

SHaRP in the South Fork Eel River: Sproul Creek Community Meeting



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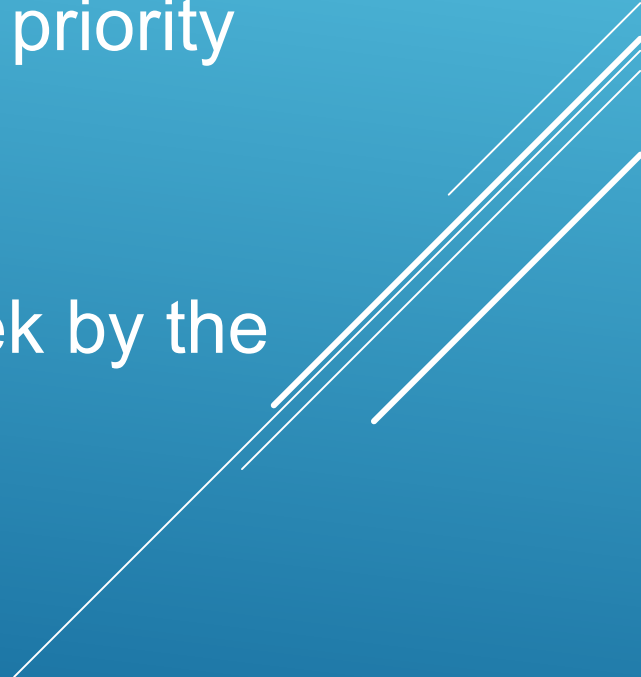
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OBJECTIVES

The objective of today's presentation is to familiarize everyone with the SHaRP process, restoration actions that were recommended in Sproul Creek, and engage the community to participate in salmon restoration.

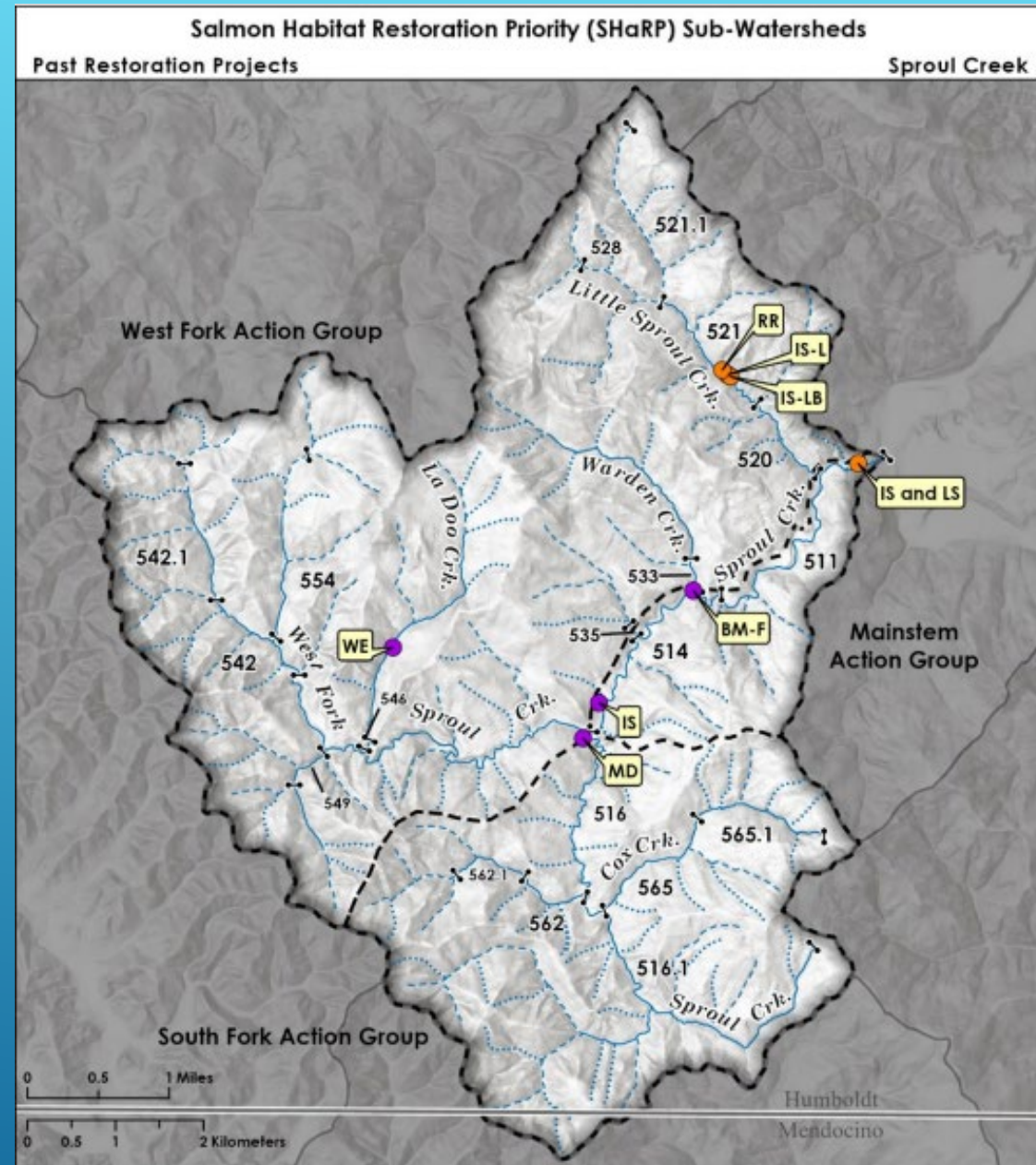
IN THIS TALK WE WILL COVER

- ❖ History of restoration within Sproul Creek
 - ❖ What SHaRP is
 - ❖ Why the Sproul Creek watershed was picked as a priority watershed
 - ❖ Restoration actions recommended for Sproul Creek by the South Fork Eel SHaRP
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HISTORY OF RESTORATION ACTIONS IN SPROUL CREEK

Restoration Projects**	Project Codes
Year implemented	BM: Barrier modification
● Before 2000	IS: Instream habitat improvement
● 2000-2010	LS: Landslide stabilization
● After 2010	MD: Monitoring (juvenile salmonids)
● Not available	RR: Riparian restoration
	WE: Watershed evaluation, assessment, and planning
	-F: Fish passage
	-L: includes large wood enhancement projects
	-LB: includes large wood and boulder enhancement projects

- ❖ Restoration started in the 1980's.
- ❖ Bank stabilization
- ❖ Tree plantings
- ❖ Large woody debris structures
- ❖ Culvert upgrade for fish passage
- ❖ Monitoring and inventories



WHAT IS SHaRP?

- ❖ SHaRP = Salmonid Habitat Restoration Priorities
- ❖ A collaborative process to identify effective restoration within priority areas of salmon strongholds
- ❖ Engages the restoration community and landowners at the grassroots level. Captures essential local knowledge.
- ❖ Focus limited resources on best places, versus primarily opportunistic projects.

WHY WAS SHaRP PILOTED IN THE SOUTH FORK?

Relative to other watersheds in the region, the South Fork Eel River has:

- ❖ High numbers of salmon and steelhead compared to other areas in the region
- ❖ Intact habitat
- ❖ Information on habitat and fish numbers had been collected
- ❖ Active and engaged restoration community

FOCUS WATERSHEDS

- ❖ Bull Creek
- ❖ Redwood Creek
- ❖ Sproul Creek
- ❖ Indian Creek
- ❖ Standley Creek
- ❖ Hollow Tree Creek
- ❖ South Fork Eel River headwaters

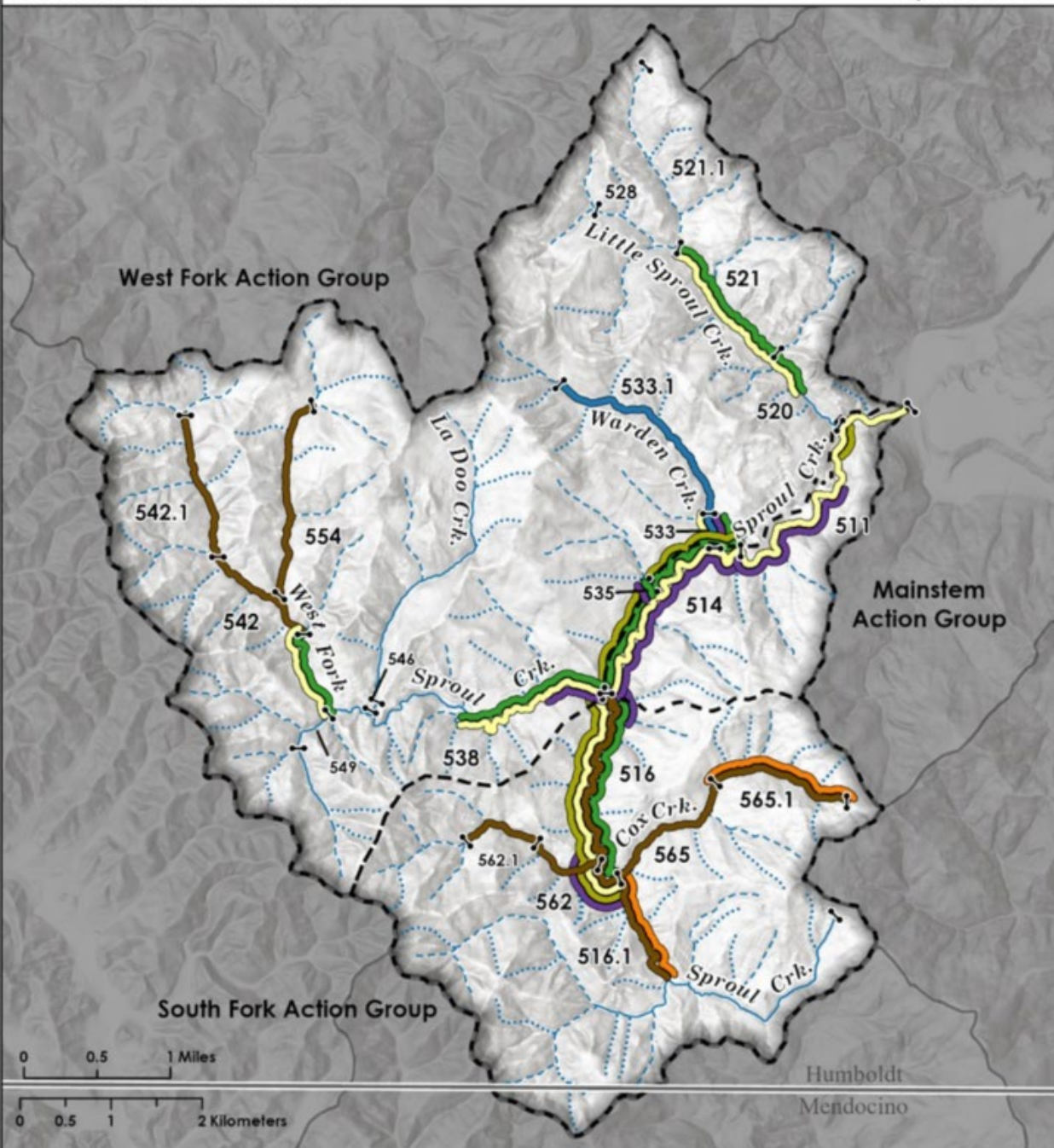


SPROUL CREEK

- ❖ Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead utilize Sproul Creek.
- ❖ Fourth highest overall priority score out of 19 sub-watersheds
- ❖ Habitat is very well connected; relatively few fish barriers.
- ❖ Restorationists and locals are active participants in watershed and ecological health.



RESTORATION ACTIONS PROPOSED ON SPROUL CREEK



Restoration treatment actions

- Large wood for summer rearing
- In-channel winter habitat
- Off-channel winter habitat
- Riparian
- Water use management, education, and outreach
- Upslope hazard assessment
- Flow enhancement

LARGE WOOD FOR SUMMER REARING



- ❖ Suggested implementation in Sproul Creek, Little Sproul Creek, Warden Creek, and West Fork Sproul Creek
- ❖ Objectives: scour pools, sort gravel, and provide cover for juveniles.

IN-CHANNEL WINTER HABITAT



- ❖ Suggested implementation in Sproul Creek, Little Sproul Creek, Warden Creek, West Fork Sproul Creek
- ❖ Objective: create slow water areas where juvenile and adults can avoid high water currents and provide cover to juveniles and adults.

OFF-CHANNEL WINTER HABITAT



- ❖ Suggested implementation in Sproul Creek, Little Sproul Creek, Warden Creek, Tributary to Sproul Creek, and West Fork Sproul Creek
- ❖ Objective: create slow water areas where juvenile and adults can avoid high water currents and provide cover to juveniles and adults.

RIPARIAN TREATMENTS



- ❖ Recommended in Sproul Creek riparian zones.
- ❖ Objective: Plant trees and manage existing streamside vegetation to maximize shade and promote future supply of large wood.

UPSLOPE EROSION HAZARD ASSESSMENT



- ❖ Recommended in Sproul Creek, West Fork Sproul Creek, Tributary to West Fork Sproul Creek, and Cox Creek.
- ❖ Objective: Identify sources of sediment from roads and needed treatments.

FLOW ENHANCEMENT



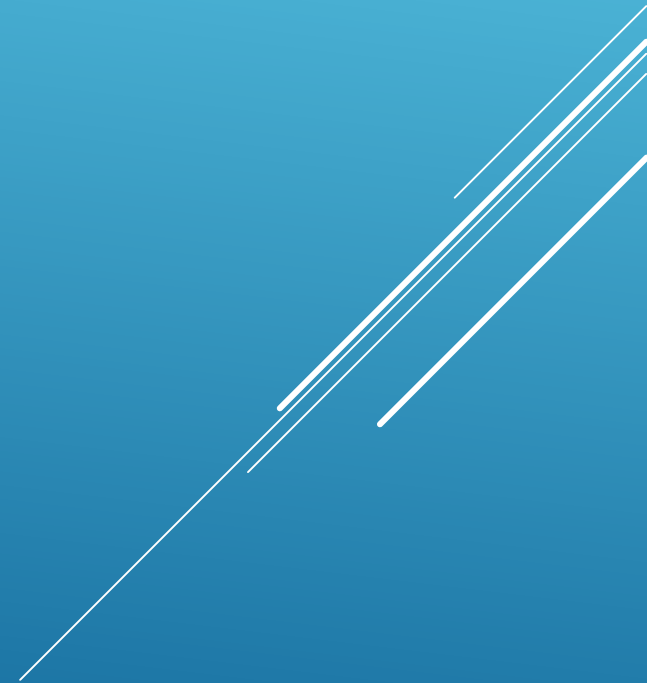
- ❖ Recommended to create off-channel storage to augment ground water flow in Warden Creek
- ❖ Objective: provide flow for fish during challenging summer period.

WATER USE MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



- ❖ Recommended in Sproul Creek and Cox Creek
- ❖ Objective: community engagement and education in water use to provide flow for fish during challenging summer period.

QUESTIONS?



WHERE TO LEARN MORE

SHaRP web site includes:

- ❖ Information about the SHaRP process
- ❖ The SFER SHaRP plan, for download.
- ❖ Updated information about other SHaRP efforts.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/habitat-conservation/salmon-habitat-restoration-priorities>