

# Widdoes Property Fish Passage Restoration Project

## Carpinteria, California

### PROJECT

Fish Barrier Removal Project  
Gobernador Creek  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

### CONTACT

Mr. Mauricio Gomez  
South Coast Habitat Restoration  
mgomez@schabitatrestoration.org

### TIMING

Estimated Project Start:  
Summer 2009

Project Completion Estimate:  
2009

### FUNDING

CA Dept. of Fish and Game

### HIGHLIGHTS

Creek Restoration  
Fish Passage Enhancement  
Bank Protection and Stabilization  
Native Riparian Plantings



View of the fish passage barrier from Stoecker, et al, *Steelhead Assessment and Recovery Opportunities in Southern Santa Barbara County, California*, June 2002



The low flow crossing as seen from the road

### Project Summary:

The goal of this project is to improve steelhead habitat, water quality, and streambank conditions in the Carpinteria Creek watershed along the main tributary Gobernador Creek in Santa Barbara County. The Steelhead Assessment and Recovery Project found that the current crossing is impassable to steelhead during migration. The removal of this last man made major barrier to fish passage on this tributary will allow steelhead to migrate up to the County Debris Basin, which is currently being modified for steelhead passage.

### **Project Details:**

This goal of this project is to improve steelhead habitat, water quality, and streambank conditions in the Carpinteria Creek watershed along the main tributary Gobernador Creek in Santa Barbara County. The following information is a work plan for the beginning stages of the project.

This work plan covers phases of the projects that focus on site analysis, design, and environmental review and permitting for the projects. The principal components of the work plan include

- assessment of biological, hydrogeomorphic, streambank and channel conditions;
- comparative analysis of options for removal or modification of the migration barriers (three low-flow crossing, two on the Raya property and one on the Widdoes property), as well as engineering plans and cost estimates for the selected alternatives - engineering plans will be developed to the 100% design level;
- development of a streambank stabilization plan for portions of the downstream reach on both projects;
- preparation of a preliminary vegetation restoration plan for portions of the riparian corridor; and
- review under the California Environmental Quality Act and secure permits for both projects for construction from federal, state and county agencies.

The conceptual designs, restoration plans and environmental data developed in this phase will not only be used for environmental review and project permitting but will also be used in the preparation of final engineering and construction drawings.

#### *Site description and project objectives*

The Carpinteria Creek watershed is located in coastal Santa Barbara County, about 10 miles southeast of the City of Santa Barbara and 16 miles northwest of the City of Ventura. The proposed site is located on Gobernador Creek on the Widdoes property and can be characterized as a low flow crossing with three culverts.

The primary vegetation communities along both project sites are riparian woodland and riparian scrub. Native trees are predominantly western sycamore and coast live oak, but also include arroyo willow and black cottonwood. The creekbanks and understory are a mixture of native and non-native species, dominated by natives such as California blackberry. Cape ivy is the most pervasive non-native, but periwinkle is also present. Southern California steelhead trout resides in the Creek, and the site has the potential as habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, which has been observed in migration along lower reaches of the creek. The coast range newt (*Taricha torosa ssp. Torosa*), a California species of concern, may also be present.

#### *Widdoes property project description*

The Widdoes crossing spans the stream channel in a shallow U-shape and consists of boulder and concrete riprap, measuring about 15 feet from the surface of the crossing to the bottom of the pool. The Steelhead Assessment and Recovery Project noted the significant undercutting of the crossing has created a 10-foot vertical jump and 15-foot horizontal jump, impassable during steelhead migration. According to the study, BR\_CA\_GR\_5 crossing creates an exceptionally difficult barrier for upstream migration, and is extremely important for recovery of the Carpinteria Creek steelhead population. The removal of this last major barrier to fish passage on this tributary will allow steelhead to migrate up to 5.5 miles to habitat rated extremely high by the Stoecker/CCP report.

Preliminary design concepts call for the removal of the crossing and its replacement with a prefabricated bridge. The landowner has already considered removal of the crossing and replacement with a bridge. The landowners representative has attended a CCWC meeting and expressed interest in removing the crossing and installing a bridge. Because of scouring that has undercut the substrate support for the crossing; the structure is on the verge of failure and presents a hazard to vehicle passage and to downstream property during flood flows. The crossing provides the landowner's only available access to the other half of its property and as a consequence must be replaced with some structure if removed.