

## Standard Checklist

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: Conejo Creek - Intermittent cattle creek

Date: July 21, 2004 Segment/Reach ID: Reach 1 PFC 153 \_\_\_\_\_

Miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS: N 36, 23. 580' W 121, 34. 090'

ID Team Observers: Danica Zupic, Clive Sanders Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes	No	N/A	HYDROLOGY
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>		3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (i.e., landform, geology, and bioclimatic region)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation

Yes	No	N/A	VEGETATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8) Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10) Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11) Adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover is present to protect banks and dissipate energy during high flows
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14) Point bars are revegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		15) Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16) System is vertically stable
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

### Trend for Functional—At Risk:

Upward  
Downward  
Not Apparent

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

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

Yes  
No

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

If yes, what are those factors?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flow regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining activities                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Upstream channel conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Channelization   | <input type="checkbox"/> Road encroachment                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil field water discharge   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augmented flows  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>Cattle encroachment</u> |  |



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

### Remarks

This reach has been so severely degraded by cattle that the area is barely recognizable as a creek.

There vegetation is sparse. There are some willows present and a few willow recruits, however they are the only riparian species present and only inhabit a relatively small section of this reach.

The creek is very sinuous. The entirety of the creek bed in the reach is under at least 4" sand, and much of the floodplains and pointbars present are composed of fine sands and are not revegetating with riparian plants (See Pictures 1,2 and 3).

There are numerous cattle trails and the banks on either side are severely eroding. A few large trees are present as LWD however, there are not any more to provide LWD in the future (See Picture 7).

There is one very large culvert under Carmel Valley Rd. that would function well, however there is a large eroding pool and bank immediately after the dirt trail that passes directly behind the culvert (See Picture 1). Another dirt trail has 3 non-functional culverts under it (See Pictures 5 and 6).

There were several dead alders (See Picture 4).

End at GPS N 36,23.615 W 121, 34.601

### Checklist Comments

#4 The vegetation is sparse and the soil is dry sand.

#5,17 There is excess sediment found in this reach due to the erosion resulting from cattle.

#6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 The vegetation is sparse and only one species of riparian plants -willows was observed in the reach. The majority of vegetation was upland plants of vines or poison oak.

#12 The plant community present is not an adequate source of LWD.

#13 There are no boulders or overflow channels to dissipate energy. There are two large oaks in the creek that are the result of collapsed banks.

#14 The point bars are not revegetating with riparian vegetation.

#16 The banks all along this reach are unstable and eroding.



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7