA, who with the 5C member counties authored the Manual, drafted a revision needs list for the Manual. Permitting and regulatory coverage of Manual activities with the water board was pursued. A summary of implementation of 5C Manual BMPs within the counties was also prepared and included in Progress Report #5. Implementation work is ongoing.



Figures 6 & 7: The pictures above illustrate a bioengineering project on the Scott River in Siskiyou County. Road Manual BMP 7.3 (Bioengineering Joint Planting) was used to stabilize an eroding bank.

10. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN ROAD STANDARDS (TASK 10)

Stormwater best management practices were highlighted as part of the 2007 Roads Workshop. Many incentive tools for private landowners were discussed with land use planners that included stormwater management. As part of the 5C land use planning element, a small scale, simplified stormwater retention basin model will be developed and provided to road and planning departments so that they may be

incorporated into accepted county standards and made available to the public. Flexible development standards could be offered if LID design was incorporated into development project proposals.

A scope of work and informal bid for a demonstration stormwater treatment and retention basin along a Trinity County urban stream within a county road right-of-way was developed. However, since the only bid proposal submitted exceeded available funding, a basin was not designed or implemented. This project will be revised to increase the in-house work in order to reduce the contract needs and overall cost.

11. INCENTIVE BASED LAND USE PLANNING TOOLS & APPROACHES (TASK 11)

Throughout this contract period, the North Coast Regional Water Quality and State Water Resources Control Boards have undertaken the development of a wetlands and riparian area protection policy. The regional board also developed a sediment workplan for staff to integrate and implement various water protection policies and programs. The proposed wetlands and riparian area protection policy as well as a prohibition on the discharge of excess sediment that would be amended into the Basin Plan are both included in the regional board's sediment workplan. The State Board is looking to the regional board efforts as a process on which theirs may be modeled. The Program Director and Manager attended several scoping meetings and public hearings for the proposed policies and met with regional staff. The Boards and regional staff were encouraged to work with local governments as well as other state/federal agency staff involved in oversight of the types of activities included in the proposed workplan to avoid overlapping regulations and identify opportunities for collaboration. They also discussed incentive-based opportunities for the workplan with regional staff.

5C staff worked with regional board staff on other levels that included a 5C presentation to the regional board, site visits of several grading sites in Trinity County, and the development of an incentive based grading ordinance for Trinity County. The Program Director and Manager also worked with Army Corps of Engineers staff and local watershed groups and agencies to discuss wetlands mitigation needs of local private landowners and possible sites where work could be implemented.

Pérez assisted Trinity County with a planning project application in which the applicant used the 5C Low Impact to Hydrology Road Standards as part of the design standards on his proposed new road construction.

On occasion, 5C staff assists with or discusses local planning projects with sensitive natural resource concerns with Trinity County planning staff. Possible impacts and ways to reduce them are discussed with an emphasis on incentive based approaches (e.g., flexible lot lines, development site clustering). The Program Director and Manager have participated in Trinity County's General Plan Update (GPU) planning process. Their work in regards to water resources planning in

collaboration with a North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management (NCIRWM) planning grant is especially relevant as it is focused on segments of the Trinity River watershed.* This is part of a larger NCIRWM effort where Humboldt County is undertaking a similar process. The Program Director, Manager, Natural Resources Technician, and a GIS consultant have worked to assemble and digitize, where necessary, water resources baseline data that includes physical factors such as soils, floodplains, and slope as well as social factors such as community water intakes, pollutant data, and zoning. At present the Program Director and Manager are developing queries to facilitate analysis of available information. Results of the Trinity River work will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors and the General Plan Advisory Committee for consideration in the GPU process. 5C staff will recommend the development of incentive based tools to encourage landowners to protect and conserve water resources. It is anticipated that the water resources analysis will prove helpful in identifying other opportunities such as ideal trade areas with public agencies to make more suitable land available for private development.

12. PROGRAM RESTORATION FUNDING (TASK 12)

The 5C submitted a letter to Congressperson Herger in support of salmonid restoration funding via the Pacific Coastal Salmon Conservation and Recovery Initiative (PCSI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, National Marine Fisheries Service program. Herger was also urged to encourage the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) to direct more of its funding toward implementing the Record of Decision and towards watershed restoration. The Program Director also discussed the need for increasing watershed restoration funding with TRRP managers.

The Program Director and Assistant Manager also discussed the use of federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) funds, which currently fund wildlife but not fish related projects, for fish passage. They also assisted Siskiyou County with obtaining FEMA reimbursements for five emergency storm work project locations. To date, at least two of the projects have been fully reimbursed by FEMA and further review is being done for additional sites.

5C staff worked with member counties throughout the period to identify possible funding sources for various restoration projects. They also worked with Caltrans District I staff on developing funding strategies to implement four migration barrier removal projects in different ownerships along the same creek in Mendocino County. They also developed or assisted member counties with several discrete proposals totaling over \$3.05 million, ~\$2.38 million of which was for large capital improvement projects such as fish passage improvement. Proposals included:

- Watershed restoration proposals, largely consisting of sediment reduction projects, were developed for the TRRP through the Trinity River Watershed Council.
- A 5C Program proposal and three fish passage projects (Siskiyou, Mendocino, Trinity) were submitted to the CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

(FRGP). A matching grant proposal for the Siskiyou project was submitted to and funded by the BOR's Klamath River Watershed Restoration Program. Matching grant proposals for the Mendocino project were submitted to the NOAA Open Rivers Grant program, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Coastal Watershed Initiative and the NFWF Keystone Initiative. The NACo proposal was awarded funding and the status of the Open Rivers proposal is unknown.

- Specific project information for various CDFG FRGP proposals including sediment reduction and urban streams projects was provided to member counties.
- CAL FIRE was assisted with a fish passage improvement project FRGP and NFWF Keystone Initiative proposal in Mendocino.
- A Trinity County fish passage project proposal was submitted to the Steelhead Card program.
- A pre-proposal was prepared for six high priority barrier projects throughout the 5C, under a National Fish and Wildlife Federation Keystone Initiative grant.
- A Wetlands Restoration Program grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service was secured for further restoration of the Weaver Basin Wetlands in Trinity County.
- Supplementary funding from the NOAA Restoration Center was obtained in coordination with FishNet 4C to produce an additional 300 Fish Passage Design and Engineering DVDs.
- Several agencies and watershed groups were assisted with reviewing 5 and submitting 2 high priority projects from the CA Fish Passage Forum program area to the National Fish Habitat's Action Plan's (NFHAP) Demonstration Project funding source for Candidate Partnerships. The two projects selected would meet the goals and objectives of the Plan's Strategy 2 requirements of rehabilitating river and stream flows to approximate natural flow and water surface variability.

5C staff also participated in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Passage Proposal review as well as the NCIRWM (see Task 13 below) proposal review process.

13. COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT BASED WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONS (TASK 13)

The 5C have participated in the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management (NCIRWM) Group since before its inception in 2004. Several 5C Board members and the 5C Program Director serve on the NCIRWM Policy Panel. Many member county staff and the 5C Program Manager are members of the Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC). Therefore, 5C staff has participated in numerous NCIRWM meetings to:

- Update and revise the NCIRWM Plan and priorities;
- Discuss legislative updates, state water plans and watershed strategies, and funding opportunities;
- Review and rank proposals submitted from local governments, agencies, and

- watershed groups throughout the region; and
- Plan and participate in the NCIRWM Workshop (which included a 5C presentation and participation in the TPRC panel discussion). The workshop was attended by agencies staff, watershed restoration groups, water districts, and restoration consultants and specialists.

The Program Director and Assistant Manager have participated in the Fish Passage Forum and attended many meetings throughout the contract period. This has included:

- Exploring the possibility of the Forum becoming a candidate partnership in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP);
- Updating the Forum MOU and brochure;
- Discussing wildland fires and impacts on fish passage, road drainage, and water quality;
- Reviewing priority projects;
- Final review and distribution of the Fish Passage Design workshop DVD;
- Organizing project site tours for meetings;
- Participating on the FEMA and Engineering subcommittees;

A possible 5C NFHAP partnership was explored and possible partnerships with FishNet 4C and the Coastal Conservancy were also discussed. Staff also helped the FishNet 4C to plan an upcoming roads workshop.

5C staff was among the founding participants of the Trinity River Watershed Council and continue to participate on a regular basis. Meeting topics and coordinated efforts have included:

- Development of the Council's draft MOU, and discussion of Council function, membership, and direction;
- Discussion of various funding source criteria;
- Development and discussion of restoration project concepts;
- Preparation of 5C sediment reduction proposals;
- Review and general prioritization of restoration project proposals;
- Strategizing on project monitoring and data sharing;

The Program Director has presented completed and ongoing 5C work efforts, primarily sediment reduction, in the Trinity River Basin to TRRP managers in order to emphasize the importance of working in tributary watersheds.

Information on projects constructed in the 5C Program area was included in the Coho Recovery Team summary of activities to illustrate progress in relation to targeted recovery units. The Program Director is a Team member.

Sonoma County considered the use of the 5C DIRT road erosion inventory approach in its upcoming road inventory. 5C staff presented the methodology and database to their staff at a sit-down meeting.

The current state of transportation policy and practice as it relates to wildlife conservation and the inclusion of fish in the definition of wildlife was discussed

during the Getting Up to Speed (GUTS) National web conference.

Discussions about proposed land trades in Trinity County between the US Forest Service and private landowners were discussed specifically in relation to: consistency with the General and Community Plans and overall suitability; and possible impacts of development in the area.

14. COLLABORATION WITH WATERSHED COORDINATORS & PUBLIC GROUPS (TASK 14)

Throughout the entire contract period, staff has worked with various local, state, and federal agencies, watershed groups, and local collaborative processes on a variety of efforts including: project development; presentations on 5C efforts; and distribution of 5C project and biological data, regional restoration information, and technical instruction. Staff also regularly participates in relevant conferences such as the Salmonid Restoration Federation.

15. WORKING WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES (TASK 15)

The Program Director has been consistently working with the Weaverville Sanitary District (WSD) on its wastewater reclamation project funded through the NCIRWM process under Prop 50. This has included: the development of a project monitoring plan; coordination with NOAA Fisheries, state Dept of Public Health, and Drinking Water staff on permitting issues; review of the Community Services District's (local water provider) master plan; and selection of an engineering firm. It is anticipated that 5C staff will remain involved through the project's completion.

16. TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS (TASK 16)

A. SALMON, WATER QUALITY, AND ROADS WORKSHOP

The 2007 Roads Workshop was held on November 27-30 in Trinity County. Participants included 60 county roads department staff, six representatives from four agencies, several consultants, and 5C staff. Two bioengineering and stormwater best management practices consultants helped to conduct some of the classroom sessions.

Figure 8: A hands-on bioengineering demonstration was also held as part of the field site visits.



Other topics included emergency and general project permitting; Roughened Channel Design & Construction, which included a field site visit; and 5C Program long term planning. Recent 5C Program restoration projects were also toured. The agenda, sign-in sheets, and workshop binder were included in Progress Report #3.

B. SALMON, WATER QUALITY, AND LAND USE WORKSHOP/MEETINGS

Pérez and Lancaster conducted individual meetings/workshops in each county throughout the contract period. Pertinent meeting topics included:

- the 5C UCCE reassessment, specifically in regards to land use planning policies and practices;
- the water resources planning work in the Trinity River and the effort in Humboldt County, which together make up the NCIRWM planning grant work (see Task 11C above). In Humboldt County, this was more of a discussion of the parallel Trinity Co and Humboldt Co processes; and
- the proposed North Coast water board sediment workplan and riparian protection regulatory policy.

County staff participation was excellent:

- Mendocino: Nine participants, which represented the majority of planners
- Del Norte: All 3 planners attended
- Trinity: Four participants including all land use planners
- Siskiyou: 5 participants (including the entire Planning Department)
- Humboldt: 12 participants, which represented the majority of planners

Copies of the sign-in sheets for all meetings were included with the corresponding Progress Report for the period.

17. 5C WEBSITE (TASK 17)

Jordan completed major updates to the 5C website in May & August 2007 and February & June 2008 including project, grant funding, and permitting information. Minor adjustments were conducted on a monthly basis, such as updating contact information for 5C and County staff and updating project photos.

18. PROGRAM COSTS AND MATCHING FUNDING

The total project cost for activities throughout the contract period (March 2007 through July 2008) was approximately \$718,771, which consisted of a 45.8% match of approximately \$329,112 to the \$389,659 grant contract amount. This match far exceeded the 33.6% match projected prior to the start of the contract. A total of 6,016 personnel hours were expended under the contract. Matching sources largely consisted of engineering or design work for sediment reduction and fish passage improvement projects. A breakdown of expenses by source and grant line item is shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: PROJECT COSTS

Grant Line Items	GRANT DOLLARS	TOTAL MATCH	Matching Source Breakdown*			
			Mendocino Co, Tomki Rd Project	Humboldt County NCIRWM	CA Coastal Conservancy	5C member County staff time
PERSONNEL COSTS						
Program Director	62,996	7,702		3,706	3,996	
Benefits @	43,288	5,222		2,555	2,667	
Program Manager	51,015	2,964		2,809	155	
Benefits @	37,992	2,244		2,130	113	
Assistant Program Manager	20,454	14,034			14,034	
Benefits @	12,994	8,575			8,575	
Natural Resources Technician	6,849	719		531	188	
Benefits @	5,402	456		419	37	
Accountant/Office Manager	4,385	0				
Benefits @	2,006	0				
Admin Asst/Proj Specialist	17,091	0				
Benefits @	1,997	0				
5C member county staff time	0	76,805				76,805
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	266,469	118,719	0	12,151	29,764	76,805
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Subcontractors						
UCCE Consultants	0	0				
UCCE Other Specialists	0	0				
Environmental Consultant	12,449	0				
Fisheries Biologist	5,950	6,970			6,970	
Eng, Botanical, Other Prof Svcs	41,328	203,422	129,649	12,732	61,041	
Workshop Consultants	1,500	0				
Workshop Facilities (meals, lodging, conf facilities)	15,851	0				
Workshop Supplies and Services	286	0				
Transportation for Workshop Speakers	0	0				
Program Transportation	5,667	0				
Lodging, per diem	4,736	0				
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	87,766	210,392	129,649	12,732	68,012	0
Administrative Overhead	35,424					
TOTAL	389,659	329,112	129,649	24,883	97,775	76,805

***Matching Source List:**

- Mendocino County Tomki Rd Sediment Reduction Project - design work only (State Water Resources Control Board Contract# 06-145-551-0)
- North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant for water resources planning work (Contract #07090)

- CA Coastal Conservancy Engineering and Project Design work for various fish passage improvement projects (Contract #s 03-051 & 05-114)
- 5C member County staff time for workshops: Nov '07 Roads & '08 Planner's

19. SUMMARY

5C staff has continued implementation of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program throughout the contract period. This has included: design work for and management and monitoring of over 30 restoration projects of various types; coordination with member county policy makers and staff, local, state, and federal agencies, and watershed groups on projects, permitting practices, and regional restoration; pursuit of funding for discrete projects as well as regional efforts; implementing 5C tools and practices (e.g., Road Manual); work with land use planners to identify ways to improve project review and long term planning; trainings for 5C road crews and planners. Work tasks that are more unique to this contract include: completion of the UCCE re-assessment of 5C policies and practices as compared to the original 1998 assessment; summarizing annual 5C Road Manual BMP implementation; and transitioning the Program into a new entity for cost-savings and improved efficiency.

The work completed under this contract is consistent with the Coho Recovery Strategy. 5C Program work addresses the following wide-ranging tasks in *The Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon*:

- *RW-XXX-E-01 - Continue to implement FishNet 4C and Five County Salmon Restoration goals, including adopting and implementing written Operations and Maintenance Guidelines, training staff on guidelines, addressing fish passage and road sedimentation issues, developing riparian protections, promoting alternatives to conventional bank stabilization, and developing land use policies favorable for coho salmon.*
- *RW-III-A-01 - Continue and complete assessments and prioritizations for correction of fish passage barriers.*
- *RW-III-C-01 - Encourage funding authorities to allocate adequate resources to construct new crossings and upgrade existing crossings (bridges, culvert and fills, other crossings) within the range of coho salmon to accommodate 100-year flows and associated bedload and debris. Priority for upgrading should be based upon the potential impact to coho salmon habitat.*
- *RW-III-C-06 - Encourage funding authorities to allocate adequate budgets to Federal, State, and local agencies for fish passage projects. This includes, but is not limited to, funding for road maintenance programs and capital project activities.*
- *RW-XXV-B-07 - Develop and implement county, city, and landowner initiatives to expand inadequate stream buffers and protect riparian and wetland habitat for coho salmon recovery.*

Working with land use planners towards improved project review and natural resource protections helps to ensure that such buffers are pursued or attained.

- *RW-XXVIII-B-01 - Support local governments, interested parties, and property owners in the development of incentives for landowners who participate in activities that exceed legal requirements or timelines to protect and/or restore coho salmon habitat and watershed processes. RW-I-D-03 Provide conservation incentives to minimize negative effects of water drafting for roads and fire suppression.*

Water resources planning work conducted (see Task 11) will help provide policymakers throughout the 5C and NCIRWM region with a framework that contains information and tools needed to help develop such incentives, especially in regards to water withdrawals.

- *RW-VI-A-02 Identify and prioritize specific sediment source locations for treatment that may deliver sediment to coho salmon streams. Encourage the use of protocols, such as the California Stream Habitat Restoration Manual Guidelines. Work with others to educate and provide technical assistance to landowners to implement upgrades.*

Additionally, many high priority tasks in relevant watersheds outlined in the Coho Salmon Recovery Tasks are also addressed. Since its inception, the Program has been focused on the conservation of salmonid populations using various means: policy and practice improvements via trainings and development of guidelines (e.g., Low Impact to Hydrology road standards); local and regional permitting and project coordination; and development, design, and implementation of discrete restoration projects. Overall, continuation of the Program is critical to sustaining restoration work at this high level within the five member counties.

Attachments

- A.** Letter outlining ESA Limit 10 section 4(d) coverage of the 5C's "A Water Quality and Stream Habitat Protection Manual for County Road Maintenance in Northwestern California Watersheds"