

NAME: Green Gulch Creek Stream Restoration Project

LOCATION: Redwood Creek Watershed in Marin County, CA (closest town is Muir Beach)

ACRES: 1.5 acres riparian habitat; 0.3 miles of stream channel reconstructed

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: San Francisco Zen Center

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will remove 10 small, failing concrete checkdams that create barriers for juvenile coho salmonids and pose a significant sediment threat to Big Lagoon. This project will also reconstruct an existing highly-modified, straightened, and downcut channel; relocate the farm road and fences paralleling the stream to provide for greater stream and riparian corridor width; replace a bridge on the farm access road; realign and revegetate ephemeral drainage to support road relocation; and plant the riparian corridor. The channel form will be monitored through profile surveys and salmonid utilization and abundance.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The primary purpose of this project is to provide summer rearing and winter refuge habitat for juvenile coho salmon, both fish that spawn in Green Gulch Creek and non-natal fish that use the estuary. The project will also enhance the spawning habitat for ESA listed coho salmon and steelhead trout, rearing habitat for steelhead, and habitat for California red-legged frog. Riparian revegetation and realignment of the ranch road further away from the stream corridor will improve water quality for all species using the estuary.

STATUS: Planning and Design