

Evaluation of Road Decommissioning, CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

Title: Evaluation of Road Decommissioning, CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

Client: California Department of Fish and Game

Location: Northern California

Summary: Pacific Watershed Associates conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the road decommissioning projects conducted for the California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program;

Project Details: We evaluated 51 miles of decommissioned road (33% of the total FRGP decommissioned road length) and 449 treated sites in northwestern California between the Oregon border and the northern San Francisco Bay Area. The sample included 275 stream crossings, 111 landslides, and 63 "other" (road drainage) sites. We evaluated the CDFG protocols and standards for road decommissioning based on whether or not the protocols were met, and analyzed resulting volumes of post-decommissioning erosion and sediment delivery at every identified site. Based on this assessment we evaluated the effectiveness of the decommissioning protocols, determined how well and how often they were followed, and presented a series of recommendations to improve the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of road decommissioning.

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