

Contract Number 14-48-0001-93516

Final Report - Shasta River Riparian Project (Parker Ranch)

Abstract:

This project was designed to promote fencing and protection of vulnerable riparian zones, demonstrate cooperative problem solving benefiting landowners and fisheries resources and to protect and restore salmonid habitat on the Shasta River.

To these ends 7,375 feet of 5 strand barbed wire fencing were constructed protecting approximately 7,500 feet of river bank. The landowner signed an agreement not to allow grazing for a ten year period in the exclusion area. Willow slips, tules and other riparian species were planted in the area to accelerate riparian recovery.

Added tasks to this agreement included Community workshops, travel to the Klamath River Symposium in Eureka and assistance to the Grenada Irrigation District for pumping costs associated with the CRMP annual Shasta River pulse flow.

Introduction:

The objectives of this program for the Parker Ranch portion were to:

- A. Promote fencing and protection of vulnerable riparian zones by using this site as an example to other landowners
- B. Demonstrate how cooperative problem solving can benefit both the landowner and the fishery resource.
- C. To protect and restore salmonid habitat on the Shasta River

To meet these objectives several tasks were designed and implemented which included construction of riparian protection fencing and plantings to accelerate riparian recovery.

Description of study area:

The Parker ranch is located directly under the I5 Shasta River bridge. The river is beginning to pick up speed in

this region. Some large willow trees still exist in the area.

The river is confined by ancient lava flow walls with a flood plain 50 to 500 feet wide.

The Peter Ranch, located directly across from the Parker Ranch, has already been fenced for riparian protection under a similar State of California program.

Methods and Materials:

Parker Fence (tasks 1-7)

Standard fence construction methods were used to construct a 5 strand 4 point barbed wire fence. Heavy gage metal "T" fence posts were placed every 10 - 12 feet with wood 4x4s after every 5th metal post. "

Nursery stock in quart containers were planted in several sites to supplement existing vegetation.

The landowner has signed an agreement to not allow cattle grazing in the protected area and to maintain the fence for 10 years.

Workshops (task 8)

The County Schools were contracted with to provide an educational workshop for K-8 grades in the Montague School District.

The Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association has an annual tour to examine operations and explore issues effecting the industry. The CRMP used this opportunity to provide a workshop on riparian habitat and ranching opportunities. Funds were used to assist in cost of the program. We believe that we were able to reach more landowners and opinion makers than had we attempted a separate workshop (at much less cost).

Grenada Irrigation District (task 10)

Great Northern acted as the pass through agency for a proposal asking the Klamath River Task Force to assist the Irrigation District with costs associated with the Shasta River pulse flow.

Results and Discussion:

Parker Ranch (tasks 1-7)

The site has been used by the Shasta River CRMP as an example of riparian fencing in presentations to both landowners and State and Federal agencies.

The protection on both sides of the river in this reach has resulted in increased use by salmon and steelhead spawning.

The riparian area is establishing species which had been removed by grazing.

Workshops (task 8)

The workshops were very successful. The School workshop produced a play viewed by the entire Montague Elementary School District and several surrounding school districts. Copies of the play were submitted to the USFWS office for use in other areas.

The Cattlemen's workshop was well received. Over 100 ranchers were on site (Meamber Ranch) to look at the workmanship of fence construction and discuss environmental and business concerns related to habitat protection. While there was a lack of State and Federal Agency participation using this forum, we believe that we may have had a more candid discussions of the pros and cons related to CRMP activities in this manner.

Travel to Klamath River Symposium (task 9)

Three staff members were able to attend the Klamath Symposium. We were able to express information developed in working with the Shasta River CRMP during the symposium. The information and ideas which we were able to return with have also proved very valuable and assisted our CRMP members in meeting the CRMP goals.

Grenada Irrigation District (task 10)

Appended to this document is the pulse flow report prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game. Assisting the Grenada District did improve the public perception of the Task Force with the local Irrigation Districts.

Summary and conclusions:

All project objectives have been met.

This project has already and will continue to be used by the Shasta River CRMP as an example of the benefits of riparian protection.

Other landowners have viewed the Parker site and are adapting the ideas to their property.

Riparian habitat has improved and will continue to be protected along this stretch of the Shasta River.

The workshops and travel to the symposium assisted in sharing information for the good of the resource.