

Spanish Creek in Meadow Valley Project

DESCRIPTION:

The project is located along Spanish Creek on approximately 72 acres of private lands with multiple landowners. The project channel begins at the upstream end of Greens Flat and extends for 2.6 miles downstream to the Ranch Road Bridge at Spanish Ranch. It is divided into two sections, Spanish Creek above the confluence with Silver Creek and Spanish Creek below that confluence. Within the two sections there are four distinct, but connected project reaches. Where large gravel deposits have developed, streambanks are eroding, adding to the already heightened sediment load of Spanish Creek due to historic hydraulic mining. To reduce streambank erosion, approximately 3800 feet of channel were realigned and eroding banks sloped and vegetated. In addition, channel constrictions formed by the bridge and pipeline-crossing that service the Spanish Ranch water system were modified and the channelway immediately upstream was realigned and a single extended floodplain constructed to reduce streambank erosion. Three gravel recruitment/removal zones were designated in order to meet long-term gravel management goals.

SPONSORS:

FEDERAL: Secure Rural Schools Title II funds; LOCAL: Plumas County Water Forum, Plumas County Public Works; PRIVATE: Sacramento District Wetland Conservation Fund, Soper-Wheeler Company (landowner), Culver Enterprises (gravel pit permit holder/operator)

PROJECT RESULTS:

Project is performing as expected; ongoing monitoring of yellow-legged frogs for permit compliance will occur from 2015-2017; monitoring of bedload gravels in recruitment zones will be ongoing.

PROJECT REPORTS (IF AVAILABLE):

N/A