

MMWD and MCOSD Awarded State Grant Funds for Erosion Control Projects on Mt. Tamalpais to Improve Creek Habitat for Endangered Trout

Work Will Require Various Public Road and Trail Closures Mid-May Through November

Beginning the week of May 12, the Marin Municipal Water District and the Marin County Open Space District will start work on several erosion control projects on the south side of Mt. Tamalpais to reduce harmful sediment from entering Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio and Old Mill creeks. The introduction of sediment into creeks is one of the primary causes of the degradation of fish habitat. The goals of the project are to keep sediment derived from roads from harming stream life, to restore natural habitats, and to improve water quality.

Both Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio and Old Mill creeks are habitat for steelhead trout, listed as a threatened species under both the state and federal endangered species acts.

The projects will “storm proof” 13 high-priority creek crossings on creek tributaries along 3 ½ miles of road on Old Railroad Grade, Gravity Car, Hoo-koo-e-koo, and Two Tanks roads.

The work includes the following:

- New, larger culverts with improved alignments will be installed where streams cross under roads. The new culverts, which will contain and direct the flow of storm water runoff, will have the capacity to handle a 100-year storm event;
- Roads will be “outsloped” to spread out drainage and prevent the formation of gullies outside the culverts;
- Strategically placed “rolling dips” will be constructed to prevent catastrophic road failures from heavy rains, which can result in harm to fish and other organisms; and
- Re-vegetation and erosion control installed at all construction sites.

These projects will complement other actions under way in the watershed to restore fish passage in Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio and Old Mill Creek sponsored by Mill Valley Stream Keepers and others. The total cost is estimated to be \$350,000 for the 13 high priority sites. MMWD applied for and was awarded a grant from the California Department of Fish & Game for \$279,000. The Districts will provide the balance of \$71,000 out of with in-kind donations and capital project funds. To ensure public safety, temporary road closures will be required during work hours (7:00 AM to 3:30 PM). Alternate routes for all visitors will be provided as the work progresses from site to site. MMWD will strive to keep the roads passable for hikers, bikers, and equestrians after work hours and on weekends. Updated signs will be posted as project work moves to new locations indicating areas not open to public use and alternate routes. Work will begin initially on Lower Railroad Grade and Two Tanks Road.

[Stream Upgrade](#) (PDF)

[Mill Valley Watershed Road-Related Sediment Control Sites](#)(PDF)