

## Clarks Creek Project

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Plumas National Forest began restoration efforts on Clarks Creek in 1990 with the development of the Clarks 2000 plan. This plan entailed road closure/rehabilitation, channel stabilization and grazing management changes throughout the watershed. In the years 1992-94 a 2,000 foot stretch of channel on Clarks Creek, was stabilized using vegetation and rock placed to control erosion and improve fisheries and riparian habitat. International exchange and inner city minority students, California Department of Correction inmate crews, Janesville High School students, and the Milford Grazing Association volunteered labor for the project. In 2001 PNF eliminated a 4,300-foot gully using the "pond and plug" technique, successfully restoring 50 acres of floodplain. A new pasture fence was completed. Not all of the project area was fenced in order to evaluate recovery of the site with and without grazing. The project was in part funded by a Proposition 204 grant.

### **SPONSORS:**

FEDERAL: Plumas National Forest (USFS); STATE: California Department of Fish & Game, California State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Water Resources, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; PRIVATE: Pacific Gas and

### **PROJECT RESULTS:**

Clarks Creek was one of the best monitored projects constructed under the Prop 204 grant. Monitoring included thorough pre and post-project wildlife monitoring, groundwater wells, and aerial and ground photography. Changes in stream flow were not monitored. There has been a clear trend toward replacement of sagebrush with grass/forb/sedge. Annual immigration and recolonization are required for fish to be present within the project area. A series of downstream beaver dams effectively blocked upstream fish passage and recolonization of the project area. Thus, project effects on fisheries cannot be evaluated at this time. Small mammal abundance was generally greater following restoration, but only significant on the monitoring transect #2 located partially within the grazing enclosure. Deer use increased in both the project and control areas post-restoration, but remain at low use levels. Avian total density and species richness exhibit statistically significant increases following restoration. Several wetland/lacustrine dependent species were only detected after restoration. Only one species exhibited statistically significant density decrease.

### **PROJECT REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE):**

Clarks Creek Proposition 204 Final Report

[http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/5/5/40554561/clarks\\_crk\\_prop\\_204\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/5/5/40554561/clarks_crk_prop_204_final_report.pdf)

Clarks Creek Fish and Wildlife DWR Report 2005

[http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/5/5/40554561/clarks\\_crk\\_fishwl\\_dwr\\_report\\_mar\\_2005.pdf](http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/5/5/40554561/clarks_crk_fishwl_dwr_report_mar_2005.pdf)