

Standard Checklist

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: Finch Creek

Date: July 27, 2004 Segment/Reach ID: Reach 2 PFC 713

Miles: _____ Elevation: 2147ft GPS: N 36, 20. 450' W 121, 32. 350'

ID Team Observers: Danica Zupic, Ben Eichorn Time: _____

Yes	No	N/A	HYDROLOGY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1) Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in "relatively frequent" events
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) Where beaver dams are present they are active and stable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (i.e., landform, geology, and bioclimatic region)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation

Yes	No	N/A	VEGETATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6) There is diverse age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7) There is diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8) Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9) Streambank Vegetation is comprised of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high-streamflow events
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10) Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11) Adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover is present to protect banks and dissipate energy during high flows
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12) Plant communities are an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material (for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	N/A	EROSION/DEPOSITION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13) Floodplain and channel characteristics (i.e., rocks, overflow channels, coarse and/or large woody material) are adequate to dissipate energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14) Point bars are revegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15) Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16) System is vertically stable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17) Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (i.e., no excessive erosion or deposition)

Summary Determination

Functional Rating:

Proper Functioning Condition
Functional—At Risk
Nonfunctional
Unknown

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Trend for Functional—At Risk:

Upward
Downward
Not Apparent

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Are factors contributing to unacceptable conditions outside the control of the manager?

Yes
No

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If yes, what are those factors?

Flow regulations Mining activities Upstream channel conditions
 Channelization Road encroachment Oil field water discharge
 Augmented flows Other (specify) _____



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

Remarks

This reach begins at GPS: N36, 20.269, W121, 32.113.

This reach had one tributary entering on the eastern bank.

There were multiple log jams, one of particular interest due to its size (See Pictures 1 and 2).

The vegetation in this reach was predominated by mature willows and oaks with little other riparian wetland vegetation. One section in particular was predominated heavily by willows of all sizes, some of which formed a very thick canopy over about 100 yards of the creek (See Picture 3). Some riparian grasses were observed on the floodplain immediately upstream of this stretch. In another area, 10 madrone recruits were witnessed growing in the creek bed. (See Picture 4).

Throughout the reach, intermittent cattle trails are eroding and contributing sediment to the creek.

This reach ended at bridge 546 on Carmel Valley Road, GPS: N36, 20.901, W121, 32.579, elevation 2084ft.

Checklist Comments

#5,17 Cattle trails and dirt farm roads are contributing to wetland degradation in the form of prevalent eroding banks.

#6,7 Willows are the only species demonstrating a diverse age-class distribution, although even this species has few recruits in the reach. There are almost no other riparian species in this reach aside from a few well-established alders and sycamores.

#9,11,14 There are many bare banks caused by cattle impact. The minimal willow recruits were the only riparian species revegetating on the point bars.



Picture 4