The Wood for Salmon Working Group

Jonathan W. Warmerdam
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
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Presentation Topics

I. Eras of Instream Wood
II. Wood for Salmon Working Group
III. Promoting Restoration
Part I:
Eras of Instream Wood
Phase 1: 1,000,000+ Years of Natural Recruitment
Phase 2: Early Logging (1850s – 1920s):
Phase 3: Post WW-II Logging (1945 – 1970s)
Phase 3: Post WW-II Logging (1945 - 2010)

Ad Valorem Timber Property Tax 1945

Forest Practice Rules Sustained Yield Tax 1976
Phase 4: Stream Clearing (1970-80s)
Phase 5 (Present):
Awaiting riparian forests to mature and natural recruitment process to restart....and waiting....and....waiting....
Why wood?

- Natural watershed product
- Improves habitat complexity
- Sorts spawning gravels
- Mobilizes bedload
- Scours pools
- Provides year-round shelter
- Promotes water availability
- Improves temperatures
- Cost effective measure
“The Coral Reefs of the River”
Part II: Wood for Salmon Working Group
Wood for Salmon Working Group

State and Federal Agencies

- NOAA / NMFS
- CAL FIRE
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Geological Survey
- Army Corps of Engineers

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NGOs, Non-Profits, Consultants, Stakeholders

- *Alnus* Ecological
- Campbell Global Incorporated
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- Sustainable Conservation
- University California Cooperative Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma County Water Agency
Mission Statement

- **Promote recovery actions** described in state and federal salmonid recovery plans by accelerating the pace and scale of instream restoration projects, *especially large wood enhancement.*
Coho Salmon Status

85% of ESU
Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit
Coastal Tribs Garcia River
Usal Creek Ten Mile River Pudding Creek Noyo River Big River

California Coho Salmon Population Estimates

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<th>Count</th>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>&lt;500</td>
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Recovery Plan Strategies: ↑ LWM
New Effective LWM Techniques

- **Accelerated Recruitment**
  - Streamside or Upslope Wood
  - Directional falling
  - Wood wedging or Unanchored
  - Cost Effective

- **Practitioners:**
  - Chris Blencowe, Ken Smith
  - Campbell Global Inc.
  - Gualala Redwoods Inc.
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - The Conservation Fund
  - Trout Unlimited
  - Mendocino Redwood Co.
Kass Creek Longitudinal Profile - 11/2/2010 to 7/18/12
J. Hvozda, D. Kyle, C. Blencowe,

Left Bank Noyo Flood Plain
Confluence w/ Noyo

Longitudinal Profile of Lower 1400’ Project Reach in Kass Creek (Noyo River) (2010-2012)
(FRGP, NOAA/TU, SRA)
Longitudinal Profile of Lower 1400’ Project Reach in Kass Creek (Noyo River) (2010-2012) (FRGP, NOAA/TU, SRA)

Kass Creek Longitudinal Profile - 11/2/2010 to 7/18/12
J. Hvozda, D. Kyle, C. Blencowe,
Adding roughness elements to streams in the Redwood Region may help reconnect these channels to floodplains, an important factor in over-winter survival for juvenile coho and steelhead.
How can we promote voluntary LWM projects? What’s stopping us?

• Complex Permitting
• Guidance Lacking
• Lots of Paperwork
• Costly Fees
• Expensive
Part III:
Promoting Restoration
WFSWG Objectives

1. Understand the Permitting Process
2. Conduct Outreach and Education
3. Develop Guidance and Tools
4. Improve, Align and Consolidate Permitting
5. Support New Restoration Pathways
6. Secure Funding Assistance
# Understanding the Permitting Process

## Federal Regulations:

1. **Army Corps of Engineers**
   - (a) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
   - (b) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act

2. **National Marine Fisheries Service / NOAA**
   - (a) Incidental Take of Federally Listed Salmonids

3. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
   - (a) Incidental Take of other Federally Listed Species

4. **National Historic Preservation Act**

## State Regulations:

1. **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
   - (a) Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
   - (b) California Endangered Species Act
   - (c) Coho HELP Act

2. **State and Regional Water Boards**
   - (a) Section 401 of the Clean Water Act
   - (b) Waste Discharge Requirement Permits

3. **State Coastal Commission**
   - (a) Coastal Development Permit

4. **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**
Outreach and Education

Guidance Document

Permit Flowchart

Permitting Matrix
Guidance and Tools

Welcome to the Wood for Salmon Working Group workspace!

The Wood for Salmon Working Group developed this workspace to guide restoration practitioners through the permitting process for large wood augmentation projects and to promote habitat improvement for native salmon and trout. The Wood for Salmon Working Group is an informal group of California state, county, federal agency staff, representatives from environmental non-profits, and private landowners and consultants. This group came together to develop a clear understanding of the regulatory permitting process for salmon habitat restoration projects in the United States National Marine Fisheries Service’s Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) involving wood placement, and to identify potential mechanisms to simplify the process and incentivize implementation of more projects.


Workspace contents

What are wood restoration projects and how do they benefit salmon?
Reports/Publications/Tools
Presentations/Videos
References

For more information, please contact Lisa Hulette or Jennifer Carah, The Nature Conservancy (lhulette@tnc.org, jcarah@tnc.org), Bill Snyder, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Bill.Snyder@fire.ca.gov), or Jonathan Warmerdam, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (JWarmerdam@waterboards.ca.gov).
Provided recommendations to the Director of CDFW towards improving 1600 permitting:

I. Reduce fees for restoration

II. Expand the scale of allowable projects under a single permit

III. Develop new permitting mechanism for restoration
Improving Permitting
Consolidated Permit Application for Large Woody Material Augmentation Projects

INTRODUCTION:
This Consolidated Permit Application for Large Woody Material Augmentation Projects (Consolidated Application) was developed by the Wood for Salmon Working Group (WFSWG) - a partnership of state and federal agency staff, environmental non-profits, private landowners, and consultants - to simplify and consolidate the information required to obtain state and federal permits to conduct large wood augmentation projects within watersheds containing the Central California Coast (CCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) of coho salmon.

The Consolidated Permit Application is designed to be used in tandem with a guidance document titled Permitting Large Wood Augmentation Projects in the Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Central California Coast Coho Salmon. The guidance document details the state and federal permitting process and provides instructions for completing this Consolidated Permit Application. The guidance document, consolidated permit application, a project size calculator, can be found on the world-wide web at http://conservation.org/workspaces/woodformsalmon.

PERMITS INCLUDED:
This Consolidated Permit Application combines the following state permit applications as well as state and federal incidental take authorization requirements:
1. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Incidental Take Authorization for projects deemed consistent with Biological Opinion (BO) #151422SWR2005R001901 MA.
2. California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) - Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit).

The Consolidated Permit Application does not include the application requirements associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permits. The following federal permit must be obtained separately:
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (U.S. ACE) - Nationwide 27 Permit - Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities.
- Nationwide 33 Permit - Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
This Consolidated Permit Application is intended solely for use with large wood augmentation projects that have been designed to be consistent with the existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption (CatEx) for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section15333).

1 The CCC ESU of coho salmon extends from Punta Gorda in southern Humboldt County down to Soquel Creek in Santa Cruz County, California.
2 Project proponents are encouraged to attach this Consolidated Permit Application when applying to the U.S. ACE for Clean Water Act Section 404 permits.
3 The Categorical Exemption for Small Habitat Restoration Projects can be found on the world-wide web at the following address: http://oceans.ca.gov/policy/guidelines/15333-15333_web.pdf
Support New Restoration Pathways

Mendocino County Permit Coordination Program

CAL FIRE ASP - Section V

CDFW Coho HELP Act

Site-Specific Riparian Zone Management:
Section V Guidance

Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rule Section V
Technical Advisory Committee (VTAC)
December 2012
Sacramento, California
Support New Restoration Pathways

- Mill Smith THP
- Campbell Global
- Ten Mile River
- First LWM permitted through a THP
- Underway Today!
Incorporate LWM assessments into harvest planning process.

Section 916.4 (a)(2) requires examination of Class I habitat and restoration opportunities.

Utilize recovery plan targets.

Fund LWM restoration through Timber Reform Tax.

Addendum 2 revision?
In Mendocino County, the 7 largest timberland owners manage 73% of the properties in Mendocino County’s CCC ESU Coho Core Areas.
Conclusions

- Coastal anadromy zone is deficient in wood and salmonids are in jeopardy.

- Reintroduction of wood is a critical near-term recovery action.

- New LWM introduction techniques are proving successful and cost-effective.

- THP planning process provides a significant restoration opportunity.

- Wood for Salmon Working Group is helping improve the process.
Thank you

Jonathan Warmerdam, NCRWQCB
Telephone: (707) 576-2468
Jonathan.Warmerdam@waterboards.ca.gov