

The following are questions that have been submitted in advance of our November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> workshops “Riparian Restoration on the California Coast.” We are in process of reviewing these and hope to provide some answers at the workshop and other answers, here, after the workshop.

We circulate these questions to our network of presenters and other experts in riparian ecology, conservation, and restoration. Please feel free to submit other questions, if you don't see similar questions here, to: [grey@elkhornslough.org](mailto:grey@elkhornslough.org)

## **Conservation**

- 1. How would you characterize the status of riparian habitat on the Monterey Coast /Central Coast area? Is it improving (increasing in aerial extent and functional condition), holding steady, declining?*
- 2. What criteria area used to select restoration projects/ is there a local priority system?*
- 3. Are there parties in California who are currently working to develop "fish friendly" or "marine friendly" farm practices?*

## **Restoration Approach**

### **General**

- 1. What is the current trend in riparian restoration?*
- 2. Are there common obstacles that people are facing with regard to riparian restoration?*
- 3. Is there a standardized approach for riparian restoration that is being used in this area? Is there a need for one?*
- 4. Please provide approximate per acre costs for riparian restoration using different approaches.*

### **Hydrology**

- 5. How can we mimic natural flows on regulated streams?*

### **Engineering**

- 6. I would be interested in knowing about the various latest, greatest bioengineering techniques used in restoration of different size/velocity streams and intended to benefit different kinds of species, salmonids, red legged frogs, etc.*

7. *What level of engineering/design is needed for rock weirs and bridge replacement projects (that have fish/riparian restoration goals)? Given today's financial constraints, do the projects need to be "cadillacs" or will a "chevy" be adequate? How to determine when or whether it's worth it to spend more money to get a highest-quality project?*
8. *Should rock weir designs be done using a standard, though perhaps unverified reference - e.g. NRCS or COE tech papers on rock weirs or by some other method/process?*
  - a. *Related to this: "a big question we're dealing for riparian and fish barrier removal projects is what level of engineering/design is needed for rock weirs and bridge replacement projects (that have fish/riparian restoration goals). Given today's financial constraints, do the projects need to be "cadillacs" or will a "chevy" be adequate?*
  - b. *How to determine when or whether it's worth it to spend more money to get a highest-quality project?*
9. *To what degree should design just be left to the judgement of the practitioner and to what degree should these designs be based on known hydraulic principles?*
10. *Many people in public various works departments believe that engineering requirements for drainage and runoff are not compatible with "soft solutions". Can examples be provided where soft solutions are compatible with hydrologic and engineering stability requirements?*

## **Vegetation**

11. *How do you identify the optimum planting zone, balancing the advantage of increased water availability for plant establishment with the disadvantage of increased scour?*
12. *Please provide suggestions to establish riparian vegetation in very dry interior habitats of southern California. Rainfall can be sporadic and unpredictable and the costs of providing irrigation are often very high.*
13. *How do you balance uncertain permitting timelines and desire for local, native plants (especially grasses and herbs) with out-of-date nursery availability lists and agency/budget difficulties contracting to grow species?*
14. *Riparian restoration, when done correctly with diverse native vegetation appears to many to look like 'just weeds.' What can be done to mitigate this perception?*
15. *Following restoration projects, it is common for exotic species to re-invade, making it difficult to demonstrate long-term project success. How do we justify*

*the time and effort in planting natives when these areas are dominated by exotic species shortly afterwards?*

## **Animals**

- 16. What are the latest, greatest bioengineering techniques used in restoration of different size/velocity streams and intended to benefit different kinds of animal species, salmonids, red legged frogs, etc.*

## **Restoration Monitoring**

- 1. How are existing projects being evaluated for success? Post-construction and long-term?*
- 2. Who is providing funding for monitoring? Is this a problem?*

## **Policy and Regulation**

- 1. What if anything is being done to influence local protection of riparian corridors? Is there interest in easements as a tool?*
- 2. Would a state-funded riparian restoration incentive program for private landowners be useful?*
- 3. Are there ways to streamline permit processes for environmentally beneficial restoration projects within the coastal zone?*