

Stream Gaging and Sediment Transport

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California



Bedload sampling at high flow

Assessment Components:

- Sediment source inventory
- V^* to measure degree of pool filling by fine sediment
- Stream and sediment gaging to assess discharge of sediment



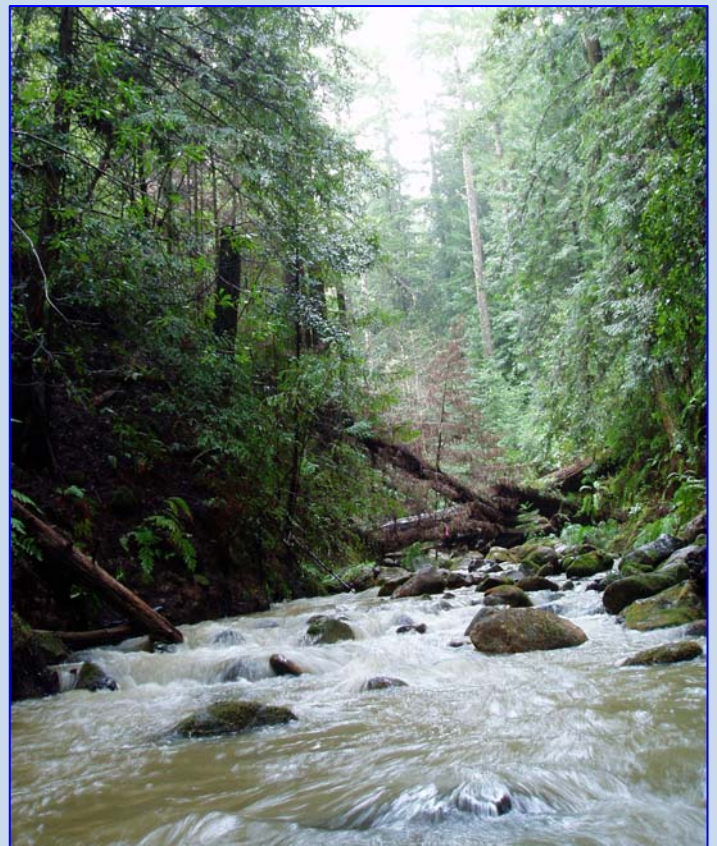
Turbid water at high flow

Project Team Accomplishments:

- Sediment gaging showed that the watershed transported similar or lesser amounts of sediment than other nearby watersheds.

Background

The Preserve is located in the headwaters of El Corte de Madera Creek, part of the San Gregorio Creek watershed, and the waters downstream provide spawning habitat for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Although a barrier to upstream migration prevents these anadromous fish from spawning within the Preserve, it is possible that sediment from the Preserve might adversely affect habitat downstream. High rates of sediment production and transport are possible within the Preserve due to local geology and a legacy of redwood logging and logging-road construction, existing uses, and natural physiography.



Flow response from a small rainstorm