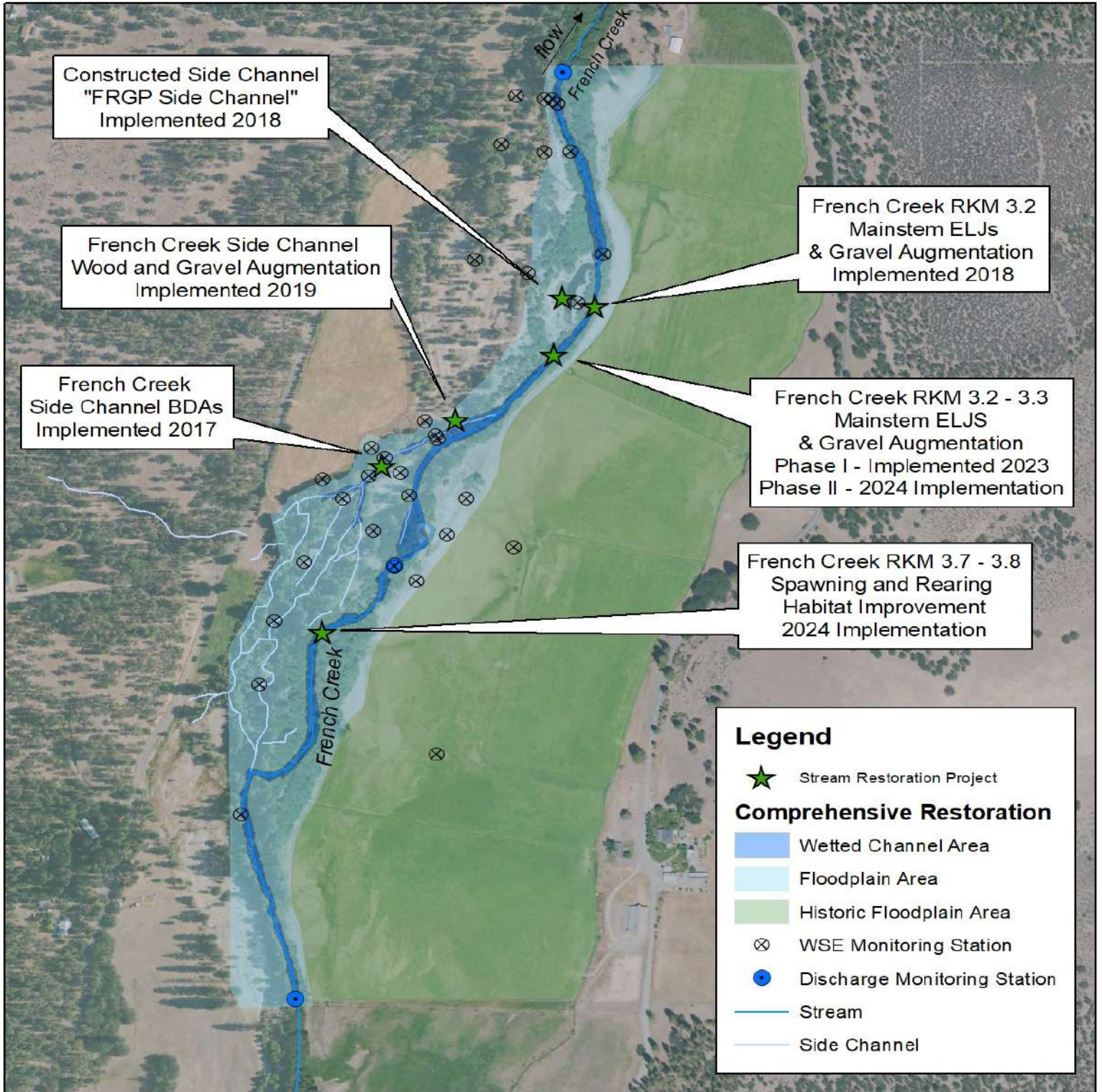


# Scott Watershed Informational Forum (SWIF) Field Tour 2024



# Transforming French Creek for Coho Salmon and Beaver Existing Restoration Projects



Orthoimage - NAIP 2022



0 250 500 1,000 Feet



E. Yokel - 2/9/2024



# French Creek Restoration Complex – A Decade of Dedication

French Creek Ranch actively promotes the well-being of Coho salmon, beaver, and the health of streams, soils and uplands, while also engaging in cattle and horse farming as well as hay production.

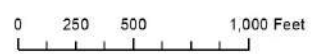
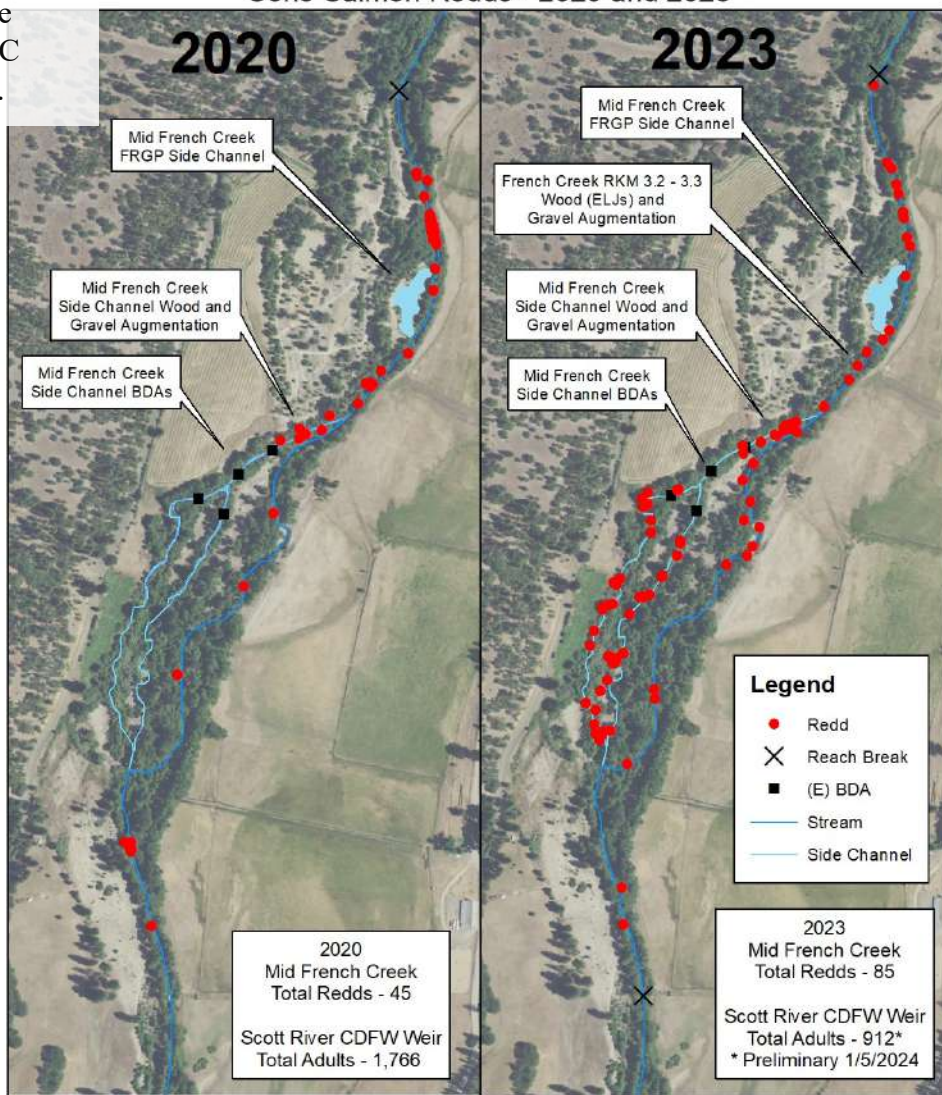
During our tour of the stream, we'll observe the dynamic interactions among these elements. Betsy Stapleton, alongside her husband Michael, are the proud owner and operator of French Creek Ranch. Their passion for the ranch is evident in their daily involvement. Betsy serves as a Project Development and Permitting Specialist at the Scott River Watershed Council (SRWC).

Erich Yokel, the Monitoring Supervisor at SRWC, with nearly 25 years of experience in the Scott Valley. His expertise, skills, and dedicated efforts contributes to the overall health of French Creek.

Recently, The Nature Conservancy bought the property along French Creek. TNC and SRWC have a comprehensive vision for future plans.



Mid French Creek - Coho Spawning Ground Survey  
Coho Salmon Redds - 2020 and 2023



## *The South Fork Scott River Floodplain Restoration Project*



The South Fork Scott River Floodplain Restoration Project is a collaborative, multi-phased effort between CalTrout, the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the landowner to restore floodplain function and instream habitat complexity within a 1 mile reach of the South Fork of Scott River. This project is intended restore and enhance a high priority reach for the benefit of coho salmon. Phase I was implemented in 2017, while Phase II was implemented in 2020. In 2022, the third phase was completed, excavating 375 yards of mining tailings, constructing three large-wood features, and placing over 40 pieces of large-wood within the South Fork mainstem and side- channel area. These treatments provided immediate benefit to rearing salmonids through the formation of increased pool frequency, large-wood complexity, and floodplain connectivity. The fourth phase will occur this summer.

*Preston Harris, a CalTrout Contractor and Scott River Water Trust Executive Director, has 16 years of experience in Scott River restoration and project coordination focusing on instream habitat enhancement, riparian enhancement, TMDL restoration, and groundwater studies. Preston has been working on the South Fork Floodplain project since before 2017, when the first phase was implemented. He has managed and coordinated two more phases, with the final implementation phase occurring summer 2024.*



# The South Fork Scott River Comprehensive Management Planning and Design Project



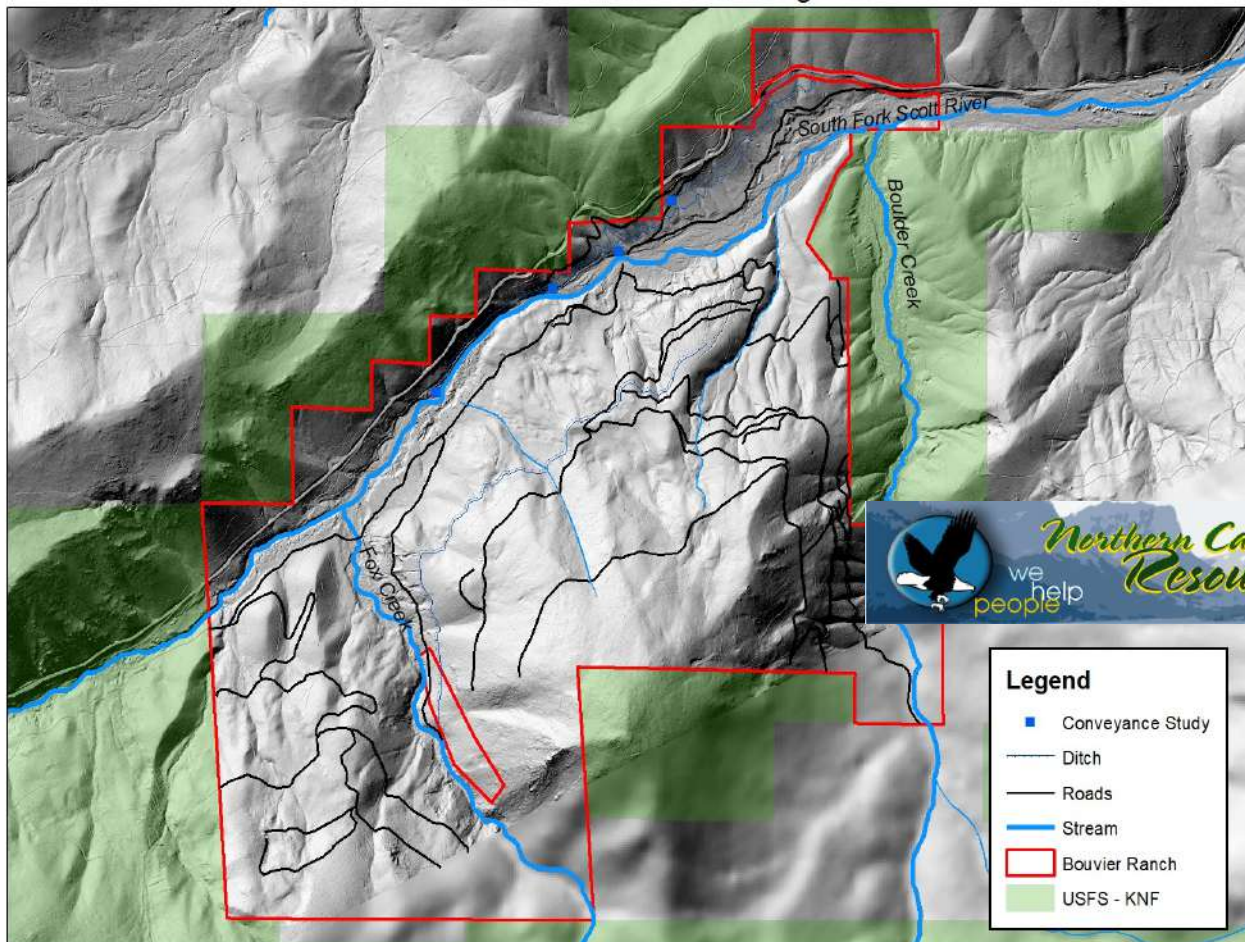
SCOTT RIVER  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

The South Fork Scott River Comprehensive Management Planning and Design Project aims to accomplish six key objectives:

- Establishing a comprehensive existing conditions analysis on property of private landowners of the Bouvier Ranch and a portion of federally owned property along Boulder Creek.
- Creating an inventory, assessing the condition and designing sediment mitigation strategies for road systems.
- Finalizing a non-industrial timber management plan with a focus on enhancing oakwood habitats. Additionally, the project is focusing on enhancing upland management to control and reduce fuels and mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires.
- Develop an all-encompassing strategy for instream restoration, crafting a comprehensive framework that considers historical mining activities, recent restoration efforts, and prioritizes future opportunities. The 2.5 miles of the South Fork of the Scott River, along with its floodplain and terraces, underwent extensive gold mining, resulting in limited habitat complexity, restricted access to floodplains, and side channel limitations. This evaluation will be done on both private and federal land.
- Evaluation of the irrigation efficiency and exploring potential water dedication to enhance stream flow if needed.

Peter Thamer, Project Manager for SRWC and family member of the Bouvier Ranch.

## Bouvier Ranch - Planning



PROVOST &  
PRITCHARD



Mt Bolivar Grange is one of the active Granges in California. The Grange system is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in over 2,100 hometowns across the United States.

Originally chartered in 1874, the Mt Bolivar Grange holds monthly meetings in the Callahan Hall, home of the original Denny Bar Company, the first chain store in Northern California.

Donations welcome to help maintain and repair the Callahan Hall and will go directly to project materials and facility maintenance.

Please send checks to:

Callahan Community Center

PO Box 1545

Callahan, CA 96014

*For more information, please visit*

<https://mtbolivargrange.org>

# East Fork Scott River Restoration Project



CalTrout received funding from CalTrans and the State Water Board in 2022 to conduct assessments and complete 65% restoration designs for in-stream habitat and fish passage issues on the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve, owned by The Wildlands Conservancy. The 6,000-acre Preserve is located on the East Fork Scott River and encompasses approximately 7 miles of aquatic habitat. The project consists of four main components: 1) Seven miles of habitat restoration on East Fork Scott, Noyes Valley Creek, and Big Mill Creek 2) Fish Passage- restore volitional fish passage to 1.4 miles of Big Mill Creek 3) Groundwater Recharge and Flow Management- including installation of riparian fencing, stockwater, and beaver dam analogs/PALS along 4 miles of Noyes Valley Creek 4) Education and Outreach- to promote inclusion of the local community including tribal community members through education, outreach, and partnership on the Preserve. Our broad partnership base includes the The Wildlands Conservancy, Scott River Watershed Council, Scott River Water Trust, Siskiyou RCD, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, The Karuk Tribe, Siskiyou County Office of Education, CalTrans, CA State Water Board, CDFW, NOAA Fisheries, Waterways Consulting, Cascade Stream Solutions, and Hamer Environmental. We are currently seeking implementation funding.

*Serena Doose has been a Senior Project Manager for CalTrout's Mount Shasta-Klamath Region for two years. Her focus is working with partners to restore fish habitat in the Scott River. She has lived and worked in Siskiyou County since 2017, previously working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on fish passage in the mid-Klamath Basin. Her 10-year career with USFWS originally began in Maine working with Atlantic salmon and native brook trout.*





# Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve Oak Restoration Project

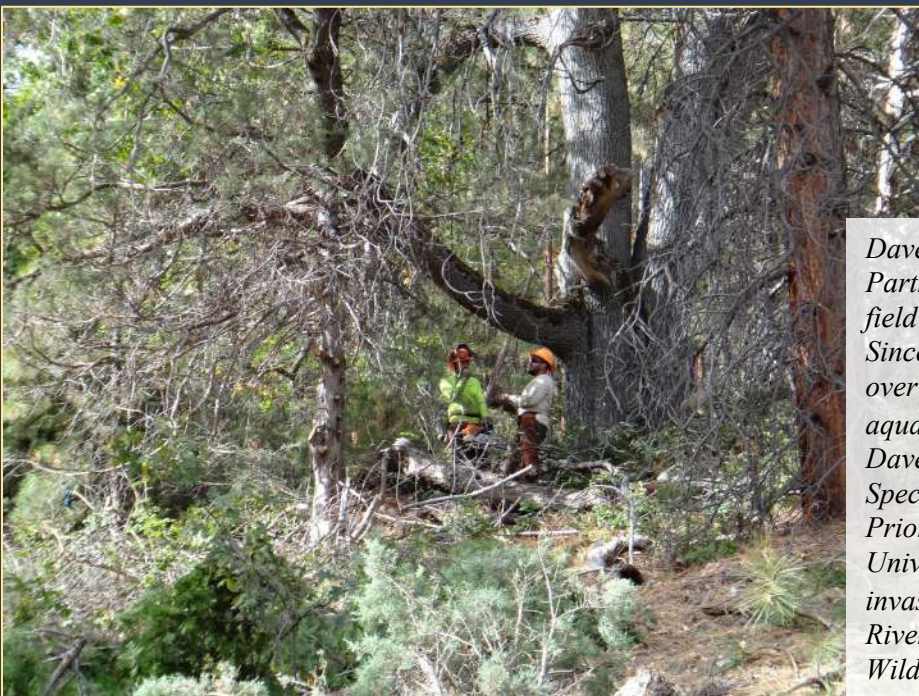
In California, over 300 species of wildlife inhabit oak habitats. However, in many areas of the Scott River Valley, conifer encroachment poses a major threat to oak habitats. The faster growing encroaching conifers compete with oaks for resources such as light, water, and soil nutrients. Encroaching conifers also increase fuel loads and the likelihood of uncharacteristically severe wildfire in the oak habitats. To restore the health and function of oak habitats for wildlife and increase the resiliency of treated stands to wildfire, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, The Wildlands Conservancy, and Scott River Watershed Council, partnered to design and implement the BVHP Oak Restoration Project (Project). The Project focuses on thinning or removing conifers growing within the drip line (a trees crown plus 10 to 20 feet) of oaks. Trees containing important wildlife structures such as cavities, mistletoe brooms, or stick nests are retained when thinning. Project generated slash is piled and burned. In 2023, 104 acres of oak habitats were released from conifer encroachment. In 2024, treatments will begin on additional 97 acres of oak habitat.



Before: Conifer encroachment on oak woodlands , April 13, 2022.



After: Mature California white oak and Oregon black oaks, April 10, 2023.



Crews removing conifers from under the crown of a legacy California white oak on the BVHP Oak Restoration Project, October 10, 2023

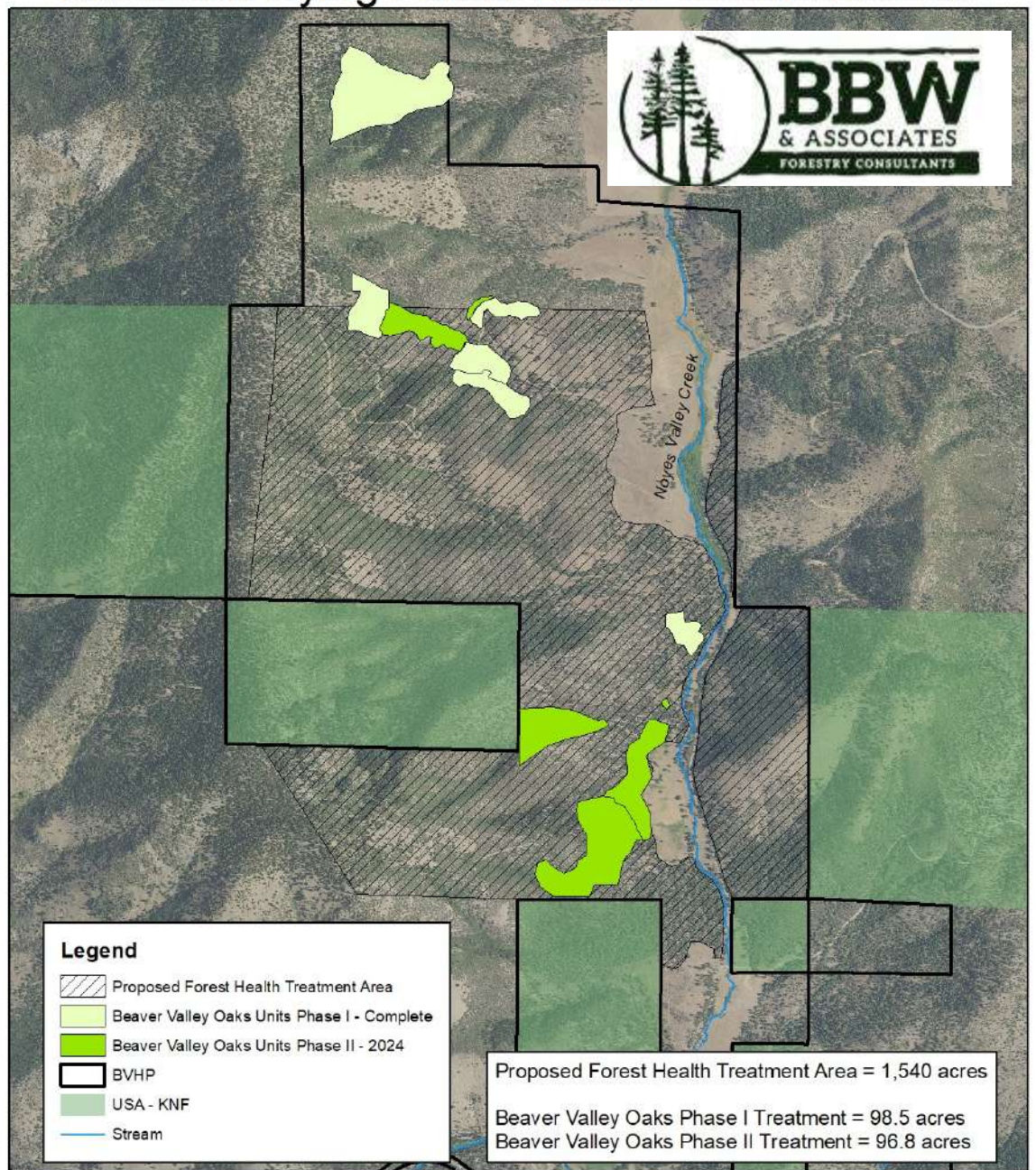
*Dave Johnson is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program biologist at the Yreka California field office where he has been stationed since 2001. Since joining the Partners Program he has managed over thirty five projects focusing on forest health and aquatic habitat restoration. While at the Yreka office, Dave has also worked extensively on Endangered Species Act compliance for federally listed species. Prior to joining the Yreka staff, he worked for the University of Idaho investigating methods to control invasive weeds in wetlands located in the Columbia River Basin. Dave has a B.S. and M.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University.*



# East Fork Scott River Forest Management Plan

The Project will plan integrated forest and road management over 2000 acres of private ownership timberland in the watershed of the East Fork Scott River, a critically important salmonid spawning and rearing river. Methods will include mastication, chipping, prescribed burning, and mechanical and hand treating drought-stressed dead and dying trees and brush. Benefits from these efforts will be by and for the local community, yielding advantages such as enhanced forest health, decreased fire risk, procurement for future instream wood needs and improved water quality.

## TWC BVHP Dead and Dying Forest Health Treatment Area



Orthoimage - NAIP 2020



E. Yokel - 2/7/2024



0 1,100 2,200 4,400 Feet



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

Behold the Beauty

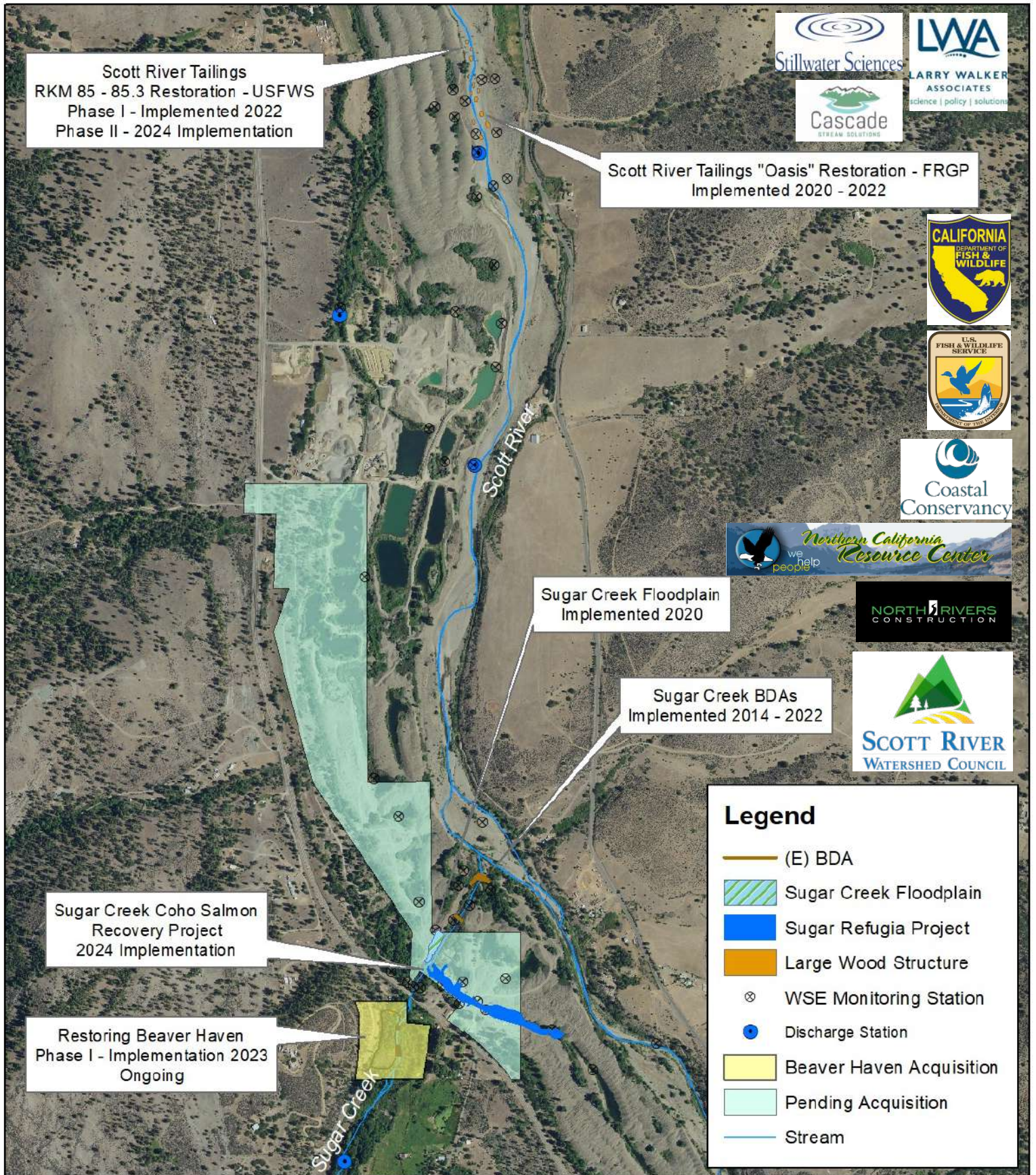
## *East Fork of the Scott River Hazardous Fuels Reduction on Klamath National Forest*

Implementing hazardous fuel reduction in the East Fork of the Scott River within the Klamath National Forest is essential in addressing the challenges presented by a changing climate. With the requisite tools and technology at our disposal, we can ensure the continued well-being of our forests. It is vital to persist in current initiatives while concurrently expanding the reach and magnitude of our endeavors.

Chris Gentry works for the Klamath National Forest as a Fuel Technician. Chris was born and raised in Etna California. His family moved to Etna before he was born working in the logging industry. Chris started with the Forest Service working in fire at age 20. He has worked on hand crews, engines, helicopter crews, and now working in fuels since 2020. Chris enjoys the outdoors and traveling with his wife.



# Scott River - Sugar Creek Tailings Restoration Projects



Scott River Tailings  
RKM 85 - 85.3 Restoration - USFWS  
Phase I - Implemented 2022  
Phase II - 2024 Implementation

Scott River Tailings "Oasis" Restoration - FRGP  
Implemented 2020 - 2022

Sugar Creek Floodplain  
Implemented 2020

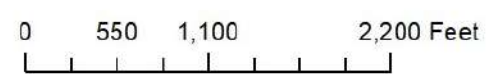
Sugar Creek BDAs  
Implemented 2014 - 2022

Sugar Creek Coho Salmon  
Recovery Project  
2024 Implementation

Restoring Beaver Haven  
Phase I - Implementation 2023  
Ongoing

### Legend

- (E) BDA
- Sugar Creek Floodplain
- Sugar Refugia Project
- Large Wood Structure
- WSE Monitoring Station
- Discharge Station
- Beaver Haven Acquisition
- Pending Acquisition
- Stream



***Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – Scott River Restoration Field Tour***

<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Tour Presenter</b>
9:00am	SRWC Office at 514 N. Hwy. 3, Etna	
9:15am	Travel to French Creek	
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>French Creek Restoration Complex – A Decade of Dedication</b>	<b>Scott River Watershed Council, Betsy Stapleton, Project Manager and landowner &amp; Erich Yokel, Monitoring Supervisor</b>
10:30am	Travel to South Fork	
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>South Fork Floodplain Restoration</b>	<b>Preston Harris, CalTrout Contractor, Scott River Water Trust, Executive Director</b>
<b>11:30am</b>	<b>South Fork Irrigation Efficiency, Instream Design and Upland Management Plan</b>	<b>Scott River Watershed Council, Peter Thamer, Project Manager</b>
11:45am	Travel to Callahan Emporium	
12:00pm	LUNCH	
12:30pm	Travel to East Fork Restoration	
<b>12:45pm</b>	<b>East Fork Scott River Restoration</b>	<b>CalTrout, Serena Doose, Senior Project Manager</b>
1:15pm	Travel to East Fork Oakwood Habitat	
<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>Reducing Fuels and Restoring Oak Habitats: The BVHP Project</b>	<b>United States Fish and Wildlife Service, David Johnson, Partners Program biologist</b>
2:15pm	Travel to East Fork Fuel Reduction	
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>East Fork Hazardous Fuel Reduction</b>	<b>Klamath National Forest, Chris Gentry</b>
3:10pm	Travel to Scott River Tailings	
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Scott River Tailings Overview</b>	<b>Scott River Watershed Council, Charnna Gilmore, Director and Erich Yokel, Monitoring Supervisor</b>
4:00pm	Travel back to SRWC office in Etna	
4:20pm	End of tour	



*Scott River Field Tour from 2023.*