Standard Checklist

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: Finch Creek

Date: July 27, 2004   Segment/Reach ID: Reach 1   PFC 714

Miles:_____ Elevation: 2223ft GPS: N ⬚3⬚6 , ⬚2⬚0 . ⬚2⬚6⬚9 ' W ⬚1⬚2⬚1 , ⬚3⬚2 . ⬚1⬚1⬚3 '

ID Team Observers: Danica Zupic, Ben Eichorn   Time:_____

Yes	No	N/A		HYDROLOGY
X			1)	Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in "relatively frequent" events
		X	2)	Where beaver dams are present they are active and stable
X		■	3)	Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (i.e., landform, geology, and bioclimatic region)
X			4)	Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
	X	■	5)	Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation

Yes	No	N/A		VEGETATION
X			6)	There is diverse age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)
X			7)	There is diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)
X			8)	Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
X			9)	Streambank Vegetation is comprised of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high-streamflow events
X			10)	Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
	X		11)	Adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover is present to protect banks and dissipate energy during high flows
X			12)	Plant communities are an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material (for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	N/A	EROSION/DEPOSITION
	X	■	13) Floodplain and channel characteristics (i.e., rocks, overflow channels, coarse and/or large woody material) are adequate to dissipate energy
	X		14) Point bars are revegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
X		■	15) Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
	X	■	16) System is vertically stable
	X	■	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

Trend for Functional—At Risk:

Upward ☐
Downward ☒
Not Apparent

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

Yes ☐
No ☒

If yes, what are those factors?

☐ Flow regulations ☐ Mining activities ☐ Upstream channel conditions
☐ Channelization ☐ Road encroachment ☐ Oil field water discharge
☐ Augmented flows ☐ Other (specify)_____

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Remarks

This reach begins at the intersection of Carmel Valley Road and Finch Creek at the entrance to The Cahoon Ranch.

There are two six foot culverts under the Carmel Valley Road at the beginning of the reach, both of which have wire mesh screens on the upstream side. There are broken concrete slabs below the culverts and the culverts are undercut (See Pictures 1 and 2).

Throughout this reach, bank erosion and sediment deposits in the form of soil and mud are abundant (See Pictures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8).

Cow manure is very abundant in the creek bed and algae blooms are also prevalent.

A complex of cattle trails and a dirt farm road borders the creek. In many places these paths have caused some of the intense vertical degradation that is observed in the reach.

There is a large sheet of metal acting as a cattle blockade in the creek (See Picture 7).
Large sycamores, willows and alders are common, but recruits are few and several stretches lack even minimal understory.

This reach ends at GPS: N36, 20.450, W121, 32.350, elevation 2147ft.

Checklist Comments

#1 There are some areas where the floodplain in not apparently inundated frequently.

#4,6,7,9 The riparian wetland habitat has been degraded heavily by cattle throughout this reach. One indicator of this impact is the absence of riparian wetland recruits. The majority of riparian species are very large trees that are well established and not threatened by cattle impact.

#12 There are sources for large woody debris, but no debris in the creek bed.

#14 Most point bars are either bare, or they are revegetating with upland species.
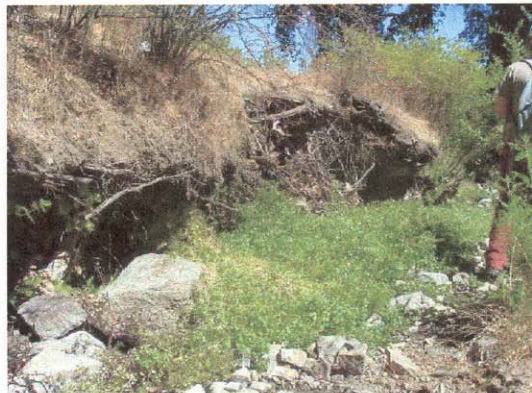
Picture 5

Picture 6

Picture 7

Picture 8