

Kent Canyon Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project Muir Woods Road, Marin County

Location

The completed project is located at the crossing of Muir Woods Road with Kent Canyon Creek, a County of Marin maintained road located within Mt. Tamalpais State Park, near Muir Woods National Monument. Kent Canyon Creek is a tributary to Redwood Creek, an important salmon stream which flows into the Pacific at Muir Beach.

Purpose

1. Restore access to important salmon spawning habitat through the removal of an existing barrier.
2. Restoration of the natural channel to facilitate passage of wood and other debris, thus reducing the hazard of culvert blockage and road flooding.
3. Partnership with California State Parks and the National Park Service to restore the Redwood Creek watershed for *endangered* coho salmon.

Project Description

The County of Marin Fish Passage Program identified the old culvert which ran under Muir Woods Road as both a velocity and jump barrier for endangered coho salmon. Replacement of the culvert with an open-bottom, natural channel arch, now provides access to an additional 3,900 ft. (3/4 mile) of habitat for spawning coho salmon and steelhead trout.



Figure 1. Juvenile coho were found by DFG biologists in the pool just below this barrier, unable to migrate upstream (Sept. 2006).

Project Status

- Construction drawings and bid documents were completed by April 1, 2007.
- By June 2007, permits were obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), State Regional Water Quality Control Board, (SRWQCB), and Department of Fish and Game (DFG).
- Construction occurred during August and September 2007.
- Restoration of Kent Canyon Creek compliments extensive restoration the National Park Service has recently completed in the greater Redwood Creek watershed.



Figure 3. Restoration of the natural channel allows the passage of salmon as well as woody debris, which could block this undersized culvert and cause flooding of the roadway.

Figure 2. The project included a road bypass to accommodate the heavy vehicular traffic up to Muir Woods.

