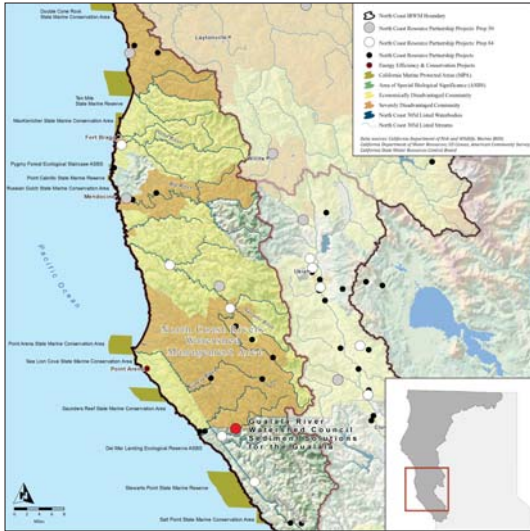


# Sediment Solutions for the Gualala, Phase III

## GUALALA RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Excessive sedimentation in the Gualala River watershed impacts salmonid habitat; sediment from improperly constructed/maintained timber and ranch roads were identified by NCWQCB as comprising 85% of anthropogenic sediment sources.

### PROJECT GOALS

1. Reduction of nonpoint sediment sources consistent with the Gualala TMDL Technical Source Document
2. Effectiveness monitoring
3. Stakeholder education

### THE SOLUTION

Cooperating partners include 80% of landowners in this 342 mile<sup>2</sup> coastal watershed, State and Federal Resource Agencies, and local land conservancies, non-profits and businesses. This project and other funding have enabled collaborators to:

- Upgrade, abandon or decommission 250+ miles of road, preventing 60,000 dump truck loads of sediment from entering watercourses.
- Develop a Gualala River Watershed Monitoring Program Plan with a QAPP approved by NCRWQCB, SWRCB and CalEPA. Collected data allows evaluation of events, trends, effects of BMPs, and analysis of restoration project effectiveness
- Implement a Large Wood In The Stream Program to address salmonid limiting factors

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The project encompassed four main components to achieve goals of sediment reduction, landowner collaboration and monitoring:

- Timber and Ranch Road Sediment Reduction Implementation
  - » 20 sites treated on 2.12 miles of road saving 9,072 yds<sup>3</sup> of sediment from entering Groshong Gulch waterways and the Gualala River estuary.
- Timber and Ranch Road Sediment Source Assessment
  - » Prioritized/planned treatment of 83 sediment sources on 10.18 miles of high priority roads to prevent 23,102 yds<sup>3</sup> from entering the North Fork and Gualala River estuary.
- Landowner Outreach and Education: Increased medium landowner participation
- Trend and Project Effectiveness Monitoring — GRWC Cooperative Monitoring program, 2008 to present

### COMPLETION DATE

November 2009

### PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM: \$1,132,445  
Leveraged: \$ 375,168  
Total Project Cost: \$1,507,613

### BENEFITS

#### Watershed Rehabilitation

- Long-term sediment reduction
- Prevention of 5,950 yd<sup>3</sup> of sediment delivery to streams has an estimated economic value of \$9,639<sup>1</sup>
- Decreased road maintenance costs
- Enhanced fire-fighting capabilities
- Improved fish and wildlife habitat
- Instream habitat restoration/improvement

#### Cultural benefits — Landowner Outreach and Education

- Five non-industrial landowners incorporated 12,885 acres into GRWC programs
- Landowners received technical information to allow them to better steward the land, adding indirect future benefits

#### Jobs and Local Economic Benefits

- Project implementation cost \$1,507,613, which was spent locally using local labor and supplies when possible, contributing to State goals for environmental justice and social equity.
- Assist in maintaining and creating 5 to 10 jobs within the community.

### NEXT STEPS

The Gualala River Watershed Council will continue its efforts to implement the sediment TMDL and restore salmonid habitat in the watershed.

#### CONTACT

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<sup>1</sup> Using a benefit of \$6/ton to represent the sum of several avoided costs associated with reducing sedimentation; Hansen, L. and M. Ribaudo. 2008. Economic Measures of Soil Conservation Benefits: Regional Values for Policy Assessment. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Technical Bulletin No. 1922.

