

## Red Clover Creek Demonstration Project

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Feather River Coordinated Resource Management group's first project constructed four rock check dams on a highly eroded section of Red Clover Creek, which flows into Indian Creek. The dams created ponds and raised the water table on privately owned land used for cattle grazing. Willows and grasses were planted in areas affected by construction.

### **SPONSORS:**

STATE: California Department of Forestry, California Department of Fish & Game; PRIVATE: Pacific Gas & Electric Company

### **PROJECT RESULTS:**

Rock dams successfully reduced the velocity of stream flow, which allowed sediments to deposit along stream banks, causing the channel to narrow and become more sinuous. Sloughing of vertical stream banks slowed due to successful re-vegetation and bank reinforcement. The dams required periodic maintenance. The groundwater table was raised significantly, contributing to meadow recharge and the rapid growth of riparian and flood-plain vegetation. The number of plant species and density of vegetation cover along stream banks and in the adjacent meadow increased and shifted from sagebrush to more desirable riparian meadow vegetation. Trout population increased greatly but re-production did not increase because no spawning or rearing habitat was created. Waterfowl usage and nesting increased 700% over the control site and deer use greatly increased. Neotropical migrant birds are now using the site and the short-eared owl, a state listed species of special concern, reproduced there. Meadow vole populations increased as the plant species composition transitioned to moist meadow plant species.

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

Red Clover Demonstration Final Report 1985

<http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/5/5/40554561/redclover1985.pdf>