



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 1 - Eureka
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Donates Timber For Use By State and Federal Agencies

Caltrans recently donated logs and stumps removed from the Confusion Hill bypass project to state and federally sponsored projects at various locations.

Logs and stumps were provided to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to be recycled for use in salmonid (salmon and trout) habitat restoration projects on Sproul Creek and Elk Creek, both in southern Humboldt County. These creeks were identified by CDFG as lacking large, woody debris that provide protective cover for juvenile salmon and steelhead trout. Allan Renger from CDFG stated, "Logs and stumps are expensive and hard to come by, so this donation from Caltrans greatly contributed to the cost-effectiveness of these projects".

Another salmonid habitat restoration project that received logs and stumps is located on Hollow Tree Creek in Mendocino County. The non-profit group Trout Unlimited is the project manager that is coordinating this multi-year, multi-agency effort of Mendocino Redwood Company, Pacific Watershed Associates, CDFG, California Conservation Corps, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service. Phase IV of the project was recently approved for funding by CDFG. Rob Dickerson, Project Manager for the Trout Unlimited North Coast Coho Project said, "The success of salmonid restoration in California relies upon the efforts of many organizations. The donation of the large, woody debris by Caltrans to the Hollow Tree Creek and other restoration projects will help the fish and continues the collaborative restoration effort on the North Coast started decades ago. The watershed residents all benefit."

Logs and stumps were also delivered to the California Department of Parks and Recreation at Richardson Grove and Standish Hickey State Parks. The larger logs and the stumps will be used for salmonid habitat restoration on Bull Creek in Humboldt County, and the smaller logs will be used for bumper logs in campgrounds. "These logs





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are going to help protect some of California's most valued natural resources within state parks," said Liz Burko, Eel River Sector Superintendent at California State Parks. "Anytime we can partner with other agencies like Caltrans to advance our mission while saving taxpayer dollars, it is a win-win for all Californians and the environment."

Caltrans will also utilize some of the stumps and logs for two of its own projects in Humboldt County. Caltrans is storing some redwood stumps and logs for use at the future Mad River Bridges Replacement project on Route 101 to provide fish habitat. Another log will be cut and split to construct fish weirs in a culvert (fish ladder) at Chadd Creek and Route 101.

The cost to deliver these logs and stumps was included in the Confusion Hill contract, so there were no delivery charges to these other agencies. Caltrans District 1 Director Charlie Fielder said, "I am pleased that Caltrans is able to put this material to good use to the benefit of the environment."

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